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Christmas Is Here Again

ONCE again Christmas, the season of goodwill, is with us. By the time this issue of The Listening Post reaches our readers, most of them will be busy with preparations for the festivities which are so much a part of this season, and whether they live in the city, in the heart of the bush, far down in the South-West or right up in the North-West, their thoughts, no doubt, will be much on the same plane.

First, they will think of the youngsters around them, for Christmas is above all things a time of great happiness for children. Then they will think of their own folk and their friends, for Christmas is a time of goodwill. Then they will give a thought to those who are no longer with us; those who gave their lives for their country; those who have passed to higher service since Christmas was last celebrated; for Christmas is a time for remembrance.

Then, maybe, they will give a thought to the future—for what we make of the future may either make or mar the lives of those children who are to enjoy this coming Christmas so much. And in thinking of the future they might well bear in mind the tremendous power which the League can wield—if only each and every member will be active on its behalf. For the League stands for Peace, for Security and for a Fair Deal to all who served their country.

The League, be it remembered, is the individual members which make it up—you, and you, and you; whether you live in Perth or in Sydney; in Marble Bar or in Charters Towers; in Harvey or in Launceston; the League is a democratic institution which carries out the wishes and the will of its individual members—therefore, it is necessary that every member should be active, that his weight should be added, that his will should be done.

So let us, one and all, while enjoying this Christmas, resolve that we shall, in the future, do all in our power to ensure that all future Christmas Days shall be as peaceful and as happy as this one. Let us outlaw war and its horrors. Let us strive for peace, both within and without. Let us do what we can to make this world of ours a better place for all. Let us support the League in its good work. Let us make sure that for eternity the peoples of the world will always be able to say in sincerity:

A Very Happy Christmas to All.
"Of many things"

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things:
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—Of cabbages—and kings"

Santa Claus, called after St. Nicholas, first Bishop of Myra, was considered the Patron Saint of thieves, burglars, robbers, pirates, and pawnbrokers. The three golden balls dangling in front of pawnbroker shops represent the three purses given by the saint to three maids.

The lighting of candles on the Christmas tree is believed to be a survival of prehistoric sun worship. Stone-age carvings have been found representing the passage of the sun across the sky at the period we now celebrate as Christmas.

No German home would be considered complete at Christmas without its tree. Alsatians claim that it was first generally used by the people of Strasbourg in 1606, and that the idea was adopted by Germany about 50 years later.

Our Christmas tree is a comparatively modern innovation. Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort erected one in a tub for the delight of the baby, Prince of Wales—afterwards King Edward VII. That was in 1844—a date quoted for the introduction of the tree to the British.

But in other countries, many centuries ago, the tree had a peculiar significance at this time of the year. In Egypt, in the form of a special kind of palm, it was used at the period of the winter solstice as a symbol of the completed year.

The Christmas song, Good King Wenceslas, is of comparatively recent origin. The melody was taken from an old Swedish hymn and in 1850 the Rev. Dr. Neale wrote the words to it. The "good old king" was really German (some say Polish, Bohemian, Hungarian), who was not at all good during his lifetime. According to his biographers, he was rather quarrelsome, being always at loggerheads with his nobles and the clergy of his country. He was twice arrested for heresy.

The custom of hanging up a stocking on Christmas Eve has an interesting history. Old manuscripts dealing with the life of our ancestors in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries refer to the custom of parents presenting gifts to their children on St. Nicholas' Day, December 6. The gifts were smuggled into the children's rooms while they were asleep, and the saint was credited with the good deed.

On St. Nicholas' Day the nuns in convents associated with that saint placed a silken stocking at the door of the Mother Superior's room. In the stocking they put a piece of paper, asking for the saint's favour. Sometimes a particular gift was requested. That, or other gifts, duly got into the stocking, and St. Nicholas received thanks. In later years St. Nicholas—or "Santa Claus"—became completely identified with Christmas.

Present-giving at Christmas is largely a custom of the "Teutonic" countries: among the Latin peoples gifts are kept until New Year's Day.

"Christmas Boxes" had their counterpart among the Romans. The name is closely associated with the earthenware boxes in which English apprentices received "tips" from their seventeenth century customers. Later, it was used to describe the gift—with or without the box.

The first Christmas card, as we know it, was designed by J. C. Horsley, R.A., in 1846.

The first special Christmas number of any journal was published by Charles Dickens in 1850—when his magazine, All the Year Round, appeared as a "Christmas Double Number."

Christmas, as a feast, was once forbidden by Act of Parliament—in the days of Cromwell, 1644. Charles II revived it, but the Puritan ban persisted in Scotland—which may be why Scots make much less of Christmas than they do of the New Year.

Thirteen-year-old Amy Claus, of Denver, U.S.A., went to Colorado "to see real Christmas trees." Having lost her purse, she found herself stranded. The telegraphist first declined to accept her telegram, believing it to be a hoax. It was addressed to her father, the Rev. Santa Claus.

At a children's Christmas party arranged by R.A.F. crews on an aerodrome near Cape Town during the war, Father Christmas was dropped by parachute with his bag of presents.

A sudden strong ground wind landed Santa Claus, with his beard and bag of presents, straight on the heavy barb-wire entanglements surrounding the airfield. The children thought it part of the planned entertainment and screamed with laughter.

The unhappy parachutist had to spend the rest of the Christmas season and some following weeks at a hospital.
A meeting of the State Executive was held on November 16, highlights being:

Re-establishment

The report presented by Mr. Stambury pointed out that the Re-establishment Committee was taking up the matter of war service being taken into account in arriving at the period to be worked before long service leave is granted by Government departments. It is also investigating the matter of Government loans, for the purchase of furniture.

Repatriation

Mr. Stahl presented this report, which dealt with the meeting at Anzac House of delegates from principal ex-servicemen's organisations in furtherance of efforts to secure general increases in war pensions. It was reported that the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Barnard) agreed that a case had been made out for special-rate pensioners and he hoped that the Government would be able to make a pronouncement on this matter in the early future.

Trustees

The report presented by Mr. Craig brought to notice the case of an ex-serviceman injured at the C.M.F. camp at Northam who was instructed to apply to the Services Canteens Trust Fund for assistance. It was felt that under such circumstances the obligation should have been borne by the Department of the Army, and it was decided to make representations to the proper quarters with a view to preventing future injustices.

Mr. Mitchell presented a report on Remembrance Day and Mr. Chaney made some trenchant remarks upon the lack of interest generally shown. These remarks were supported by Mr. Benson.

The State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt) reported upon the B.E.S.I., conference. [See elsewhere in this issue.]

Other reports presented included: Housing (Mr. Davies), Anzac House (Mr. Ferguson), Faversham (Mr. Herlihy), W.A. Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Fund and Corps of Commissioners (Colonel Mansbridge).

A letter from Dr. C. E. Cooke tendered his resignation from the State Executive owing to taking up a Commonwealth post, and the State President remarked that the work of Dr. Cook upon the executive had been most commendable. The executive's good wishes were expressed for Dr. Cook's success in his new appointment.

EPIPHANY

Here Beneath This Stone We Lie
Back to Back—My Wife and I;
And When the Angel's Trump Shall
Tell
If She Gets Up, Then I'll Lie Still.

A further meeting was held on November 30. Highlights of this were:

Housing

The report presented by Mr. Davies pointed out that the Perth City Council has agreed to permit the building of expandable homes and homes under the self-help scheme. The Housing Committee is investigating a complaint made by the Collie sub-branch concerning alleged wastage of timber at certain country mills.

Executive Meeting

Mr. Craig moved, "That in future meetings of the State Executive commence at 7.30 p.m.," but after some spirited debate, during which many members stated that it was much more convenient to come straight from work to meetings rather than go home and wait until a later hour, this motion was defeated. It was shown, during this discussion, that the average attendance at State Executive meetings was exceptionally high.

Debate

These reports do not always give readers a full indication of the spirited debate which takes place at these meetings, a feature of which is the keen interest and hard work on behalf of the interests of the ex-serviceman in general. Debates show conclusively that all of the executive members have given a due thought and study to the various matters which concern the ex-service man (and woman)—as for the time such members give to these interests; one hesitates to begin to compute it. But one thing does stand out: those who so easily criticise the executive would do well to attend a meeting occasionally and see for themselves just what is done.

At this meeting a warm welcome was extended to the Rev. J. Spratling, who replaces Dr. Cook on the State Executive. Mr. Sten, in extending the welcome, said that "Tommy" Riley had already set an outstanding example on the executive, but he was sure that Mr. Spratling would uphold the tradition already set. The Rev. Spratling replied briefly, stating that he hoped to live up to such a standard, and that he would always do his best.

COMMUNISM

A thorough investigation to check possible infiltration of the Communist Party into the Australian Military Forces is now proceeding, says the Minister for the Army.

He was commenting on evidence given at the Victorian Royal Commission on Communism by a witness who alleged that a former warrant officer of the Army, who was a Communist, was still believed to be employed on guided missile work at Albert Park Barracks.

All Communist suspects will be carefully screened, and in cases where active association by Army personnel with the Communist Party is established appropriate action will be taken.

It is not considered that Communist influence within the Army has reached any considerable proportions, and the fact that an enquiry had been considered necessary does not constitute any grounds for alarm.

As has been the experience in private enterprise, it is inevitable that in any large groups of persons, such as the Army, some Communist influence must be discovered.
From the Editor’s Note Book

May I take this opportunity of wishing my many friends throughout the League a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. May I thank the many who have assisted me during this past year with material for these pages and with good wishes for the journal’s success. May I add that such assistance, material and moral, has been thoroughly appreciated.

Let me be frank. At congress this year there were some complaints about the contents of this journal. It was stated that I did not give sufficient space to sport—that can easily be rectified if publicity officers will send in sporting news and notes. It was stated that a certain notice, vital to one sub-branch, had been left out of our columns—for that I tendered an apology, for all of us, no matter how we try, make errors at times.

It was also stated by one delegate that The Listening Post was “the greatest scissors and paste effort ever seen.” Such a criticism could, of course, be quite reasonably levelled at any of the most interesting digests upon the market today, despite the fact that they sell in their millions. But let us get our facts straight: First, since the beginning of the year, nine short stories have been especially written for this journal, although we have been unable to offer payment for them. Over 20 original articles have also been published, numerous book reviews, some original verse, well over 60 pages of news features, some eight pages of contributed Unabridged History items—to say nothing of editorials, etc. No one should object to criticism, and an editor is always open to it, but criticism of a destructive kind, without regard to the facts of the case, can be as dangerous as is the pulling of other people’s iron from the fire.

My aim, in editing this journal, is to give as much satisfaction as possible to the great majority of readers—that, I believe from the numerous letters I receive, I am doing.

However, let me here give thanks to those helpers who have contributed to these pages: C. E. Douglas (now in Texas, U.S.A.), L. T. Sardone (Sydney), W. H. Pate (Perth), T. H. Bolton (Perth), P. I. Cooper (Nedlands), Paul Buddee (Subiaco), J. Keightley (Rockingham), E. Hincliffe (Palmyra), C. R. Collins (Perth)—Mr. Collins, who was for 18 years associate-editor of this publication, has now reached the prescribed age of retirement from his post on the news department of the A.B.C., and we hope, in the future contribute further articles to these pages—L. T. Theodore (Sydney), R. Chambers (Kalgoorlie), and many others whose contributions have, although too short to be featured, been extremely valuable. To the many sub-branch correspondents who regularly sends news (keep it down to 200 words, boys) I am also grateful.

So let me say once again—to each and every reader of this journal, may I wish you all...

A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Father Christmas has been de-throned in many countries. In Soviet Russia he was officially denounced in 1926 and replaced by “Father Frost.” In 1930 the Government of Mexico decreed that a fur-robed Santa Claus on a sleigh drawn by reindeers was hardly the thing when the temperature was over 100 degrees. A feathered snake, called Quetzalcohuatel, an ancient god of the Aztecs, was used instead.

For the same climatic reason, many South Africans plead for the replacement of the “imported” Santa Claus by a national figure.

Some years ago, the Teachers’ College of Columbia University unanimously resolved to abolish Santa Claus, labelling him a “dangerous humbug."
IS HITLER ALIVE?

By C. R. COLLINS

At various times in various places, newspapers have repeated the suggestion that Hitler may still be alive. This is a symptom of an age-old reluctance to accept the passing of a leader, whether that leader was a national hero or merely a monstrous charlatan.

Centuries ago, people in Britain waited for the return of King Arthur, as eagerly as early Christians awaited the second coming of Our Lord. Seamen of past generations firmly believed that Drake's drum, when beaten in England's hour of need, would summon the scourge of the Spanish Main from the other world to his country's rescue. In fact, many of Nelson's contemporaries believed that the victor of Trafalgar was the reincarnation of Drake, and that belief is the theme of a poem by Alfred Noyes. The young son of Louis XVI, still known to French Legitimists as Louis XVII, died in captivity after his parents were guillotined but for a long time there was a prevalent belief that he had been rescued and spirited away to the United States. A similar story about Napoleon's Marshal Ney, the victim of Bourbon vengeance after Waterloo, gained credence in the United States. It was repeated in 1933, when a scientific examination of bones reputed to be those of the two sons of Edward IV, who were murdered in the Tower, established that the bones were those of children of the age the princes would have been at the time of their death. American papers then recalled the story of an old Frenchman, who lived in Louisiana, and who was believed to have been Marshal Ney. It was claimed that Ney was not killed, but left for dead by the firing-squad, and mysteriously taken away to the New World. It was suggested at the time that an examination of his bones might prove or disprove the story, but there is no record of anything having been done about it.

In more recent times, people with a keen sense of humour declared that Hector MacDonald did not commit suicide, but reappeared as the leader of a Japanese army in Manchuria, in 1904. Many estimable people in England refused to believe that Lord Kitchener went down with H.M.S. Hampshire in 1916.

There have been instances of this very human tendency being exploited for political or private gain. In English history there were the Yorkist pretenders, who troubled the early years of Henry VII's reign, while in Russia there was the case of the false Dmitri, who proved the bane of Tsar Boris Godunov.

One cannot help recalling these and many similar cases when people toy with the idea that Hitler is still alive. The theory that Hitler did not perish in the ruins of the Chancellery, but is now living incognito in some neutral country, is interesting but not altogether plausible. It is known that Hitler and the other Nazis had made elaborate plans for escape when their overthrow became inevitable. His remains were never identified with that conclusiveness which would be demanded by a coroner's inquest. But his death is presumed and believed in by the Intelligence Staffs of the Western Allies. The Russians along cast advance proof positive, one way or the other, but the Russians, with a passion for secrecy which is almost pathological, have hitherto issued no official statement on the matter, although Marshal Koniev has stated that Hitler could be alive.

Believers in his death might argue that it would be extremely difficult for such a well-known and much-photographed figure to remain unrecognised. However, it is well known that Hitler, in the hey-day of his power, had numerous doubles, who gave the Fuehrer a rest by impersonating him on minor State occasions. One who could easily be impersonated could also escape recognition in an unaccustomed environment. Actually, Hitler was a little man of commonplace appearance. Stripped of his uniform, and wearing ordinary attire, he could pass through a city street without attracting a second glance. In our own State, during the war, a soldier in a West Australian unit was called "Hitler" by his mates because he bore a real or a fancied resemblance to the Arch-Nazi.

In contradiction to the stories of Hitler's survival, the fact remains that escape from Germany after the Nazi collapse was practically a physical impossibility. On all the evidence available, the presumption that Hitler is dead is more reasonable than that of his survival and escape.

That, however, does not eliminate the possibility that one of his numerous doubles may yet come forward to masquerade as Hitler. In his latest book, "From Smoke to Smother," Douglas Reed takes the Russians to task for keeping so many German prisoners of war in Russia, and asks why German generals, now in Russian hands and formerly denounced as war criminals, have not been brought to trial. The answer is suggested by Bernard Newman in his latest novel, "Moscov Murder."

Newman had experience of intelligence work in both world wars. In the Kaiser's war, he actually impersonated an Alsatian cousin, and worked on the German Headquarters Staff in Berlin. Newman's work is published as fiction, but his knowledge of intelligence work is so intimate that it is hard for readers to determine at which point fiction halts and fact emerges. In "Moscov Murder," he presents the picture of one of Hitler's doubles, in a Russian prison camp, being trained to come forward as the real Hitler when a favourable opportunity arises. The German senior officers behind this plot are alleged to realise that both the army and the political parties are both discredited, but a Perkin Warbeck Hitler would be a leader who would appeal to all Germans in the day of Germany's resurgence.

whether Newman is serious or not, whether he is right or wrong, he has made a suggestion which cannot safely be ignored.

THE LEAGUE AND ITS POWER

At the opening of congress this year, Mr. Hubert Parker, the Minister for Mines, who was representing the Premier, said in his speech, "The Government is very pleased that there is such an organisation as the League to help govern the country."
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THE GIFT OF THE MAGI
A Christmas Story by O. Henry

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies.

Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing left to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffs, and smiles, with sniffs predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at 8 dollars per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad.

In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young."

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid 30 dollars per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to 20 dollars the letters "Dillingham" looked blurred, as though they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D.

But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey back yard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only 1 dollar 87 cents with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result.

Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only 1 dollar 87 cents to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim.

Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling—something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim.

There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an 8-dollar flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its colour within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair.

Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out of the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts.

Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her.

And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still awhile a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out of the door and down the stairs into the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One flight up Della ran, and collected herself panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronie."

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade. "Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practised hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della. Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget thehashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain, simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation—as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch.

As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value—the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents.

With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love.

(Continued on page 20)
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(late 52nd Battalion)
THE LEAGUE & PENSIONS

At a recent meeting of the State Executive, the chairman of the Pensions Committee (Mr. F. J. Stahl) submitted a report by the pensions officer which pointed out that the following results had recently been achieved:

D89.—Ex-member’s service pension has been restored at the maximum rate from 2/6/49.

AC4.—The Commission has considered this claim, and in view of all the evidence has accepted his disability as due to service.

H133.—This ex-serviceman’s serious disability had been rejected as not due to service by the Commission, and by the Entitlement Tribunal.

In view of an opinion given by a Commission’s headquarters specialist on a similar type of case, reconsideration of the decision was requested. Advice has been received that, as a result of our representations, the disability has been accepted as due to service. The claim was originally rejected in 1943.

P54.—As the result of frequent representations, four months’ arrears of special rate pension was granted.

F63.—Advice has been received that, following our representations, this man’s serious disability has been accepted.

Reports by Secretary

The secretary reported: LG1: Following an increase to the special rate pension T. & T1 for this ex-soldier 12 months ago, no action had been taken by the Repatriation Department to further assist him as a problem case. However, on October 12, 1949, he informed me that his pension had again been reduced to 100 per cent rate and that he had appealed to the Assessment Tribunal. I appeared with him before the tribunal on October 14, 1949, and gave a full history of his case. The tribunal restored the rate to T. & T1 for 12 months, or such longer period as is necessary for the department to rehabilitate him. He sustained a bullet wound in the brain, is seriously handicapped, and has been discharged over six years.

The committee decided to again refer the case to the Repatriation Department for urgent attention as a problem case.

G74.—This ex-soldier’s application for acceptance of a heart condition as due to service has been allowed, and his war pension increased to 100 per cent. He has also been granted service pension as permanently unemployed.

It was represented to the Repatriation Department that, as there are no rejected disabilities, it would appear that he is eligible for special rate pension as totally and permanently incapacitated. Special rate was refused by the department, but on 11/10/49 the Assessment Appeal Tribunal upheld his appeal and granted the special rate pension.

N25.—This ex-Imperial serviceman is in receipt of an amount of 17/7d. per fortnight. Imperial pension in addition to Australian war pension and service pension. It has come under notice that, in granting the service pension, not only has the Imperial grant been taken into consideration as income, but has also been used to the ex-soldier’s detriment in applying the ceiling rate. The Repatriation Department was requested to furnish the authority for this action. In reply, the department has supplied a late amendment of section 90 of the Repatriation Act, one of the provisions of which reads: “War pension includes a pension which is payable under the law of some country other than Australia, and, in the opinion of the Commission, is similar in character to a war pension.”

It was generally understood that the ceiling rate was introduced to limit the amount of Commonwealth pension being paid to any individual or family, and it is of interest to note that Imperial pensions may also be held against an ex-soldier.

G95.—This ex-soldier’s death was not accepted by the Repatriation Department, mainly, it is understood, because the death certificate showed the primary cause of death as “Carcinoma of the lung of three-months’ duration.” He served in the 1914-18 war. His widow contended that he had had a considerable amount of treatment for his heart throughout the years since and, in fact, was under treatment for this disability when the lung trouble was diagnosed. She therefore was convinced that heart trouble was the primary cause of death. She was advised to interview a specialist, who had been called in consultation on a number of occasions on which he was ill, and to ask if he could give a certificate on certain lines. This was done, and he gave a certificate, the purport of which was to the effect that the cardiac disability was the major one and that the diagnosis of carcinoma of the lung had never been verified. On this certificate the Commission accepted death as due to service. The matter is of special interest in that the contents of a medical certificate have been accepted in preference to the official death certificate.

Letters of Appreciation

Letters were read from seven ex-servicemen, expressing thanks for the pensions officer’s help in their successful appeals.

The average age for believing in Father Christmas in Britain has been reduced from seven to four or five. A welfare worker says the reasons are the influence of the films, where real-life stories have replaced fairy tales; small houses and flats without attics for hiding parcel; the many Fathers Christmas in stores. Nevertheless, whether children believe or not, 95 per cent. still hang up their stockings.

The number of times the average man says “No” to temptation is once weekly.

Some of our girls today pride themselves upon being polished. Some of them really are, too—everything they say casts a reflection on someone.
THE "ROO CLUB"

All serving ex-aircrew and also many groundstaff members of the R.A.A.F. are familiar with the parachute pack which is one of the first essentials of any flying kit.

Primarily designed to preserve the lives of those forced to abandon an aircraft in flight, the parachute nevertheless is used in other roles such as supply dropping and, in a later modified form, as a brake for heavy aircraft using short landing strips.

In its original role as a life preserver, the parachute has been given many opportunities to prove its worth and from the records it can be said that it is 100 per cent efficient. Again, in this role, it can be introduced in various types—lap type, seat type, built-in seat type, etc., but all designed for the same purpose—to save life in an emergency.

There are various makes of parachutes, but the one most familiar to the men of the R.A.A.F. is the Dominion 'chute made in Australia by Light Aircraft Co. Appended to the wall of Light Aircraft's workshop for all its personnel to see is an honour roll bearing 126 names, all of whom are Roos or members of the Roo Club. All are members or ex-members of the R.A.A.F., ranging from A.C.1 to Wing Commander.

There is only one qualification for membership to this unique club: it is reserved exclusively to those who have saved their lives with Dominion parachutes in a compulsory bale-out.

The only class of membership is life, and the sole privilege, its continued enjoyment.

The Roo Club was formed in December, 1940, by Mr. George N. Mills, originator of the Dominion 'chute, and was inaugurated at a large dinner given by the manufacturers. Present at the inauguration dinner were the official guests of honour—the foundation members of the club. These first three members were forced to bale out when two aircraft collided in mid-air at Wagga early in World War II. The aircraft were successfully landed pick-a-back fashion by F/Sgt. Fuller.

Presentation of the emblems of membership was made on the occasion by Air Marshal R. Williams, the then Chief of Staff, R.A.A.F.

As tangible proof of membership, the Roo Club presents to its new members a small gold kangaroo of tie-pin size and a fine silver plaque, showing on one side an embossed parachute in action, and on the other side is a statement telling that "Sgt. X" made a compulsory descent from aircraft wearing a parachute on such and such a date, which, by virtue of the fact that his life was saved, makes him eligible for life membership.

The Roo Club is the Australian counterpart of the Irving "Caterpillar" Club, founded by Leslie L. Irvin, the inventor of the Irving parachute, and managing director of the Irving Air Chute Co. of Great Britain.

REMEmBRANCE DAY

In brilliant sunshine ex-servicemen paraded at the State War Memorial for the chief ceremonial observance of Remembrance Day.

The observance included the laying of wreaths, the changing of the wardens of the memorial and the handing over of the keys of the crypt.

The parade assembled at the Queen Victoria statue at 3.15 p.m. Led by the R.S.L. Band and the State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt) and the incoming warden (Mr. H. B. Jackson) the men marched to the memorial, where Messrs. Hunt and Jackson were received by the retiring warden (Mr. A. H. Panton, M.L.A.). A bugler sounded "Still" and the ceremony of changing wardens began after each had laid a wreath.

Mr. Hunt took up a position facing the memorial with Mr. Panton on his right and Mr. Jackson on his left and attended by the assistant warden (Mr. J. E. Watson). Mr. Panton then handed over a casket containing the keys of the crypt and the gates of the memorial to Mr. Jackson, saying: "I hand to you the keys of the crypt and gates of this memorial to our fallen comrades and charge you to guard this trust now placed in your keeping."

Mr. T. P. Burke, M.R.H., and the Attorney-General (Mr. Abott) laid wreaths on behalf of the Commonwealth and State Governments, respectively, and Cr. J. T. Tandy followed with one from the Lord Mayor (Mr. J. Totterdell) and the city councillors. Then came representatives of the three services, unit associations and kindred bodies and relatives of the fallen.

Buglers sounded the Last Post and, after an interval of silence, Reveille. The flags on the memorial were raised to the masthead and the parade dispersed.
AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER VISITS ENGLAND

As most readers are aware, Mr. W. S. Lonnie, M.C., a member of the State Executive, recently visited England to assist in arranging details of the scheme to encourage British migrants to Western Australia. He has made an exhaustive report upon his visit for the Federal Government, and portion of this we have great pleasure in reproducing. Those who wish to see the report in its full may do so on application to Anzac House.

On my arrival in Great Britain... discussions with officials of Australia House indicated a lag in recruitment due to such factors as the disinclination of eligible young men to accept employment on the goldfields and an implied difficulty with the Ministry of Labour in respect to the security of workers associated with the mining industry. . . .

. . . I had the opportunity of explaining our scheme in detail at a press conference, and largely as a result of the kindness of Migration Publicity Officer A. C. Williams, our goldfields mission attracted considerable publicity as far afield as the north of Scotland and the Channel Islands. The benefits of this were quickly reflected... at the end of the first fortnight some two thousand written enquiries had been received.

. . . It was agreed that I should be associated with the selection teams ... this plan succeeded in retaining the sustained public interest which culminated in Glasgow, where approximately 1,000 very eligible young men besieged the British Ministry of Labour Office during my stay of two days. To a lesser degree the position upon my departure for Australia was as follows: Ready to sail, 18; awaiting medical examination, 550; applications pending or in process, 1,000; further enquiries, 500 to 1,000.

It can reasonably be assumed that the full number of 360 to 400 men required by the mines will be obtained...

A pleasing aspect is that 99 percent of those interviewed indicated that they were prepared to come to Australia to work in any State in any position to which the selection officials at Australia House may suggest their posting. . . .

The type of young men available, in the main, is very good. The occupations range from miners, quarry workers, semi-skilled men, riveters, plumbers' assistants, excavator drivers, truck drivers, car drivers, to clerks and office workers. As a result of my visit I am confident that when these young men arrive in Australia they will not only be useful to the industry to which they may be posted, but will become in a very short time New Australians of the type which our country requires and demands.

British Legion and Migration

Speaking generally, interest in migration matters amongst ex-servicemen is very marked, and in each Legion branch and district enthusiastic response was forthcoming to any broad request that British ex-servicemen should take an active interest in migration to Australia. . . . Discussions are, I believe, now to take place between senior officials of Australia House and the National Executive of the British Legion.

In the matter of land settlement, it is my impression that it will be possible to arouse the interest of many potential farmers in Australia if details of land available for settlement, rainfall, land-clearing costs, market prices, etc., could be made available either as a composite brochure by States or as a continuous series of articles through normal press channels.

A rather distressing feature of the number of men presenting themselves for interview was the high percentage of married couples who were desperately keen to migrate to Australia but are prevented from doing so owing to our current housing difficulties. . . . It is my impression that insufficient is being done on a correct and organised basis to conduct State-wide surveys of the accommodation actually available for prospective migrants. I refer in the main to workers required for primary production.

It appears that the time is now appropriate for additional measures which may result in the absorption of suitable married couples as farm workers.

Big Brother Movement

During the concluding stages of my visit I was present at a farewell party, arranged by Colonel Clegg, secretary of the British Big Brother Movement, to farewell a number of youths who were sailing for Australia on the following day. In a conversation with Colonel Clegg, I ascertained that this movement has, up to date, associated itself with youth migration to New South-Wales and Tasmania only. . . . I suggested to Colonel Clegg that it might be possible to extend, even in a modified form, this Big Brother Movement to Western Australia.

As chairman of the Immigration Committee of the W.A. Branch of the League, I wish to take the opportunity of expressing the sincere thanks of my committee to the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell), to Mr. Noel Lamidy, Chief Migration Officer, and to Messrs. Smith, Cordy, Williams and Hayes for the most efficient organisation in regard to my trip. I hope that the knowledge I have gained will enable our Migration Committee to play an ever-growing part in this vitally important question of settlement, not only from a Western Australian point of view, but in the wider sense of Australia as a whole.
It was Christmas Day, and the guests at a certain party were showing their prowess at after-dinner tricks. One trickster produced a pack of cards and exclaimed: “I am willing to wager any amount that I will ‘cut’ the ace of diamonds first time.”

“Right!” said an onlooker. “I take on the wager for five shillings!”

Going to the kitchen, the trickster borrowed a sharp knife from the cook, and then returned, cut the pack of cards clean in half. “There,” he cried, “hand over the five shillings. The ace of diamonds is cut at the first attempt.” “No!” protested the man who had accepted the wager, “you are wrong there. I removed the ace of diamonds from the pack and placed it in my pocket while you were borrowing the knife.”

They were walking along the path one evening when he said to her: “Let’s take a short cut across the lawn.”

She: “No, I mustn’t walk on the wet grass. I have patent leather shoes on, and patent leather draws.”

He: “Have you?”

She: “No; it does!”

The bachelor is a happy guy,
   He has a lot of fun;
   He sizes all the cuties up,
   And never Mrs. one.

Wife: “I am writing to the new landlord, dear. I want the dining and sitting-rooms repapered, also the bath enamelled and a new kitchen range. To whom shall I address it?”

Hubby: “Santa Claus.”

Here’s a story of two Russians and the atomic bomb.

The comrades met in a Moscow street. The first one said that if war should come the Russians would win easily.

“As soon as we develop the atomic bomb,” he said, “we will simply send six or seven agents to America, each carrying an atomic bomb in a suit-case. They will set off their bombs in the metropolitan centres.”

“Impossible,” said the second Russian.

“But, why?” asked the first. “Don’t you think we’ll ever develop the atomic-bomb?”

“Sure we will,” said the second. “But where are we going to get the suitcases?”

A girl can be gay in a classy coupe. In a taxi they all can be jolly. But the girl that’s worth while is the girl who can smile, when you’re taking her home in a trolley.

Wife: “What would you like me to give you for a Christmas present?”

Husband: “It’s very good of you, my dear, but I don’t think I can afford anything this year.”

Here’s a simple story. It may be ancient. It was told by Rockefeller, but it fits the times. One day a friend phoned the great American millionaire, dictated the number and waited.

“Hello, Rockefeller,” he boomed, when someone lifted the receiver on the other end, “is that you, Rockefeller?”

There was a pause and then came a small, sad voice with “Oy vey, oy—vot a wrong number you’ve got!”

The farmer, coming home late from a meeting, surprised Jacky coming out of his paddock with a sack slung over his shoulder.

“Jacky,” said the farmer, “I’m surprised at you. I didn’t think you’d ever come at pinching my potatoes.”

“Boss,” replied Jacky very solemnly, “I haven’t bin pinchem any spuds. I only bin pickem up de windfalls.”

The doctor was disturbed by a night call. An anxious husband begged him to come round at once. He was certain his wife had appendicitis.

“She can’t have, man; give her some bicarbonate and keep her quiet. I’ll look in first thing in the morning. I took her appendix out two years ago, and I never yet heard of a woman having two appendixes.”

“Maybe,” countered the husband, “but did you never hear of a man having a second wife.”

HOWLERS

The Royal Mint is what the king put on his new potatoes.
When Elijah went up to heaven his mantelpiece fell on Elisha.
Men are what women marry.
An anglophile is a man who loves fishing.
In spring the salmon ascends fresh water streams to spoon.

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**PERSONALITIES**

☆ Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C., of South Australia, has been elected Federal President of the League, winning on a casting vote from Messrs. G. W. Holland (Victoria) and K. Todd (New South Wales).

☆ Sister Folland, secretary of the Returned Sisters sub-branch, wishes to thank members of metropolitan sub-branches for their great interest and the sorry state of the Victoria Park War Memorial has so far achieved no result. It looks as though we shall have to wait for 'Dig' to fall over.

☆ Mr. N. D. Bretherton, deputy director of victualling in the Department of the Navy, who was naval victualling stores officer at Fremantle during World War II, recently left on a visit to England.

☆ Mr. R. R. Gordon, general secretary of the Services Canteen Trust Fund, recently visited Perth to confer with local representatives of the fund.

☆ Staff-Captain H. C. S. Slimm, of the Strathaird, made a generous gesture for Poppy Day by donating 200 British Legion poppies for sale in Perth streets.

☆ Mr. W. E. Geary, publicity officer of the Carlisle sub-branch, who has been on the sick list for the past three months is, we are pleased to hear, once again on the active list.

☆ Mr. T. McCormick has been appointed publicity officer of the Mosman Park sub-branch, and he has already been busy with his pen, assisting to put before the public in general the work which his sub-branch is carrying out.

☆ Mr. J. H. Timms, publicity officer of the Victoria Park sub-branch, states that "further correspondence with the Lord Mayor and City councillors over assistance towards the garden fete at Hollywood on November 5. The fete was a remarkable success.

☆ The Rev. J. Spratling, of East Fremantle, has been appointed a member of the State Executive, replacing Dr. C. E. Cook, who resigned on accepting a Commonwealth appointment.

☆ Mr. W. B. Jackson, K.C., took over as Warden of the State War Memorial on Remembrance Day, the retiring Warden being Mr. A. H. Panton, M.L.A.

☆ Mr. R. W. Cashmere has been elected president and Mr. Wallace secretary of the Ex-Machine-Gunners Association.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.
—Pope.
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LAND SALES CONTROL.—At the recent League Land Settlement Conference held in Melbourne it was unanimously recommended that each State branch should present to its State Government a strong request that control of prices of rural lands be retained until sufficient land has been acquired for ex-service settlers, and that where legislation for decontrol has been enacted, reimposition of control be reintroduced.

NON-ESSENTIAL BUILDING.—Resolution No. 76 at the August meeting of the Federal Executive was: “That executive urges the Commonwealth Government to discontinue the building of less essential premises until the urgent housing needs of the people are provided.” This has brought the following reply from the Prime Minister: “In the absence of specific reference to the type of building activity which gave rise to the carrying of the resolution, it is only possible to reply in general terms. The Commonwealth Government has given, as a matter of policy, a higher priority to the urgent needs of housing than to any other proposal with the exception of urgent defence requirements of the long-range weapons project. . . . Most building projects involving expenditure in excess of £50,000 are referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Works before approval is given. . . . That committee critically reviews each proposal and obtains evidence in respect of its necessity. Full regard is given to the effect that the implementation of each proposal would have on the supply of materials and the availability of manpower which could be used for housing. The Government has also appointed a Cabinet Subcommittee to review all Commonwealth departmental proposals estimated to cost more than £7,500. . . . Your League may also be assured that the utmost economy in the use of manpower and materials is being observed by the Department of Works and Housing in the carrying out of its works projects, and that all efforts are being concentrated on works of the greatest importance and urgency.”

MEDICAL SUSTENANCE.—As the result of the League’s representations to the Minister for Repatriation, provision has now been made for payment of a higher rate of sustenance to ex-members of the Services undergoing short periods of in-patient treatment (less than three months) for their accepted war disabilities. Instead of granting an amount that would bring the rate equivalent to 100 per cent. pension (£5/10/- per fortnight), sustenance may now be granted to the total, inclusive of war pension, of £10/12/- per fortnight, the equivalent of the pension rate for a temporarily totally incapacitated ex-soldier. Those patients who have suffered loss of wages or salary in consequence of such in-patient treatment will benefit by the increased rate. But any payment in the nature of wages or salary or earnings by the patient in respect of any part of the period of treatment will disqualify the patient for the increased rate. Income from property or other private sources will be disregarded as will sick pay from a contributory sickness benefit fund or like fund. During the period of treatment, sustenance to the 100 per cent. rate will be paid, and the additional amount to which the patient may be entitled under the new provision will be paid as soon as verification of earnings has been completed.

SANDAKAN WAR CEMETERY.—League members and relatives of servicemen buried in the Sandakan War Cemetery, North Borneo, will be interested to learn that the Australian Association of North Borneo laid a wreath there on V.P. Day on behalf of the League.

LEMNOS CONTROL.—In connection with a motion submitted by the Shenton Park women’s auxiliary, that the control of Lemnos be undertaken by the Repatriation Department, the State Secretary says: “I have been instructed to explain that the control of all certified mental patients is, by law, vested in the State Governments, and any change would entail an amendment of the State and Federal legislation. Lemnos Hospital was instituted for the accommodation of ex-service personnel whom the Inspector-General of the Insane considers fit and suitable to be there. The Repatriation Commission, in view of the fact that a proportion of the inmates would be suffering from mental disease due to war service, provided the finance for the erection of the original buildings and contributes to the cost of maintenance, repairs, etc. In addition, the Repatriation Commission pays the State Government (Continued on page 23)
DELEGATES from 24 Empire organisations affiliated with the British Empire Service League assembled in Ottawa on Sunday, September 11. There were various religious services in the city, a dinner for delegates in the Chateau Laurier, and a formal opening by Canada’s Governor-General, Viscount Alexander of Tunis, at the Capitol Theatre.

The opening session of conference began at 9.30 a.m. on the following morning in the House of Commons. Delegates from Australia, Antigua, Burma, Canada, England, Gold Coast, India, Ireland, Malaya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Nyasaland, Pakistan, Rhodesia, Scotland, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Wales were present. Our Australian delegates were Mr. Eric Millhouse, Mr. W. J. Hunt (W.A.) and Mr. J. C. Neagle.

The day was mainly devoted to addresses, wreath-laying, a luncheon and a reception by the Canadian Legion. At midnight delegates left for Toronto and the Niagara Falls. At Toronto delegates visited the magnificent Sunnybrook Veterans’ Hospital.

On Wednesday, returning to Ottawa, a business session at 10 a.m. was devoted mainly to reports from member organisations. Despite the fact that written reports had been circulated, long oral reports were given by many delegates. During the afternoon the Australian delegation made it perfectly clear that, without desiring to give offence, it was nearly time that the conference began to do some work. New Zealand, Canada and South Africa supported this stand.

A formal South African resolution requested Her Majesty the Queen to accept the office of Patroness-in-Chief of Women’s Auxiliaries of Member Organisations. (This resolution will not affect organisations which have no Federal women’s auxiliary.)

**Australian Resolutions**

The following Australian resolutions were carried:

“That this conference resolve that the British Ministry of Pensions set up offices where necessary in the Dominions to facilitate pensions matters of British ex-service men and women migrants.”

“That this conference resolve that in view of the fact that ex-members of the British Forces who served in the Indian Army and now resident in Australia are unable to obtain medical treatment for any accepted war disability, immediate representations be made to the Governments concerned to provide treatment through Australian repatriation hospitals and local medical officers.”

“The opening session of conference was held recently in Ottawa, had not come to Headquarters in Melbourne, and expect approach by member organisations to their respective Governments to declare communist organisations illegal.”

The Australian resolution requesting 3/- per day subsistence allowance to prisoners of war was defeated mainly on the argument of Mr. K. W. Fraser (New Zealand) and Lord Cromwell (British Legion). Both delegates had been prisoners of war and declared that prisoners of war should not be segregated in a special class and that they should receive no special benefits in the way of subsistence allowances.

Australia’s remaining resolution:

“That this conference resolves (a) That it is in the best interests of the British Commonwealth and of ex-servicemen who fought for its integrity, that the B.E.S.L. should continue as a virile force and the means of coordinating the activities of all ex-servicemen throughout the British Commonwealth; (b) That, in order to ensure the continued existence of the B.E.S.L., adequate financial contributions should be made by its constituent bodies towards its maintenance; (c) That the status and influence of the B.E.S.L. would be enhanced if a more active and forceful policy, linked with efficient organisation and administration, were adopted.”

was referred to the Empire Council in London to devise ways and means of ensuring that the B.E.S.L. may continue to be financially solvent. (In due course the council’s recommendations will be forwarded to member organisations.)

A British Legion resolution affirming that everything possible must be done to ensure a constant flow of migrants from the United Kingdom to other parts of the Empire was carried. Speaking to this resolution, Lord Cromwell declared that England’s population should be reduced by at least 30 per cent. during the next
half century and that only the very best British stock should migrate.

A British Legion resolution that membership of constituent organisations be reciprocal was opposed by Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa on the grounds that our qualification is overseas service. Canada bluntly indicated that it would not admit its own conscripts to the Legion and did not want anyone else's.

The Land Settlement Conference resolution cabled from Australia requesting the co-operation of the U.K. and Australian Governments in settling U.K. migrants on Australian holdings was enthusiastically carried after being strongly supported by the British Legion.

Ex-Service Beggars

The Sierra Leone delegate told a pitiful story of coloured war veterans, including double amputees, begging in the streets for food. In regard to this, the training of disabled servicemen in Australia and New Zealand was a matter of great interest to many delegates, particularly those from India and Pakistan. In the East, unfortunately, crippled soldiers are not unused to official and private neglect. The attitude of some of the Crown colonies towards their crippled men was not particularly pleasing to our delegates, but in this respect it would seem that the conference has awakened interest which may eventually bring about results. Treatment in the West Indies, delegates report, has been so regrettable that the Colonial Secretary in London is being informed by B.E.S.L. officers.

American ex-servicemen were represented at the conference by Judge Latona (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and Colonel George Craig (recently elected as National Commander of the American Legion). Both of these gentlemen spoke at the conference and slapped communism hard. Both indicated that, as Britain had borne the brunt of two world wars, the United States owed Britain a debt which all Americans should be prepared to pay gladly.

Conference agreed that Colonel Baxter, National Leader of the Canadian Legion, should attend the American Legion Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis in November.

The Hon. Milton Gregg, V.C., Minister of Veterans' Affairs in the Canadian Ministry, also addressed the conference. He was listened to with great interest, as Canada has done a fine job in returning its veterans to civil life. He warned all member organisations to be especially vigilant against the impact of communism and expressed the view that the greatest deterrent to its spread was the strong, virile and loyal organisation which comprised the British Empire Service League.

Members of the conference visited Montreal during their stay in Canada. There the local branch of the Canadian Legion entertained them.

The Australian delegates feel that, while Australia can secure no tangible results as a member of the B.E.S.L., and while we are strong enough to make our own representations, there are many small units which are greatly strengthened in their efforts because the B.E.S.L. stands behind them.

Our delegates state that it was a great experience to meet men from all parts of the Empire, to meet them in the business sessions, and to meet them socially. They add that such meetings typified the vastness and the strength of the Empire, and the delegates' enthusiasm for the cause of all Empire ex-servicemen was particularly impressive.

"We can speak only in the highest terms of the people we met at the conference and its associated functions. The honorary secretary's organisation was splendid and the manner in which the Canadian Legion executive discharged its heavy responsibilities was outstanding.

Sir Howard Kippenberger, president of the New Zealand R.S.A., in his report, says: "When I left to attend the B.E.S.L. conference in Canada I was not altogether sure that the visit would be of any great value. But I came away . . . sure that for some years yet the conference, because of the chance to exchange information, will be invaluable.

Sir Howard thinks that New Zealand, Canada and Australia had much to give in the way of information on problems affecting the rehabilitation of returned servicemen. "Some of the things we have done over here," he said, "were almost unheard of by some delegates . . . It was a revelation that governments and peoples could accept such responsibility for returned servicemen, crippled or otherwise, as these three Dominions. I am satisfied that many will go back to their own countries determined to bring about changes.

"An interesting thing was that the Canadian, Australian and Rhodesian delegates constantly talked of the British Empire. This was quite plainly distasteful to delegates from Pakistan and India . . . The British delegates did not seem to have the idea that the British Empire had ended. It was apparent that all delegates were loyal to the Commonwealth."

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SHOULD YOU BUILD NOW?

★ R. M. Neal, well-known Designer, gives advice to those who ask "Now—or Later?"

I know the deep satisfaction, the lasting happiness that will be yours when you move into your new home. But there is more than emotion behind my advice. I have reached the conclusion that you would be well advised to build now, if you have the opportunity, rather than delay unduly, and my reasons for this conclusion are:

(a) It will be four to five years before today's building costs drop substantially.

(b) There is a distinct possibility that today's low interest rates will not prevail in years to come.

(c) Even if costs do recede (due to a minor depression) in years to come, the rise in building costs in the meantime will exceed the ultimate fall in prices.

If you build a new house this year or next, you risk more than a normal depreciation of value should a depression hit us. That is the price you must pay for the satisfaction of owning a new home at a time like the present, but it is unlikely that we will be involved in the throes of depression for many years to come.

But note well this fact: You will take a much greater risk if you buy an old house on today's inflated market. That's because there is an extra element of value in today's old home — "the scarcity premium." Old houses are very much overpriced because of the limited supply and the phenomenal demand. But that scarcity premium is evaporating little by little with each new home that is built. In a couple of years it may have entirely disappeared.

As to the financing of your home—there is practically no chance that interest rates will become lower, and an extremely good chance that they will soar to even higher levels. This is because of the fact that during the war people were compelled to invest their savings instead of spending them, and lending institutions built up huge reserves of "lendable" funds. In consequence, loans are easy to get and interest rates are depressed.

Next year or the year after—who knows—the demand for loans may have greatly increased, and with fewer people investing savings lending institutions will become more anxious; and as their "lendable" funds continue to drop, the charge for interest on loans will probably increase.

Just what is the outlook for building costs? Long-range predictions are risky, but it is safe to presume that within the next twelve months building costs will go even higher than those of the present time. A 10 per cent. increase appears to be a safe estimate, but in approximately two years costs may level off prior to receding slightly.

If in about five or six years' time a depression hits us, the cost will probably drop approximately 10 to 15 per cent., which will bring building prices back to present-day levels.

In 1939 you could build an average five-room house for as low as £800. Today, that same house would cost approximately £1,750. In 12 months' time it will probably cost £1,925, but in five years' time the cost will, no doubt, have dropped to approximately £1,750—or a level very close to building costs of today.

But a big drop in the cost of materials will not be felt until:

(a) Today's tremendous demand has been almost completely satisfied.

(b) Builders are able to buy their materials when and where they want, rather than accumulate stocks when materials are available—perhaps well in advance of their requirements; and

(c) The threat of industrial upheavals has been appreciably minimised.

Obviously this price recession cannot be expected overnight or even in 12 months' time. The cost of materials may drop as much as 25 to 30 per cent. in the next decade, but the drop will come slowly, and such an advantage may be considerably offset by rising wages.

If you want to build, can afford to build, and can obtain the necessary permit to build, go ahead as soon as possible, for all trends indicate a long enough period of prosperity to allow you to reduce your outstanding mortgage below the danger point before the next possible depression.

STRONG WOMAN!

By Kerry Wood

The yarn I relate had its setting near the Red Deer fair grounds. It was at one of those old-time fairs, complete with an assortment of sideshow tents designed to coax dimes and nickles from the sight-seeing public. One tent featured a Strong Woman, boasting that she could lift a horse. The lady stretched out on the ground, a platform was placed over her, and when she had braced her powerful biceps a horse was led on to the platform and the lady exerted herself mightily and lifted platform and horse up from the ground a few straining inches.

The manager of the Strong Woman sideshow didn't own a horse; at every exhibition stop he rented a pony-sized horse from a farmer to stage the act. Red Deer farmers, however, didn't believe that horse-lifting was woman's work and turned down the manager's appeal for a pony.

Then someone told the man about the Indian encampment a few hundred yards away, where Crees from the Hobbema Reserve camped every fair time. The sideshow manager learned that the Indians had lots of ponies tethered around their wagons, so off he hurried to rent a horse for his Strong Woman.

A leather-faced old warrior with some spare horses finally confronted the manager.

"Why do you want horse?" demanded the Indian.

The manager explained the whole situation: he wanted a horse for the lady to lift. He described the whole act. No harm would come to the horse, he stressed, and he offered two dollars per day as rent for the animal.

The Indian removed his pipe to marvel.

"You say woman lift horse?"

"Yeah, that's right."

"You say, she lift horse all by herself?"

"Sure, sure! She's a strong woman, see?"

The Indian considered this a moment, then his black eyes snapped with sudden interest;

"Me, I like to meet that woman. She make dam' good squaw!"
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THE GIFT OF THE MAGI
(Continued from page 7)

Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends—a mammoth task.

Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror, long, carefully, and critically.

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl. But what could I do—oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying-pan on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops. Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment.

She had a habit of saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please, God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two—and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

Jim stepped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her.

It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again—you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows weirdly fast. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

Members of the State Executive. Anzac House office staff and pressmen taken prior to the last Congress. Here are the men who give of their time, their energy and their talents that the League may function efficiently.

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent fact yet even after the hardest mental labour.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, aren't I?"

Jim looked about the room curiously.

"You say your hair is gone?" he asked, with an air almost of idiocy.

"You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you—sold and gone, too. It's December Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs of my head were numbered," she went on with a sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops on, Jim?"

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to awake. He enveloped his Della. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year—what is the difference?

A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The magi brought valuable gifts, but that announcement will be illuminated later on.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Della," he said, "about me, I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first."

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.

For there lay The Combs—the set of combs, side and back, that Della hid worshipped for long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jewelled rims—just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair.

They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adornments were gone.

But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: "My hair grows so fast, Jim!"

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!"

(Continued on page 23)
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THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

(Continued from page 20)

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull, precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

"Isn’t it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You’ll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

"Della," said he, "let’s put our Christmas presents away and keep ‘em a while. They’re too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The magi, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones; possibly the privilege of exchange in case of duplication.

And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house.

But in a last word to the wise of these days, let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

THE END.

VARICOSE VEINS IN WOODEN LEG

Spectacular Diagnosis by Health "Diviner"

In a scientific investigation conducted by the University of Otago, New Zealand, into the activities of 75 so-called "diviners" (including 58 water diviners, 28 mineral diviners and 11 health diviners), P. A. Ongley, of the staff of the University’s Medical School, witnessed a remarkable example of diagnosis by a health diviner.

In tests conducted on a healthy 24-year-old male, five of these diviners declared the presence of 12 different ailments—most spectacular of which was a diagnosis of varicose veins in his wooden leg.

Mr. Ongley declares that of the 75 diviners tested, representative of all occupations and from all parts of New Zealand, not one showed the slightest accuracy in divination.

LISTENING POST Newsreel

(Continued from page 18)

for the maintenance of its patients. It is understood that approximately half of the accommodation is reserved for repatriation patients. The committee visualises many complications if your auxiliary’s recommendations were effected and doubts if any advantage to the patients would accrue. It will be appreciated that the condition of many patients is such that they cannot be transferred to Lemnos but must be kept under strict control—this fact would cause divided control by State and Federal authorities. In addition to paying for the treatment of its mental patients, the Repatriation Department also contributes to the treatment in some measure by affording the services of its psychiatric trained staff. Lemnos has been regarded as an institution mainly for the older ex-serviceman whose mental condition does not require active treatment in distinction to younger patients for whom there is a prospect that appropriate treatment will ensure restoration to useful citizenship."

16TH BATTALION

The 16th Battalion A.I.F. Committee met on the 9th November. Two new members were welcomed—Jack Courtney and Evan Davies, M.L.C. Tom Tandy reported back after his trip to the Old Country and Bill Waterman is back, but has not reported to us yet. The late General Brockman’s death has informed us that he has several trophies belonging to us and Bill Newick is trying to get them over by post. We are giving our old pals in Sunset a Christmas tea on December 18 and hope that many old Battalion members will turn up. Mr. Harry Armstrong is again in charge of the harder and making the pasties, etc. Vice-President Joe Oxenham is coming along fine after his recent operation. Joe has had a tough time of it. Captain Dowling, South Australian 16th, is over here on military duties, from Adelaide and several of last year’s Adelaide trippeers are meeting him on Wednesday night. After the meeting, the ladies’ auxiliary entertained us to supper. On 30th October the ladies gave our 16 old pals in Sunset a high tea and all of us had a very pleasant time. The committee is a hard-working one and always pleased to hear from old mates in the country.

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"Recent sales were: ‘ABC’, £2/12/6; ‘The Western Mail’, £2/2/–; ‘Topic’, £1/10/–; and ‘Rydge’s’, 5/–." (11H).

"The £2 you helped me earn in the first six weeks came in mighty handy." (XCI).


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IN MY TIME

Some years ago Field-Marshal Lord Birdwood wrote his biography "Khaki and Gown"—a book which was particularly well received. Now he gives us "In My Time" [Skeffington & Son Ltd.] which is mainly a collection of anecdotes and stories. There is little continuity and practically no shape or form to this book, but for all that it is extremely interesting, and for those who want a "light" book for casual reading, it can be warmly recommended:

Lord Birdwood is so much a part of Australian military life and history that there are a number of items from this book with which we feel we should whet readers' appetites.

He mentions his first visit to Chitral, when, in the Mehtar's temporary absence, he was greeted by that personage's eldest son. He was detailed to introduce his brothers to the presence, standing like so many organ pipes. My surprise at the size of the family was quite misunderstood, for on my saying, "What, twelve of them?" I got the reply: "Yes, sir, but remember my father is still only a young man."

On the Dardanelles campaign he had some words, in 1915, with Mustapha Kemel's Chief of Staff, Fahretein Pasha. The questions asked and the answers given were: Q. When you made a big attack on me at Anzac on May 19, 1915, what were your casualties? A. Ten thousand. Q. What did you think of the Suvla Landing? A. When we saw your very large force landing, we wired to Istanbul to say the war was over, as you would get Constantinople. Q. What did Kemal think of our evacuation? A. He was absent; but when he heard of your getting away without loss, he said: "If I had been there, I would have shot myself.

He tells a few legal stories, one of which we might retell here:

It is about a good old farmer, who was giving evidence in a case of theft. The judge addressed him: "Now, I want you to tell us the exact words used by the prisoner." The farmer replied: "Well, sir, he said as how he stole the pig—"

"My good man, I have already told you that you must not use the third person." "My lord, there was no third person." "Tut, tut," said the judge. "I presume the prisoner said, "I stole the pig.""

"Witness, horrified: 'I assure you, my lord, he never even mentioned your lordship's name!'

Writing about Asquith, Lord Birdwood quotes the remark: "What a great man he would be, if he only had the courage of his wife's convictions."

Of Sir Ian Hamilton he says:

"When in Japan, many years ago, he was served by a pretty little Geisha girl. He had with him an interpreter. . . . Sir Ian, through this man, asked the girl's name, to be told it was 'Sparrow,' and he broke out with enthusiasm: 'Oh, you beautiful bird! You are so lovely, I wish you could be put in a golden cage and travel all round the world with me!' When this was translated, the girl tossed her head and left the room, on which a man who was sitting near came over to Sir Ian and said: 'I say, you need not have been so unkind to that girl.'

"Sir Ian disclaimed with indignation any idea of unkindness, and told the man what he had said. The reply was: 'Well, what you interpreter said was, "As you are a bird, you ought to be shut up in a box."'

"Dealing with the matter of flowery language Lord Birdwood states that it is not usually used or understood by the British soldier. "It was rather nice to hear a sergeant one day reproving a man for crossing a forbidden piece of land, and when told by the man that he had received the captain's verbal orders to do so, counter with: 'Let me see them verbal orders.'"

"Much the same type of mentality evidently is also the privilege of the British soldiers' wife.

"While engaged in fire-fighting duties, my daughter had to help in extricating a poor woman from her bombed house, she was asked where her husband was so that he might be informed of his wife's safety. The reply received was: 'The dirty coward, he is away fighting in Italy.'"

Speaking of this part of the world he says: "Looking back on the months of my first visit to Australia and New Zealand, now 25 years ago, I feel that hardly any time of my life has been so happy; both my wife and I so deeply appreciated the great kindness and unlimited hospitality with which we were everywhere and always received. My only complaint was that the enthusiasm of my old comrades was so marked—even violent—that we often wondered whether we should not be killed by kindness. The going the whole time was so non-stop that there was little or no opportunity of taking a breather and getting one's second wind. I was often told it was a shame the way I was being hustled; but I never was able to see that those who said so were for giving me a quiet time while I was with them: that was to be done by those who remained for me to visit.

"But when one realises the whole-heartedness of such receptions, one would be less than human not to have great feelings of thankfulness that Fate had sent us among such generous-hearted people."

A rather starchy dinner party at the home of a prominent industrialist was astonished recently when three of the family's small fry solemnly entered the dining-room clad in their birthday suits, walked slowly around the table and back out of the door. The youngsters did not say a word, mother and father were speechless, and the guests tactfully ignored the whole episode.

Mounting the stairs for a reckoning after a discreet interval, mother found the nudists in the bathroom mopping themselves with towels.

"It worked, mummy, it worked," they unabashedly greeted her. "Why didn't you tell us about vanishing cream before?"
LOOKING BACK TO YPRES

The “Batt.” bivouacs on ground once tortured by a score of fierce onslaughts, evil evidence of the colossal folly and wastage of war: a pocket-marked area clutching to itself remnants of human devilmint, revealing a discarded mess of rusty equipment, delict tanks, gun wheels, barbwire torn to a tangled pattern, bedamned by all. Here, too, the tragedy absolute: a soldier’s grave marked by a rifle stuck in the ground, a shin-bone with boot intact, a shell hole of red-green liquid, all grim reminders of yesterday’s foulness.

Amidst this intolerable desolation, men now prepare a brief respite, the latest reinforcements are stunned to quietness, jokes are forced to cover deeper feelings. Many ponder to themselves the significance of all they see, and the prospect of their own behaviour when the testing-time comes.

Yesterday these men, slogging toward this new adventure, shed their light-heartedness, their sentimental songs and ribald chatter, sensing as the kilos wore down some indefinable feeling of insecurity and crisis. The splintered avenues of elms through which they filed bore new witness to the hazards. They trudged on past the ruins of a one-time glory of Flanders, and then a signboard that none mistake, “Hell Fire Corner”; a casualty clearing-station with rows of quiet stretchers, and beyond again the road of sanguinary name to Menin; hedged with the stark realism of heaped wreckage and the decaying flesh of mule and horse, terrible and nauseating, where no man willingly loitered, where teams were driven at the gallop when possible; an artery

(Continued on page 29)
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Open accounts for yourself and
all the family. Show your children
the value of money by teaching them
to save. Store up comfort and
security.

Play safe . . .
save now!
COMMONWEALTH
Savings BANK

Always deliciously
tender and
mild.

Watsonia
HAMS & BACON

Why not the Returned Soldier Printer?
IMPERIAL PRINTING COMPANY
PTY. LTD.
WHY THIS PROTEST?
The reported “protest” by returned
soldiers of Bathurst against a civic
welcome to Pastor Niemoller by the
city council is difficult to understand!
As there is nothing to suggest that
the League has identified itself with
this protest, which is nothing more
than a wretched expression of chau-
vinism, it must be presumed that it
has been inspired by agencies which
have really little interest in returned,
or any, other kind of soldiers, but
and them a convenient medium for
exploitation.

It is broadly estimated that it “takes
twelve men to keep one in the line,”
and it is one of the phenomena
of war conditions peculiar to all coun-
tries that belligerency, fire-eating and
artificially stimulated hate increase
in ratio to the distance one is away from
the actual fighting zone. I remember
returning to the trenches on the ex-
piry of leave with some little measure of
relief—listening to doughty “war-
rriors” on the civilian front (or unin-
formed masqueraders who were never
likely to ever hear a shot) killing the
enemy, with their big mouths was
more than my stomach could stand.

As it is rare indeed to hear a
front-line soldier inveigh against his
enemy for doing exactly what he him-
self is doing, viz., fighting for his
country, and still rarer to hear of him
carrying over into the post-war years
this synthetic enmity, one must as-
sume that the protesting warriors of
Bathurst had put in most of their ser-
vice on the cushy home front, or line
of communications?

It is a stupid and hypocritical atti-
ude to assume the role of angelic
impurity in international relation-
ships; to be consistent we should have
to break off contact with almost every
nation under the sun with whom we
have been at war at some time or
other. The public is never made
aware of the identity of the real archi-
tects of war, or the hidden forces set
in motion by them; at intervals a
pointer may burst out like a stinking
abcess, but this is quickly hidden
from view by much flag-wagging, and
the powerful propaganda at the ser-
vice of those peculiar forces which con-
trast publiclicity.—W.H.P.

[This article was unavoidably left
out of our last issue owing to lack of
space.]

THE COST OF LIVING
The cost of living is something
which concerns us all. Based on a
norm of 100, the following are the
June, 1948, averages of the cost of
living in the various parts of the
world:

Australia, 144.1; Southern RHo-
desia, 145; South Africa, 149; Can-
da, 154.3; Norway, 159.3; Sweden,
164; U.S.A., 171.7; Portugal, 200;
Switzerland, 224; India, 281; Brazil,
364; Peru, 370; Spain, 447; Bulgaria,
689; Chili, 781; Finland, 842; Italy,
4,517.

Surely no comment is needed.

THE LAST POST

I think of death as some delightful
journey
That I shall take when all my
tasks are done.

BEATON, W., Victoria Park sub-
branch.
BREEN-TURNER, L. H., Mt. Haw-
thorn sub-branch; late R.W.F.
BROWSING, G. C., Northam sub-
branch; late 28th Bn.
BURT, H. J., Gloucester Park sub-
branch; late R.N.
HOOPER, J. J., D.S.O., M.C., Mun-
tadgin-Totadgin sub-branch; late 1
Hvy. Bde., R.A.
HUGHES, R. R., Bassendean sub-
branch.
LIVERSIDGE, T., Kalgoorlie sub-
branch, late 5th M.G. Co.
McCUBBING, R. S., Salmon Gums sub-
branch; late 51st Bn.
MORGAN, S. T., Railway Work-
shops sub-branch.
OLDEN, A. C. N., D.S.O., Clare-
mont and Nedlands sub-branches;
member of the State Executive; late
10th Light Horse.
PASSMORE, A., Gosnells sub-
branch.
RICKEY, A. R., Northam sub-
branch; late 28th Bn.
ROBERTSON, J. P., Westonia sub-
branch; late 11th Bn.
SMITH, E. G., City of Perth sub-
branch; late 12th Bn.
SWEETAPPLE, A. H., Nedlands sub-
branch.
STEER, C. F., Safety Bay sub-
branch.

ANTI-SUBMARINE TRAINING
FOR R.A.N.
The Minister for the Navy (Mr.
Riordan) announces that the Federal
Government has accepted an offer by
the British Admiralty to base sub-
marines in Australia so that officers
and ratings of the Royal Australian
Navy and the Royal New Zealand
Navy can obtain adequate training in
anti-submarine work. The subma-
ines will be based on H.M.A.S. Pen-
guin, the Naval Establishment at Bal-
moral, Sydney Harbour.

Two of the vessels, Telemachus and
Thorugh left the United Kingdom
early in November and will arrive at
Sydney in January. A third vessel
will leave for Australia later.

Each submarine will carry a crew
of about 60, but a spare crew and
the majority of a base maintenance
staff of approximately 15 members
will also be provided by the Admir-
alty.

Anti-submarine training is impor-
tant at any time, and the acquisition
by the Royal Australian Navy of the
aircraft carrier H.M.A.S. Sydney
has made it more important for full
anti-submarine training facilities to be
available locally, now that one of the
tasks of the Firefly aircraft, borne in
the carrier, is submarine hunting.

It is necessary also that crews of
other ships, particularly destroyers,
frigates and other smaller vessels, shall
be trained in submarine detection.

Submarines are of the T Class,
which have done excellent work in
World War II. They each have a
displacement of approximately 1,775
tons and a length of 270 feet. Each
vessel carries one 4-inch gun and
smaller armament as well as many
torpedoes.

Until now, periodic anti-submarine
exercises have been carried out by the
Royal Australian Navy with the
assistance of visiting submarines from
the British Far Eastern Fleet. The
fact that submarines will be based
permanently in the Commonwealth in
future will permit much more inten-
sive training than has been possible hitherto.

Remember, that the man who tells
you that his car knocks spots off every-
thing it passes may merely be a care-
less driver.
BASSENDAEN

The sub-branch had another very enjoyable evening on their sports night. It was a challenge to Mrs. Eliza Daniel. Little Bill to play darts, table tennis, etc. The riflemen may be good on the range, but were off the target tonight. Some members have given them the wrong kind of refreshment for good aiming, nevertheless, they are keen and looking forward to another such evening. On Saturday and Sunday the practice rifle shooting "working-bee" on the local hall, and a lot of very necessary work was done. Good on you, members of Poppy Day, and thank you all for your hard work.

Sub-branch wish to thank the local Exhibition (Mr. Walmsley) for aá detailed account of congress and to answer any questions concerning congress, and for his support on November 27, Mr. Wilkins making a special trip from Perth for this. A good attendance gave him a promise of good work in the future.

CARLISLE

A good meeting was held on November 3 when we had as visitors Roy Evison (President of Victoria Park sub-branch) and A. Nixon (another Victoria Park 'stalwart'). The sub-branch is taking an active interest in the building of homes for the people. Through our representations, the City Council has lifted the building limit. We intend to take up strongly the question of prefabricated houses, as we consider that they are necessary in the suburban plan.

A special request was made to the Civic League for a calendar for the Christmas season, as you will hear at your meeting. The council was told that the Civic League would give support to the drive for C.M.F. recruitment, if Government demand that compulsory training should be introduced.

KOJONUP

During the show held at Kojonup on October 25, the sub-branch took charge of and operated a tea stall on 5050 basis with the Kojonup F. & C. Ass'n. This proved a financial success. Our thanks are due to all those who helped in any way, and particularly to Messrs. Geo. Geo. and Mr. F. Fergusson; the both and hot-dog stall respectively, and to Mr. Les Shaw, who made his freezer available. On Saturday, October 25, Mr. M. Bell, sub-branch president, held a most successful debating night in the Kojonup Memorial Hall, when over 700 people from the Kojonup and surrounding districts attended. The 28 debates, which were prepared by Mr. Shirley Moss, were presented to Major-General Whitley, C.B.E. The sub-branch is indeed grateful to Mrs. Moss for her untiring work in connection with the booth, and it is due to her efforts that the presentation went off without a hitch.

AND CO Detachment

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FORE!

In Britain’s Radio News Reel recently, Kevin McGarry went to Leeds and saw an exhibition on the history of golf through the ages. This contained relics and trophies never before seen in public. They were lent by golf clubs all over the country and gave a fascinating picture of how the game had grown in popular favour throughout the last five hundred years. McGarry told listeners that the first official mention of golf in history was in 1457 when the Scottish Parliament ordered it to be “utterly cried down” because it interfered with the more warlike sport of archery. No Scotman would cry down golf today, for his country is a stronghold of the game. The old golf clubs displayed had mallet heads and others were shaped and carved according to individual player’s fancies. The first golf balls, some of which were on show, were stuffed with feathers; nevertheless, players of that time drove them some two hundred yards.

People who now play golf in comfortable tweeds were amused by the wax figure of a gentleman dressed in the correct golfing dress of one hundred and fifty years ago. This was a tall grey beaver hat, a red jacket buttoned tightly over a white silk whipcord waistcoat decorated with blue velvet buttons, and fitting white knee breeches so tight that it was a wonder any gentleman could have managed to bend down sufficiently to address the ball, let alone to hit it. The section devoted to ladies showed their first costume; a red coat, a long check skirt that swept the ground and a straw hat. The red jackets were not worn for sartorial smartness but because golf in those days was played in public parks and the red coats warned passers-by that golfers were in the offing. Some players, like early motor cars, had a man with a red flag going round with them.

NORTHAM SUB-BRANCH REUNION DINNER

The annual reunion dinner of the Northam sub-branch was held on November 26, the president (Mr. A. Bankoff) being in the chair. The attendances, which numbered something over 100, was affected by other functions held on the same night. The State Executive was represented by Messrs. C. Ferguson and P. Stahl and amongst other guests were Messrs. A. R. G. Hawke and H. A. Leslie, Mr. J. A. and two former officers of the Police Force.

Proposing a toast to the State Executive, Mr. Bancroft said that it was the most important cog in the R.S.L. in Western Australia and capably directed the affairs of ex-service men and women and their dependants in the proper channels. Much hard, tireless work was their lot and this was reflected in the achievements of the various sub-committees—land settlement, housing, pensions, to mention a few. It was a pleasure in his time to see the Executive, urged that the sub-branch and members should make free use of his services in any of their problems. He spoke at some length on the drive for increased war pensions.

Mr. Stahl stressed vehemently the need for more members, pointing out that during the depression years, when the League was helping so many, membership had actually increased. It was obvious, he said, that unity in good times would be of benefit to the League.

Mr. Hugh Leslie, who is also a member of the executive, gave a short address.

The toast to the visiting sub-branches was proposed by Mr. D. Foley and acknowledged by Mr. H. Bache of the Bakers Hill-Clackline sub-branch.

Mr. E. J. Treloar proposed “Kindred Associations” and Mr. Harvey responded.

In proposing the health of the Women’s Auxiliary, Mr. H. Brew congratulated the ladies on their excellent catering for the dinner and expressed appreciation on behalf of the sub-branch for their consistent support. Mr. A. H. Strempel, a vice-president of the sub-branch, responded.

Past President Honoured

The chairman presented to Mr. J. B. Adhead, the past president, a writing bureau as an expression of appreciation of his services during his three years of office. The presentation was made to the accompaniment of cheers.

Thanking members, Mr. Adhead pointed out that although out of the chair he still intended to take an active part in the affairs of the sub-branch.

The toast of Parliament was proposed by the sub-branch secretary (Mr. H. F. Mc Clements) and was responded to by Mr. Hawke. Mr. Ferguson proposed the health of the artists and thanked them for their effort. Mr. Bryant, who was in the past, organised the programme, responded. A highly successful function concluded with the toast of the Chairman, proposed by Mr. J. A. Bankoff, chairman of the Northam Road Board.
So great is the demand for Hardie's "FIBROLITE" Building Sheets that, even though production is substantially higher than its pre-war peak, supplies are still short. That is why you may have to wait a little while for your Hardie's "Fibrolite."

A "Fibrolite" home will give you a lifetime of happy, comfortable living. "Fibrolite" is the modern building material for exterior and interior walls and ceilings. It is durable, fire retardant, adaptable and LOW IN COST.

"Meet you at the "Savoy" THE HOTEL THAT FEATURES LOUNGE SERVICE G. HACK, Prop.; JOHN E. GRAY, Manager.

A Treat to eat at ANY time

Makes washday an EASIER day
WOMEN’S AUXILIARIES

STATE EXECUTIVE

Two meetings of the above have been held, both being well attended.

HOSPITAL VISITING, ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

The committee have paid their usual weekly visits and a special visit was made to service patients and auxiliary members. They find an ever-increasing number of patients, but the visits are eagerly looked forward to by these sick people.

Home of Peace

Weekly visits are made by auxiliaries and comforts taken. Special visits are paid to the convalescents in hospital by Mrs. Brown when the family are notified of their being in this or other hospitals.

Sunset

Patients were visited by Mrs. Young on our behalf, and gifts of extra of the way of treats will be sent to replenish their cupboards.

Home of Peace

The Home of Peace has been visited and auxiliary members received a parcel of comforts.

OFFICIAL VISITS

October 18.—The State President and Secretary were guests at the Ex-Imperial Service Woen’s Auxiliary Combined Outing to Ex-Servicemen’s Home.

October 19.—Mrs. Stockman and Mrs. Brown attended the birthday party of the North Perth Auxiliary.

October 20.—Executive members entertained the guest of the Auxiliary to a Save the Blind Soldiers’ conference at afternoon tea at Anzac House.

October 21.—The State President and members of the executive spent a very happy evening with the members of the executive on the occasion of their birthday party.

October 21.—Mrs. Stockman, Mrs. Brown and members of the executive were guests of Mrs. Cullen at her birthday party.

October 22.—The State President and members attended a ball arranged by the Rockingham Auxiliary.

November 10.—Mrs. Stockman officially opened the North-East Fremantle Auxiliary’s bazaar.

November 6.—The State President and Secretary attended the service of remembrance at the War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of all auxiliaries.

November 9.—The State Secretary was a guest of the North Beach Auxiliary.

November 10.—The Rockingham Auxiliary travelled to the Suburban Auxiliary, and entertained the Auxiliary members to a delightful tea.

November 16.—Mrs. Stockman officially opened the Carlisle Auxiliary bazaar, being accompanied by the State President.

November 18.—The State President, Secretary and members spent a most enjoyable evening at the Suburban Auxiliary on the occasion of their 25th birthday party.

DONATIONS

Christmas Cheer.—Warooloo, £10; Busselton, £5; Harvey, £2; Toodyay, £11/1; Mt. Hawthorn, £15; Belmont, £5; Bunbury, £5; Pinjely, £5/5; Victoria Park, £5; Fremantle, £5; Mandurah, £5; Swanlodge, £5/5; Whitefield, £1; Waroona, £1; West Leederville, £5; Victoria Park, £5; North Beach, £5; North Fremantle, £10; Claremont, £5; North Beach, £5; Suburban Auxiliary, £5; Shenton Park, £5.

Soldiers’ Scholarship Fund.—South Perth, £2; Harvey, £1; Leederville, £2; Toodyay, £2; Pinjelly, £2; Laguna, £5; Harvey, £5; Wanneroo, £5; Pinjelly, £5; Shenton Park, £5; Armadale, £1; Shenton Park, £5; Waroona, £5; South Perth, £5; Suburban Auxiliary, £5; Combe, £5; Harvey, £5; Knockholt, £5; Glenfield, £5; Whitfords, £5; Shenton Park, £5; Armadale, £5; Suburban Auxiliary, £5; Wanneroo, £5; Harvey, £5; Knockholt, £5; Armadale, £5.

COTTESLOE

During the last year we had a social evening every month with our sub-branch. This was their arrangement. It was an excellent arrangement, and the results have already eventuated. We had 28 Diggers from Suburban Auxiliary, and 28 Diggers from Suburban Auxiliary were thoroughly enjoyed by the Auxiliary. A musical programme was arranged by Mrs. Joan Thomas. The men arranged in a line and one man gave an exhibition dance, while two songs. They seemed reluctant to leave when the programme was over.

Christmas Cheer.

The month of December brings a very strenuous time for members of the executive, on behalf of all auxiliaries, to good will. We are able to personally deliver them to all patients in ex-service homes and to all war nurses and war service men or women to be found.

Christmas Wishes.

The State President and all members of the executive extend all auxiliary members near and far for their sincere wishes for the Christmas season and every good wish for happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

MIDLAND JUNCTION

Swan View-Greenmount and Midland Junction auxiliaries combined in hiring a bus and visited Wooroloo Sandalorum on October 27. A very happy day was had by all, patients and visitors alike. A letter of appreciation and thanks from the patients for the most enjoyable and helpful co-operation and kindness. Midland Junction Auxiliary entertained the war blind dedicated workers on October 21. The programme was of a very high standard and ably carried out by Mrs. Sheppard and Mrs. Cooksworth was present and expressed her pleasure which resulted in a presentation of our worthy members with certificates. A very enjoyable evening was voiced by all, and the sub-branch are to be thanked for their contributions. Beautiful bouquets were presented to Mrs. Cullen and all lady artists, with a bunette for the menfolk, and our visitors voted their way homewards, transported by Red Cross buses.

SWMAN VIEW-GREENMOUNT

A very successful afternoon was spent at Mrs. Murphy’s house on November 2 in aid of the War Blind Auxiliary. Mrs. Henderson welcomed Mr. and Mrs. James, who had come along, also Mrs. McKinlay and members from Busselton and Midland auxiliaries. Mr. James spoke of the work done by the Auxiliary. Competitions were the order, winners being Mrs. Jones and Mr. James. Mrs. Hones gave the Auxiliary’s Cook Book, and the whole house worked to make the afternoon a success, also thanks to Mr. Murphy for the loan of his house. We were also able to do good business, run by Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Jones, two very young members, not forgetting Mrs. Skelton for looking after the carrying of goods. The result of the afternoon was a cheque for £1/15/5, for the Legacy appeal, £2/6/5. Result of a dance run in conjunction with our sub-branch, £5 was sent in for Christmas cheer.

FRIENDLY UNION OF SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN’S WIVES, MOTHERS, SISTERS AND DAUGHTERS

The monthly session of the U.S.U.W. was held at Anzac House, Mrs. T. C. Wilson (vice-president) in the absence of Mrs. Pemberton. The guest speaker was Mr. T. W. White, director of the Blood Transfusion Service, and his talk was on the history of the blood bank. Mrs. Wilson thanked the speaker and said that many members had learnt much from the talk. The blood bank was not only to the community in general. Most members were donors and others would perform operations where necessary. Marks were supported by Mrs. R. A. Moore. The Auxiliary took a very active part in the Auxiliary’s Christmas Appeal.

Conscience gets a lot of the credit that should go to cold feet,
THE DISFIGURED HUSBAND

By Hertha Ogler

Sometimes a girl falls in love with a soldier who is disfigured and in some way deformed by war wounds. He, too, may love her, but often he will not wed her, as he believes that she will only marry him out of pity.

On the other hand, when disfigured soldiers marry, some of them are depressed by the doubts about the wife's motive in marrying them.

But how can the soldier know that the motive of the girl is simply pity? Should he not rather say, with Shakespeare's Othello: "She loved me for the danger's I had passed."

I have a young friend, very good-looking, intelligent, charming and well-educated. When in the forces she fell in love with an officer whose face was disfigured by wounds; they married three years ago and have been very happy.

Their story shows that a disfigured soldier can be happily married if he has no doubts in his wife's love. We psychologists know from our practice that a good love relationship can only be built up on confidence in the partner. If a husband has a doubt about his wife's love, he will always try to discover proofs that in fact he is not loved (and if one wants to find proofs, one can always produce them).

Thus an innocent word or action of the wife may be taken by him as a proof of his mistaken view. A disfigured soldier must therefore overcome his doubts before marrying the girl he loves.

It is most interesting that after a while a girl who loves a man will not be aware of his deformity, although it may still be the centre of his interest. The famous founders of gestalt psychology have discovered that if one shows a person a drawing of a structure in some way defective, the person in question will see the whole structure (gestalt) without being aware of the defect. In the same way a girl will see her husband as a whole, completely overlooking his deformity.

He on his part should remember that one does not love the exterior only, but one loves a person as a whole, both body and soul. This is proved by the fact that sometimes a husband will get a divorce from his good-looking wife in order to marry an ugly woman whose character he prefers; and often we find a beautiful woman happily married to an ugly husband.

An historian announces that women used cosmetics in the Middle Ages. Women still use cosmetics in the middle ages.

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN. Rates: £1/1/- Per Annum

ARMY MEDICAL UNITS ASSOCIATION—Room 53, Fifth Floor, Gled- den Buildings, Perth; 3rd Friday each month; President: C. W. Brick, Holden Road, Hay Street, Subiaco; Hon. Secretary: W. H. Rogers, 26 Elizabeth Street, North Perth (Phone B 8394).

ARTILLERY COMRADES—President: Arthur Hewett, Railway Parade, Cottesloe; joint Secretaries: S. A. McNamara and A. J. Snow, 74 Hassell Street, Subiaco; meetings when called.

AUSTRALIAN ARMURED CORPS ASSOCIATION—Secretary: A. Wilkinson, Box N 1134, G.P.O., Perth.

AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings as notified: President: A. N. McPherson, 105 Hawthorn Road, Subiaco; Secretary: Miss J. S. G. Bennett, 169 Stirling Street, Claremont.

EX-MECHANICS—President: C. Gregory, 56 King Street, Perth; Friday before Anzac Day and 2nd Friday in October; President: W. F. Mason; Secretary: E. W. Wallace, 244 Shakespeare Road, Victoria Park.

FEDERATED I.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMAN'S ASSOCIATION—Room 23, Building D, 18th Street, Perth; 2nd Monday; President: C. H. Hackett, 5 Princess Street, Nedlands; Secretary: C. L. Lee, 158 William Street, Perth (B 5086).

PARTIALLY BLIND SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch) Room 15, Building B, 18th Street, Perth; 1st Wednesday of each month; President: W. A. Broadfield, 267 Lathouche Road, Como; Secretary: I. MacKay, 51 Henry Street, Nedlands.

R.E. ASSOCIATION (W.A. DIVISION)—U.S. Rooms, Swan Barracks, Francis Street; every 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m.; President: V. L. Skelton, Taxation Department, Perth; Secretary: W. Robertson, Commonwealth Oil Refineries, St. George's Terrace, Perth.

R.A.C. ASSOCIATION (W.A. Division)—H.O. Western Command A.R.A. Sergents' Mess, Swan Barracks, Perth; 1st Thursday each month; President: W. J. Clifton (Phone B 9834), Ext. 234; Secretary: G. F. L. Marshall (Phone U 656); (Secretary to the W.A. Division). (Phone W 5732).

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Mon- day at 6.30 p.m.; 1st Monday of each month; 7 p.m.; President: F. W. Bateman, M.M., c/o Monash Club, Perth; Secretary: G. Gough, 236 Hay St., Perth (Phone B 8476).

THE IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—Meetings in the Freemasons Hall, Fremantle; President: E. J. McMahon, 712 William Car Barn Road, High Street, Fremantle; every Saturday at 6 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Saturday each month; committee meetings 2nd Thursday of each month; Secretary: E. H. Jobson, 79 Wei- lington Street, Fremantle.

THE IMPERIAL EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (W.A.)—A.S.F. (Foresters) Hall, cnr. Francis and Museum Streets, Perth; 1st Tuesday of each month; President: W. J. Regan, 40 Florence Street, Beatty Park; Secretary: G. H. Fleming, 2 Martin Ave., Nedlands (Phone WM 1978).

THE VETERAN AUSTRALIAN BLIND SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when necessary; President: D. M. Benson, Anzac House, Subiaco; Hon. Secretary: G. D. Warren, 15 St. Kilda Road, Rivervale (8 4030). TOTALY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION—R.A.A.F. Building, Perth; 1st Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m.; President: W. R. Shepherd, 43 Florence Street, West Perth; Secretary: G. W. Shearer, 124 Wallacott Street, Mt. Lawley.

8th BATTERY ASSOCIATION—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: General Sir A. M. Hobbs; President: W. J. Beilby, 132 Mount Royal Road, Perth; Secretary: J. A. Dwyer, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood (Phone U 1899); Assistant Secretary: W. H. Jennings, 25 Chifley Street, Mt. Lawley.

10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, Perth; when called; President: W. W. Nixon, 63 Osborne Rd., Nedlands; Hon. Secretary: C. D. White, 111 Bunbury Street, Subiaco.

11th and 2nd/11th A.I.F. BATAILIONS ASSOCIATION—President: G. F. Anthony, 51 Stirling Street, South Perth; Hon. Secretary: W. P. Ball, 133 Stirling Street, Nedlands; Vice-President: A. C. Cook, 168 Railway Terrace, Spearwood (Phone U 3291).

14th & 52nd BATAILIONS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meets at Rail- way Institute, Wellington Street, Perth; when called; President: W. E. Amos, 37 Cambridge Street, West Leederville; Hon. Secretary: G. C. Pratten, 1523 Second Avenue, Subiaco.

16th & 4th BRIGADE ASSOCIATION—Committee meetings are held in private at the headquarters of 4th Battalion, 1529; meetings arranged; 3rd Thursday, every month; Secretary: W. G. Alcock, 33 Horn Street, Mt. Lawley.

28th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Inquiries concerning arrangements for reunion held 2nd Monday; President: E. McEnery, John Street, Cottesloe; Secretary: W. Morrison, 58 Caroline Street, West Leederville; Hon. Secretary, C. D. White.

32nd & 2/32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Anzac House, nearest Saturday to July 19; President: A. G. Trickle, A.M.P. Chambers, Perth (Phone B 1910); Secretary: J. L. Rutherford, Victoria House, St. George's Terrace, Perth (Phone E 3946).

44th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—As advertised; annual reunion, Mon- day of Show Week; President: W. W. Nixon, 45 Mount Street, Perth; Secretary: J. S. Brown, 123 Second Avenue, Subiaco.

49th BATTALION ASSOCIATION—Anzac House; President: J. P. McNamara, 15 Clyde Street, East Fremantle; Secretary: R. S. Gold- wink, 82 Great Eastern Street, Fremantle; Hon. Secretary: W. J. Beilby, 132 Mount Royal Road, Perth.

51st ANNUAL MEETING—Reunion Friday in Show Week each year; other meetings as arranged; President: T. Morrell, 82 First Avenue, Mt. Lawley; Hon. Secretary: L. J. Alderman, School House, Nedlands; Treasurers: H. Barrow, 7 Highland Road, North Perth.

2/41ST MACHINE-GUN BATTALION EX-MEMBERS ASSOCIATION—Mr. Ambrose's office, 40th Street, Clontarf; Committee meets 1st Monday in each month at 7.30 p.m.; President: W. J. Denvir, 20 Kent Street, Victoria Park.

2/16TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION—President: R. Campbell, c/o Bank of N.S.W., 1st George Terrace, Perth; Hon. Secretary: W. E. J. Jones, 44 Wickham Street, Ernest Perse Memorial House, Subiaco; Treasurer: S. E. Frith, 312 Second Avenue, Mount Lawley, etc.

2/43RD BATTALION ASSOCIATION (W.A. Branch)—October 23; President: V. P. O'Dea; Secretary: A. Kennedy, c/o Vacuum Oil Co. Pty. Ltd., St. George's Terrace, Perth.
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