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YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

At the recent Federal congress of the League the Federal President announced that membership last year totalled 298,376, which was 24,660 less than the figure for the previous year.

This is not a particularly happy state of affairs. The League is as strong as its membership makes it, and its membership today can only be improved by the efforts of individual members.

Unfortunately we must accept the fact that quite a number of returned men joined the League solely that they might obtain a League badge—the true emblem of overseas service. Once that was secured they had little, if any, interest in League affairs. Others joined with but a half-hearted interest, and in many cases such interest has long since lapsed. These people paid no further subscriptions, but in many cases they still wear the League badge.

Now no sub-branch, no matter how small, can carry on without funds or without willing workers. Your State Branch is in exactly the same position. If all members of the League were members in name only there would be a great falling-off in the work which is done, week after week throughout the years, for ex-service men and women who are in trouble. But fortunately, there are, in every centre where the League raises its banner, willing workers of both sexes who carry out the hundred-and-one tasks which are necessary that the League may properly function.

But what are YOU doing?

We ask you, here and now, to make at least two New Year resolutions. One, that you will make sure, immediately, that you are financial. Two, that you will do your utmost, right away, to bring another ex-serviceman into the League.

Don’t say you’ll think it over. Don’t say you’ll do something about it next week. Do it right now.

In every district there are members who take no active part in League affairs. Seek at least one of them out and take him along to your next meeting. There are men wearing the League badge who are unfinancial. Get hold of one of them and persuade him to pay his dues. There are men who, eligible for League membership, have never got around to joining. Persuade one of these fellows to join a body which is founded for the mutual assistance of all who actively served their country.

Don’t ask “What is the League doing?” Ask rather, “What am I doing?” and then go out and DO.
Atomic experiments have revealed that if atomic warfare could wipe mankind off the earth insects would still remain, for they are able to survive thirty or forty times the amount of radiation that is sufficient to kill a man.

A message from New York states that science now has a cure for those “morning-after” shakes. It is a drug called Myanesin, which was first developed in England and later thoroughly tested by University of Illinois doctors who report that Myanesin stopped “gross tremor” in eight patients afflicted with extreme alcoholism.

The drug was equally successful with patients suffering from anxiety neurosis and is said to have an advantage over other sedatives in that patients feel wide awake and close to normal.

Forty thousand unclaimed radios which were confiscated in Norway by the Germans are now being distributed by the Norwegian Government to the sick, aged and needy.

John Monroe, 48-year-old Los Angeles commercial traveller, doesn’t let the grass grow under his feet. His 29-year-old spouse has petitioned for divorce, claiming hubby had associated with 68 women in five countries, including Australia. Women in 12 cities, including Sydney, fell for John’s sales talk, so she told the judge.

The first portable-concrete cricket pitch, designed for use in public parks and other places where youngsters at present have to play on rough, natural pitches, was tried out at Ashford, Middlesex, England, recently. The pitch consists of sections 6ft. wide, covering the width of a pitch, and 3ft. long, with a system of tying which produces a tight joint. When completely laid the surface is covered by matting. The idea comes jointly from W. J. Edrich, of England and Middlesex, and Eddie Ward and Joe Gaby, of the Chiswick Indoor Cricket School, who have formed a company to produce the pitches. Advantages claimed for the pre-cast concrete sections are their portability, the ease with which they can be laid, and their low cost of production.

I AM A TREY

I am threepence.  
I haven’t done business with a butcher for years.  
I can buy neither a pint of milk nor a half-loaf of bread.  
I cannot even pay a youngster’s way into the movies.  
I am hardly big enough to be given as a tip—  
But on Sunday . . . at church . . .  
boy, am I really useful!

B. S. Townroe, in Building the Post-War Home, says: “A typical block of flats of the future . . . will have automatic lifts, self-contained balconies, built-in flower boxes, well-lighted staircases built around open spaces on which there will be playgrounds for children of varying ages, tennis lawns, bowling greens and gardens. It should be possible to cover over parts of the flat roof so as to provide playing areas during wet weather and, in suitable districts, to have roof gardens. All these amenities have been provided in recent schemes.”

The Colonial Office has launched a campaign to educate the British public on Colonial affairs. To judge from the results of a “social survey” which probed the knowledge of 2,000 British people, it is high time.

How ignorant English people are upon a subject that vitally concerns them is indicated by the following analysis of the “Survey”:—

50 per cent. could not name one British Colony.
3 per cent. thought the United States is still a British colony.
7½ per cent. could not tell the difference between a Colony and a Dominion.
35 per cent. thought the Colonies paid taxes to Great Britain.
24 per cent. thought the Colonies were inhabited mainly by white people.
63 per cent. could not say what things Great Britain gets from the Colonies, apart from ground nuts and raw materials.

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The British “Tudor Eight,” the world’s first four-jet research airliner, recently reached a height of 40,000 feet or well above seven miles in 37 minutes. This is the first pressurised flight to be made at such an altitude by a four-jet airliner. The “Tudor Eight” is being put through a long series of trial flights to test the use of jet engines for commercial purposes. Four more “Tudors” to be powered by Nenes or other types of jet engines are under construction and will also be used for flying tests.

So far the use of atomic energy indicates that the road to hell is paved with good inventions.

It’s 1950 - - - Have You Paid Your Subscription?
The Case for Increased War Pensions

"Show me the way in which a country honours its defenders and cares for its war victims and I will measure for you, with exactitude, the degree of its culture and moral development."

Believing that the general public should be told of any injustices or anomalies that exist in the treatment of ex-servicemen and their dependants, the Returned Servicemen's League offers this brief explanation of its requests. It has been printed in booklet form and we ask that you make its contents known.

We believe that nothing that lacks justice can be morally right, and that there is no debt which a nation should honour so faithfully as its debt to those who have suffered in the service of their country.

What We Ask

1. An increase in the basic rate of war pensions, based on the reduced purchasing power of the pound.
2. Abolition of war pension time limits.

Firstly, the League has asked the Commonwealth Government for an increase in the standard 100 per cent. rate of war pension from 55/- to 70/- a week because of the reduced purchasing power of the pound.

In 1938 the pension rate was 42/- a week. Today it is 55/-, but this is an increase of only 31 per cent., whereas the cost of living, on official figures, has increased by approximately 70 per cent.

Perhaps the best guide to the rise in the cost of living would be a comparison between the basic wage in 1938 and the present figure. In November, 1938, the basic wage was £3/17/-. In November, 1949, it was £6/4/-, an increase of approximately 70 per cent.

Do not be Misled

The League's request for an increase has prompted the Government to point out in the Press that several groups of returned servicemen have received liberal treatment, but a scheme can be good and bad in parts, and the bad should not be allowed to remain merely because there is good elsewhere.

The one indisputable fact is that tens of thousands of disabled men—the largest group of war sufferers, men on the standard pension and on the standard rate of pension (the sum on which proportional pensions are based for part injuries), with a proportional increase in all other war pensions, including those of the dependants.

The inadequacy of the present amount compels many to carry their war injuries without the relief which the war pension was intended to provide.

War wounds are not all visible, and some of the most distressing are those borne by men who carry few outward signs of their suffering.

The days when the public regarded a man as war-wounded only if he were swathed in bandages have gone, and an intelligent community knows that suffering can be severe, even when crutches, slings and bandages are absent.

Other Governments have Acted

In Canada recently, after an intensive campaign to tell the people the facts on war pension rates the Government approved a 25 per cent. increase!

In spite of the fact that in Australia the payment of war and service pensions constitutes less than 1 per cent. of the national income, the excuse is often given that the national economy will not permit of an increase. In Canada, when piloting the Bill to increase war pensions through Parliament, the responsible Minister said:

"I do not think the cost is too high. I do not believe that anything we can do here is too great, too comprehensive or too sincere for the great men who, through lean and dark days of war, served Canada in the cause of freedom, civilisation and Christianity."

War-Bereaved Shabbily Treated

If there is one sufferer who has been by-passed in the according of a reasonable standard of living it is the war widow unable to supplement her income by earnings and compelled to

(Continued on page 23)
From the Editor's Note Book

The shortcomings of our governments, so far as the ex-serviceman is concerned, are many. Can we hope for better things before another year is over and done with?

One thing seems certain: We shall get little or nothing unless we fight for it. And in fighting we shall achieve little unless we band solidly together. For that reason it is good to see other service organisations banding with the League to secure better pensions.

In this regard I would draw the attention of readers to the article on the League's fight for pensions which appears on page 3. I ask you not only to read it but to draw the attention of other people to it. We must have the understanding and sympathy of the general public. And until they know some of the facts of our case we cannot expect to get this.

I would also like to point out, as it has been pointed out in our Editorial and elsewhere, that if we wish to progress during this coming year it is essential that we are as strong a body as we can possibly be. In other words, we must have more members, and all those who wear the League badge must be financial.

It is easy, so very easy, to let matters like this slide by. Many of us really mean so well. But we have so many things on our minds. In the end we let such a thing as paying a subscription be put aside until—in plain truth—we are no longer members of the League.

So let us decide that we will be REAL members of the League. Whatever our own personal feelings regarding the minor affairs of our particular sub-branch or the League itself, let us be above pettiness. Let us put first things first and pull our weight where it is badly needed.

I know that far too many men are apt at times to say that a sub-branch is run by "a clique." But when one really looks into such matters one finds, only too frequently, that the "clique" is in reality a band of the energetic members who get things done. The critics are often those who sit back at home, seldom or never attend a meeting, yet find fault with those who do work.

Every member of the League has the right to put his views before his fellow members; to have his ideas put to the vote; to be as much a part of League activities as anyone else.

Every member of the League should be proud to belong to it; proud to work for it; proud to stand up for it. So I, for one, hope that this year will bring us more willing workers, more financial members, more strength to carry on the work which never seems to grow lighter.

MEMBERSHIP

The League's membership list at December 31, 1948, showed the names of five State Governors and four State Premiers, according to the League's annual report submitted to Federal Congress recently.

Named were:

Governors: Lieut.-General Sir John Laverack (Queensland), Lieut.-General Sir John Northcott (N.S.W.), Major-General Sir Winston Dugan (Victoria), Lieut.-General Sir Charles Willoughby Norrie (S.A.), Admiral Sir Hugh Binney (Tas.).

ETHER DAY

By William Beecham

Ask any youngsters the date of Boxing Day, Guy Fawkes Day or Labour Day and it’s more than likely that he will be able to tell you, but ask him, or for that matter any adult, the date of Ether Day, and it’s a hundred to one that he will not have the faintest idea, not only of the date, but of what the question is about.

Yet every ex-serviceman who was wounded or who went on to the operating table should know something about this day. However, it is only fair to state that Ether Day is mainly recognised as such—and even then not by the mass of the general public—in the United States, and it would seem that even there a little doubt of its placing is felt, for one authority gives it as September 30 and another as October 16, but it was on one of those days, just over one hundred years ago, that ether was first used as an anaesthetic.

How strange is human nature. The heavy-weight champion of the world? Yes! The world’s leading cricketers, golfers, tennis stars? Yes! But who discovered ether, insulin, X-rays, or even penicillin? Very doubtful! Verily is the accumulated knowledge of the general public a wonderful thing. For while the winner of a boxing match or a tennis championship means—in terms of world importance—absolutely nothing, the discovery of such a thing as an anaesthetic or a drug may, for all of us, tend to alter life considerably.

The story of anaesthetics is an intensely interesting one. Homer (about 850 B.C.) knew of the anaesthetic effects of naphthene; Herodotus (484-424 BC) was aware that the practice of inhaling vapours of a certain kind of hemp produced a form of intoxication; Pliny (who died in AD 113) wrote of the drug mandragora; and an ancient Chinese manuscript tells of a certain physician, one Hoa-Tho, who gave his patients a preparation of hemp in the early 3rd century. Mandragora was extensively used by Hugo de Lucca in the 13th century, and in 1782 Augustus, King of Poland, had a limb amputated under the influence of a narcotic.

Nelson, who had his elbow shattered by a bullet at Santa Cruz, had his arm sawn off at the shoulder with unsterilised instruments, and, of course, with neither anaesthetic nor antiseptics. The memory of that operation remained with him all his life, and the word “operation” was a dreaded one until well into the middle of the 19th century. Many people, indeed, preferred death to the horrors of the surgeon’s knife. True, the expert surgeon was proud of the speed at which he could perform his operations—in fact “speed” and “skill” often meant, to a large extent, the same thing—but that did little to abate the fears of a patient, whose suffering would be acute, despite all skill and care.

Many surgeons, realising this, hoped that something might be found to prevent much of this suffering, and a few made experiments to that end. In 1800, Sir Humphry Davy experimented with nitrous oxide (later to be known as “laughing gas”) and suggested that it might be useful, but almost fifty years elapsed before it came into use. Eighteen years later, Faraday showed that the inhalation of the vapour of ether had similar effects to those of nitrous oxide, and in America experiments with this were also carried out by Godman (1822), Jackson (1833) and Wood and Bagge (1834). But it was left to a dentist to first put an anaesthetic to practical use.

In December, 1844, Dr. Horace Wells, a dentist, of Hartford, Connecticut, read in his newspaper that “a Graphic Exhibition of the effects produced by inhaling Nitrous Oxide (Exhilarating or Laughing Gas) will be given at Union Hall this (Tuesday) evening, December 10, 1844,” and to this “exhibition” he went, although it turned out to be more like a vaudeville performance than a scientific demonstration. But Wells was struck by the results which were obtained, and the next day he interviewed the itinerant lecturer, Gardner Colton, and obtained a supply of the gas. He then approached a fellow dentist, John M. Riggs, and persuaded that gentleman to pull one of his teeth while he (Wells) was under the influence of the gas.

So successful was this experiment that he proposed to set up as a “painless” dentist, but upon the failure of one of his experiments at Boston, he abandoned the idea.

But other dentists followed up the experiments of Wells, and on September 30, 1846, Dr. W. T. G. Morton, a Boston dentist, employed vapour of ether to procure general anaesthesia for the extraction of teeth, and thereafter he administered it in surgical cases with complete success.

News of the discovery reached England on December 17, and two days later Mr. Robinson, a London dentist, made use of ether. His example was followed four days before Christmas by Robert Liston, the eminent surgeon.

But anaesthesia, instead of being hailed with delight, was looked upon with scepticism in many quarters, particularly by surgeons of the “old school.” However, its use spread, and within a year Sir James Simpson made use of it for midwifery. Again the reception was far from favourable. Churchmen were “positive” that the pains of labour were to be borne by women for all time. For “it had been so ordained.” Scottish Calvinists screamed that it was “a Satanic invention.” And when in November Simpson announced his discovery of the anaesthetic proper-

(Continued on page 28)
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The battle-class destroyer H.M.A.S. Tobruk, which recently began contractor’s sea trials, is the biggest destroyer yet built in the Commonwealth.

It has been constructed very largely in accordance with designs originally prepared by the British Admiralty for its own battle-class destroyers, but it differs from them in several respects. It is claimed, however, that where alterations have been made they have resulted in distinct improvements.

Tobruk is similar to the destroyer H.M.A.S. Anzac which is at present being fitted out at Williamstown after having been launched in August, 1948.

The Admiralty’s plans for battle-class destroyers, which provided for various new features, were based on experience gained during World War II and the embodiment of those features made the vessels much more powerful fighting units than destroyers of earlier types had been. Several battle-class destroyers of the Royal Navy reached Australian waters just about the end of the Pacific War.

One of the advantages that vessels of the battle-class possess over destroyers of previous types is their higher fuel-carrying capacity which permits them to remain at sea longer and renders them particularly suitable for service in such areas as the Pacific and other parts of the world in which there are vast stretches of water.

Another advantage is that their 4.5-inch guns, which comprise their main armament, are enclosed in turrets, instead of being partly covered as they are in the Tribal and other classes of destroyers. The guns are also fully instead of partly power-operated.

The covering of the guns in addition to giving bodily protection protects the crews against rough weather and high seas and thus enables the ship to maintain speed and at the same time keep up continuous fire.

In earlier classes of destroyers, fire could sometimes be maintained with the main armament in bad weather only by reducing speed.

The fact that the guns in the new ships are fully power-operated also makes possible a much higher rate of continuous fire than formerly.

Apart from being covered and power-operated, however, the 4.5-in. guns can be used for anti-ship, shore bombardment and high-angle anti-aircraft fire. This, together with the latest fire control arrangements, increases their attacking power tremendously over that of other types of destroyers.

In addition to these improvements in its main striking weapons, the battle-class destroyer carries more secondary armament suitable for short-range surface and anti-aircraft fire than its predecessors. It also carries the latest anti-submarine devices.

All these improvements are supplemented by the installation of the most modern radar equipment, which assists in ensuring greater accuracy of fire and is also used for various other purposes, including the determination of the exact location of enemy ships and planes.

Air conditioning equipment will be installed in some of the control rooms, whilst ventilation generally throughout the ship is a large improvement on previous designs.

One radical change in design provides for sleeping quarters for both officers and men. In earlier classes of ships of all categories, officers have slept aft and the men forward. But it was found in the last war that it was essential that both officers and men should sleep as closely as they could to the particular battle station to which they were allotted. The new arrangement of sleeping quarters in battle-class destroyers makes this possible.

All these features of the Admiralty’s original design have been retained by the Royal Australian Navy, but its construction branch has modified and altered other parts of the plans to permit the incorporation in the new destroyer of better amenities for the ship’s complement and the provision of additional secondary armament to that with which battle-class vessels of the Royal Navy are equipped.

The new amenities make the ship more suitable for service in the tropics. They include, among other things, a better lay-out of messes and living quarters, the provision of a cafeteria system, refrigerator units and cold water drinking sets, a laundrette fitted with a washing machine and drying apparatus, a bigger sick bay than those in other destroyers and improved facilities for bathing.

The inclusion of these modifications and improvements necessitated the devising of means of saving weight in some parts of the ship to compensate for extra weight that would inevitably have to be placed in other parts.

The problem was met by providing for the use of aluminium in certain of the upper parts of the vessel and its equipment and in its furniture, kit lockers and men’s fittings. Besides this, a considerable part of the minor bulkheads and deck houses is built of a non-corrosive aluminium alloy.

Another fact in which special pride may be taken is that many important components of the engines and boilers in the new destroyer, which are of the most highly efficient type, were made entirely by Australian workmen of Australian materials for the first time, whereas similar parts were imported for previous destroyers.

The engines are the most powerful marine engines that have ever been built in the Commonwealth and they develop a total of 50,000 shaft-horse power on two shafts. The boilers are of Admiralty three-drum water-tube type and are fitted with super-heaters.

The new destroyer has a displacement of 3,300 tons. It has a length of 379 feet and a beam of 41 feet. Its designed speed is over 32 knots.
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An ex-member of the forces may apply for a service pension on any one of the following grounds:
1. That he has reached the age of 60 years and served in a theatre of war.
   In the case of a woman ex-member, that she has reached the age of 55 years, served in a theatre of war, served abroad, or embarked for service abroad.
2. That he or she is permanently unemployable and, in the case of a man, has served in a theatre of war — in the case of a woman, served in a theatre of war, served abroad or embarked for service abroad.
3. That he or she is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.
   ("Theatre of War" includes service outside the three-mile limit from the coast line in either the 1914 or 1939 wars. Service at Rottnest comes under this heading.)

Wives and Children

Wives—and children under the age of 16 years—of service pensioners are eligible for grants with certain exceptions mentioned hereunder.

Rates

The full rates of service pension are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Per Fortnight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex-members</td>
<td>£ 4 5 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wives</td>
<td>£ 2 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One child</td>
<td>£ 1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two children</td>
<td>£ 1 8 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three children</td>
<td>£ 1 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four or more children</td>
<td>£ 1 5 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In respect of the 1914/1918 war, ex-members' wives married on or after October 2, 1931, and children born on or after that date are not eligible for service pension. Step-children or adopted children who became dependant on the ex-soldier on or after July 2, 1931, are also ineligible. (The eligibility of wives and children is confined to those cases where the member is receiving pension on the grounds that he is permanently unemployable or is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. They are not eligible where the pension has been granted on account of age.)

Means Test

As with old-age and invalid pensions, the means test applies to service pensions in respect of income and property.

Standard Allowed Income

The standard allowed income in respect of the ex-member is £7/5/- per fortnight. In respect of the wife, it is £7/5/- per fortnight.

An ex-service-man cannot have age pension or invalid pension in addition to service pension—excepting in the case of one suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, when he may draw invalid and service pensions.

Upon the death of an ex-member of the forces the service pension payable to his wife and children may be continued at such rates as the Commission determines, but if the wife remarries her pension is cancelled from the date of remarriage. Children's pensions are cancelled at the age of 16 years.

Where a service pensioner becomes an inmate of a hospital for the insane or of certain proclaimed institutions, such as "Sunset," the pension is reduced to the "Institutional Rate." This, at present, is 30/- per fortnight. This does not apply to members suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

A service pensioner is required to advise the Repatriation Department promptly in the event of any of the following incidents, occurring:

(a) If he acquires property or earns or derives income, the receipt of which affects the amount of pension.

(b) If he sells or vacates a home owned by him in which he has been permanently residing.

(c) If he marries or remarries.

Failure to comply with those requirements renders the pensioner liable to a fine and disqualification from drawing pension for a period, in addition to refunding the resultant overpayment.

Many service pensioners are in doubt as to the amount of earnings or income they are allowed without interference with the rate of pension. As each case is dealt with in accordance with its individual requirements it is not possible for the League to give a decision in the matter and pensioners should obtain the information in writing from the Repatriation Department.

Married service pensioners should note that if their wives are eligible for age or invalid pension they should obtain it in preference to the service pension, as the amount obtained in their own right would be greater than a wife's service pension.

Eligible ex-members in receipt of war pension at 100 per cent. rate and not disqualified by the income and property clauses would be eligible for a small amount of service pension, but those in receipt of the special rate (£10/12/- per fortnight) would be debarred by the ceiling rate restrictions.

Admission to Hospital

When a service pensioner is admitted to hospital for treatment of a war disability, Medical Suspense is payable. The regulations provide that the service pension shall be suspended during the period of treatment and restored on discharge. This procedure can in some cases cause a financial loss, but its object is to prevent a service pensioner from being paid more than an ex-member in receipt of 100 per cent. war pension.

(Data prepared by the late E. J. Costello, Pensions Officer.)

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Editor: Tell him just the same way, as short girls.

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16th BN. ASSOCIATION
The Association held its last meeting for the year on December 14. There was a large attendance—one absentee was Joe Greenham, who is not doing too well since his recent severe operation. The secretary can now be contacted by ringing BA 3797. One quixote was voted to the St. John Ambulance Transport. Each member brought along some refreshment to wish the others a merry Christmas. The ladies' auxiliary also held their final yearly meeting and collected subs. for the ensuing year. The annual election of officers for the ensuing year resulted: Mrs. Keates, president; Messdames Day and Greenham, vice-presidents; Mrs. Newick, treasurer; hon. secretary, Mrs. Ablah, committee; Messdames Mills, Truran, Pekin, Fox, Watts, Do Warbois, Massey, Seaddon and Burgess. After the meeting, the ladies made tea and entertained the men, also providing prizes for games. A very enjoyable evening was spent and they all deserved it, as both committees have worked hard during the year. The pleasant good fellowship of all concerned is always present and it means a lot to the old boys. On Sunday, December 18, the committee was accompanied by the ladies' auxiliary on an afternoon visit to 14 of our old mates in Sunset. We gave them all a Christmas parcel and spent an enjoyable few hours with them. Since our last visit in October, Harry Hall has passed on and Mr. Smith has been taken to Royal Perth Hospital. M. Bonney and J. Warren are still in hospital. Jack Phillips, the Sunset president, received us and we were pleased to see his secretary (another old pal, in Bruce O'Meara of 10th L.H. gent) is improving in health. More battalion members could turn up to these Sunset visits, as the old boys make us welcome.

SOLDIERS' FARMS
The Minister for Land (Mr. Thorn) said recently that to October 31 last, 447 properties had been purchased for war service land settlement at a total cost of £2,491,029. These included seven properties transferred during October and a further 26 properties, which were in process of conveyance by the Crown Law Department.

Some months ago the Land Settlement Board had initiated a scheme for the greater use of migrants in the development of properties, said the Minister. As a result of preliminary activities, the board believed that this source of labour might enable the rate of development to be increased. The expenditure on development was already considerable. To October 31 such expenditure amounted to £890,892, incurred as follows: Clearing, £381,905; buildings, £175,618; fencing and yards, £97,834; top dressing and seeding, £76,434; soil preparation, £38,537; water supply, £64,878; other costs, £55,686.

☆ George Spalding, of the Forrestfield sub-branch, has an outstanding reputation for officiating at barbecues and similar functions. They tell us that he is a wizard at making such affairs go with a real swing.
LISTENING POST Newsreel

TRAINED LIVING ALLOWANCE.—In regard to resolution 95 of the August, 1949, meeting of the Federal Executive: “That the amount of living allowance paid as a loan during the fourth and subsequent years of study to Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme trainees undergoing professional courses through the University be interest-free, and that a period of three years be granted from the conclusion of such course and the commencement of repayments of such loan to enable an ex-member to establish himself in his profession,” the following letter was received from the Minister for Post-War Reconstruction: “Under the conditions of the training loans it is pointed out that the first £50 is interest free. Viewed in relationship to the amount of the training provision, which is a gift (ranging up to £1,750 for a married man with dependents in a six-year course), and by comparison with the cost of vocational trainees (up to £600), I feel that the requirement that the amount of the loan in excess of £50 should bear interest at 2 per cent, per annum is anything but unreasonable. On the question of deferment of repayment, the rate of repayment, viz., £1 per month for the first £50 plus 10/- per month for each further £50 or part thereof, should not prove burdensome to a professional man and in practice the first instalment of the loan does not fall due until one to three months after a course concludes. Should, however, individual cases of hardship arise, the Repatriation Commission, which is administering the training loans collections, is prepared to vary the terms of repayment to the extent considered warranted and has, in fact, done so in several cases.”

BRITISH WAR PENSIONS.—The latest date for the return of completed forms of application to a Special Review Tribunal (whether already issued by the Ministry of Pensions or hereafter to be issued in response to an application for review) will be three calendar months from the date on which the form was issued or February 28, 1950, whichever is the later.

LAND SETTLEMENT SCHEME.—Advice has been received from the War Service Land Settlement Department that 1,644 applications still remain on their books from ex-servicemen desiring to be allotted a farm. Sub-branches are requested to notify Head Office if they know of any farm or farms in their district which are now or may become available for sale in the near future. If this information is passed on, it may be possible to make good use of it in the best interests of an ex-serviceman.

STAMPS WANTED

The Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers’ Association is asking for donations of postage stamps with the object of creating a hobby for its members. Stamps may be sent or delivered to the association in Room 33, Gledden Building, corner of Hay and William Streets, Perth.

WAR GRATUITY AND FURNITURE.—A recent resolution of the Federal Executive was: “That the Commonwealth Government be requested to amend the War Gratuity Act and/or Regulations to provide for the early payment of the gratuity to allow for the purchase of furniture, and that the recommendation of a local Repatriation Committee be sufficient to justify payment in any case.” A reply from the Prime Minister (Mr. Chifley) was recently received, as follows: “The conditions governing the payment of war gratuities are prescribed by legislation and only in a limited range of circumstances may a payment be effected before March, 1951. A great deal of consideration has been given to the question of the circumstances in which payment of gratuity before 1951 may be made and on several occasions a thorough examination has been made of the practicability of authorising early payment for the purchase of furniture. This question has been examined both by the Central War Gratuity Board and by the All-Party Parliamentary Committee, and whilst it has been recognised that such payment would be of benefit to many ex-servicemen, the conclusion has been reached each time that it would not be possible to make a general rule of this nature without serious risk of involving some ex-servicemen in loss. This conclusion is given point by the unfortunate experiences of many ex-members after the first world war. While the suggestion that payment be made on the recommendation of a local Repatriation Committee would meet certain of the objections, it does not appear to adequately cover all the contingencies that can be envisaged. I may add in conclusion that the Government is determined to ensure as far as possible that payment before 1951 is made only in cases where is reasonably certain that the ex-serviceman will receive the full benefit of his gratuity. The Government has consistently refused to authorise early payments in cases where there is any possibility that the best interests of the ex-serviceman would not be served. In the light of the above I have to advise that adoption of your proposal is not considered desirable.”

TITLES TO NEW GUINEA LAND.—At the August meeting of the Federal Executive the following resolution was passed: “That the Federal Executive approach the Commonwealth Government in an endeavour to secure the granting of titles to land owned pre-war by New Guinea residents, which were lost through enemy action.” The Minister for External Territories has replied: “The need for the provision of machinery to enable lost titles of New Guinea to be replaced is fully appreciated and the preparation of the necessary legislation has been in hand for some time. The matter is very complicated and many difficulties have been encountered in arriving at a form of ordinance that will be appropriate to the circumstances. You may be assured, however, that steps are being taken to bring the matter to a conclusion and to issue the necessary ordinance as soon as practicable.”

It’s 1950 — Have You Paid Your Subscription?
A couple of American businessmen were touring England. In one small village they stopped for a while. One of them went into the general store and in the hope of buying some cigarettes.

On coming out, he said to his companion, "Say, Hiram, I've just hired the young man behind the counter in that shop. He's coming to America with us when we return. Salesmanship? Why, do you know what he did? A man came into the shop to buy a cuckoo-clock, and that young fellow actually sold him a packet of bird-seed with it!"

Every man knows a woman's promise to be on time carries a lot of wait.

McPherson went to the performance of a famous illusionist. The entertainer put a woman into a cabinet, closed the doors, locked them, and then, after a few seconds' pause, opened them again. The woman had disappeared and in her place was a white rabbit.

McPherson waited until the show was over and then approached the conjurer. "Man," he asked, "could you do that trick if my wife was put in your box?"

The illusionist laughed, "So, you want to get rid of your wife?"

"Well," said McPherson, "it's not so much that, ye ken, but I promised the bairn a rabbit for his birthday."

"I'd ask you for this dance, but all the cars are occupied."

The regiment was trekking through the desert; it was arid and parched and not a drop of water was to be found. One man sat sadly on a stone, his head in his hands.

"What's the matter with him?" asked the sergeant.

"Home sickness," said Private Smith.

"We've all got that."

"Yes, but it's worse for him than for most of us—his father keeps a pub!"

"I've been congratulating Colonel Pepper," said a guest at a luncheon. "He's been appointed governor of a prison."

"Really?" asked his pretty neighbour. "Now, for a job like that does one need influence, or does one start as a convict and rise from the ranks?"

Do you remember the soldier who, when asked what he'd done with his pay, answered: "Part went for liquor, part for women, and the rest I spent foolishly."

A little boy who had been asked to write an essay on the origins of mankind explained:

"I asked mummy where grandma came from and mummy said the stork brought her. And where did you come from?" asked mummy, and she said the stork brought her as well. Then I asked where I came from and she said: The stork brought you, too. So I began my essay by saying: There have been no natural births in our family for three generations!"

"Young lady, I'd like to give you a complete physical examination."

"But Dr. Smith examined me last week, and found me perfect."

"So he told me."

Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Fraser, tells a very characteristic naval yarn. One evening the current failed in the quarters of the C-in-C, Portsmouth, and an urgent order was sent to the Dockyard electricians' department to restore the lights. Later the C-in-C himself got on the telephone. The voice at the other end spoke impatiently and with a marked lack of respect, and the Admiral interrupted, "Do you know to whom you are talking?" "No," was the reply. "You are speaking to the C-in-C." "My god," was the reply, to which the answer was, "Only locally."

Success these days consists of making more money to pay the taxes you wouldn't have to pay if you didn't make so much money.

A man with more wealth than culture sent his son to a public school. When the boy came home on holiday, his father asked him how he was treated.

"Oh, not so bad, Dad," said the youngster, "except that some of the masters and the fellows say I'm illiterate."

"What!" shouted the father. "You'll take your birth certificate back with you next term and show 'em different."

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TERMS AND TRADE-INS

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His Excellency the Governor (Sir James Mitchell), patron of the Western Australian Branch of the League, was a guest at the Christmas celebration recently held at Anzac House by the State President and the State Executive. Other guests included the Premier (Mr. McLarty), members of the Cabinet, the Lord Mayor (Mr. J. Totterdell), chiefs of Commonwealth and State Departments, chiefs of World War II, who carried thousands of troops in the Moreton Bay, died recently in London.

Charlie Walker, honorary secretary of the Totally and Permanently Disabled Soldiers' Association in this State, who has held the post for the last eight years, has been forced to resign owing to continued ill-health.

Sir Thomas Blamey, the former Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces, has been appointed a commissioner of the State Savings Bank of Victoria. The appointment is for seven years and the salary is £700 a year.

Captain Edward Templeton Grayston, a well-known troopship master of World War II, who carried thousands of troops in the Moreton Bay, died recently in London.

Miss J. Clifton, president of the Returned Sisters sub-branch for a number of years, received high praise for her long and willing service at the December meeting held in Anzac House. She is succeeded in the post by Mrs. J. E. Ferguson.

Les Kuhl, secretary of the Moora sub-branch, came in for a deal of praise at the sub-branch's annual general meeting. It was said that "Much of his work, of necessity, has to be performed unobtrusively so that little is known of the magnitude of the job." This was a well-deserved tribute and we feel that far too often the hard work of secretaries goes unnoticed.

Ivor M. Plummer, who served with the Welch Regiment in Crete and became a P.O.W. in Germany, is anxious to contact old Perth friends who were in Stalags VIIa and VIIb with him. He has now settled in this State (McNess Drive, Roleystone) and would particularly like to meet again John Allison, Vin Robinson and other pals.
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BROKEN FAITH

By W. H. Tate

\[ \text{They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old.} \\
\text{Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;} \\
\text{At the going down of the sun, and in the morning—} \\
\text{We will remember them.} \]

When these beautiful lines were first made a preface to services of remembrance for that holocaust of youth over the grey years of 1914-18, they were deep with meaning. They fell gently as a consolatory balm on still quivering wounds of bereavement. Their recital conveyed an intensity of feeling, expressing much that was inexpressible in the many. But with the passage of time their intensity has diminished and their colouring has faded.

While nothing can detract from the intrinsic quality of these lines, one feels that today in their applied context they have become almost meaningless. We hear them intoned mechanically and without expression and we cannot but feel they have become an unctuous convention—a mere introduction to services which too often are themselves no more than a formal ritual. It may shock our pious complacency to be told this, but when we view dispassionately the fruit of the years between the two wars we must realise that this cannot be the message of the dead.

In the ranks of the first A.E.F. there were over fifty thousand men destined never to return. They had lived in that golden aura of hope which is of the very essence of youth and had been glad to be alive. They had lived in and breathed deeply of an atmosphere of undiluted freedom bequeathed by them to their forbears which they found life good. Theirs was a land free of the cancerous elements which were eating away the vitals of other countries. They looked beyond the seas and saw regimented peoples living under the surveillance of a secret police. But no citizen of free Australia could be confronted with the peremptory demand, "Vos papiers, m’sieu."

They heard elsewhere, faintly at first but with increasing volume and menace, the rhythmic tramp of the jack-boot beating out the challenge they were soon to meet. . .

Perhaps they sensed other dangers but could not define them; perhaps they sensed the utter impracticability of ideologies begotten of alien insensitivity; perhaps they could not then know how effectively though imperceptibly such false ideologies could infiltrate into and permeate national life to the ultimate debasement of justice, of patriotism, and all those human values which for centuries have been carefully nursed and cultivated by all free peoples. Perhaps they did not know how these ideologies could reduce humanity to a mass of soulless, spineless automatons pursuing an existence determined by form-filling under the direction of an army of parasitic bureaucrats; perhaps they did not know that these ideologies embodied comprehensively those very evils against which they fought and died. . .

In this, we have broken faith. Over the years we have allowed to creep in and take firm hold elements which are the very negation of freedom; we have tolerated with indifference and complacency the growth in our midst of forces inimical to our existence which have become almost beyond our control; we have adopted many of those things which we set out to destroy. . .

These things were not in the land when those men left our shores in 1914.

I, for one, would rather see the preface to our commemoration services revitalised by other lines—the immortal lines of John McCrae—heavy with reproach and vibrant with challenge:

We are the Dead.
Short days ago we lived; Felt Dawn; saw sunset glow; Loved and were loved, and now . . . We lie in Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the Foe; To you, with failing hands we throw the torch; Be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us— We shall not sleep, Though poppies grow in Flanders Fields.
Congress was presided over by Mr. Eric Millhouse, K.C., and seven branches of the League were represented. The General Secretary (Mr. J. C. Neagle) was in attendance, together with all other State secretaries. In addition the following representatives of Government departments were present to answer questions: Mr. R. Armstrong (Department of Immigration), Mr. J. Armstrong (Department of Post-War Reconstruction), Mr. A. S. Lucas (Director War Service Homes), Mr. E. V. Raymont (Repatriation Commission).

His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales (Lieut.-General J. Northcott) opened congress and referred to a lack of interest on the part of too many members of the League. He also suggested that there should be a spirit of co-operation amongst all ex-servicemen’s organisations.

The Hon. J. McGirr, Premier of New South Wales, was present, while the Prime Minister was represented by the Hon. H. C. Haylen, who deplored the fact that ex-servicemen’s affairs appeared to be relegated to a second place in the affairs of the nation.

Messages of goodwill were received from His Majesty the King, the Duke of Gloucester, Lord Mountbatten, the Dominion President, N.Z.R.S.A., Sir Gilbert Dyett and Sir Thomas Blamey. The League’s thanks to His Excellency the Governor and to the other distinguished visitors were expressed by the Western Australian delegate, Mr. T. S. Edmondson.

All last year’s officers of the Federal Executive were re-elected and during the course of congress the Attorney-General (Dr. Evatt) and the Minister for Immigration (Mr. Calwell) addressed members.

Pensions

The number of items from all States on pensions and repatriation matters was 81. One Western Australian item which was carried referred to the concern felt by the League at the non-appointment of a highly qualified psychiatrist, it being pointed out that W.A. was about the only State where such an appointment had not been made. Another, concerned the increase in war pensions, and congress endeavoured to have these adjusted in conformity with the reduced purchasing power of the pound.

The item submitted by North Perth at the State congress regarding an all-party Parliamentary committee to go into this question was lost. The Fremantle City item regarding the award of a special war pension rate to all service pensioners and T. & P.I. pensioners (including an increase of 50 per cent. on all other pensions) was withdrawn in view of the Nedland’s resolution regarding the adjustment of service pensions in conformity with the reduced purchasing power of the pound. This was carried. The Maylands item asking for the exemption of war pensions from the means test in connection with Social Service benefits, etc., was covered by a Victorian item recommending that the Government disregard war pensions in all means tests for Social Service benefits.

The Kojonup item concerning loss incurred by ex-servicemen called up for medical reviews, and the Midland Junction item urging payment in lieu of loss of wages by repatriation cases attending for investigations were covered by a Queensland item which asked for the re-imbursement of wages lost by ex-servicemen called upon by the Commission to attend Repatriation Boards. The City of Perth item regarding the admission of other than ex-service men and women to Holly-wood was amended and carried in the following form: “That congress is of the opinion that persons other than ex-service men and women should not receive treatment at Repatriation General Hospitals.”

The question of the establishment of an independent authority or tribunal to deal with cases of war widows suspected of immorality and the consequent cancellation of their pensions was carried at the instance of Victoria. Congress agreed that ex-service neurasthenia cases should be kept from civil patients and such mental patients should be treated by the Repatriation Commission.

War Service Homes

The North Perth item, “That interest on War Service Homes be reduced to two per cent.,” was carried. It was agreed to request that the War Service Homes Act be amended to extend benefits to all ex-service migrants subject to the prior claims of Australian ex-servicemen. The North Perth items regarding the purchase of a house, already erected by the War Service Housing Division, “That the house be thoroughly renovated and charged to capital account,” was lost. Congress agreed to a W.A. resolution urging the ban on export of home-building materials.

Re-establishment and Preference

Items under this heading included: “That valuations be placed on soldier settlement properties without delay”; “That the system of valuation of soldier settlement properties be divulged”; “That the time limit for training be extended”; “That an adequate means of available dollar resources be set aside for the purchase of tractors, spare parts and accessories for soldier settlers”; “That Governments vary the present policy of perpetual leasehold to optional leasehold”; “That new areas of land be developed in association with the British Government for the establishment
of Imperial ex-servicemen on the land"; "That in agent States a statement of costs incurred for operations prior to the budgeting of the incoming year be supplied to future applicants"; and "That profits from farming operations on soldier settlement in agent States during the probationary period be credited to the settler's working account."

A Victorian item, asking that State branches press their Government to accept from a panel of names to be submitted a qualified, practical and successful farmer from each typical district to act as valuer and consultant, might, it was suggested, meet the requirements of the item from Brunswick Junction concerning recognition by the Land Settlement Board of sub-branch land committees. A Lakes District item on fencing material was covered by the New South Wales item: "That ex-servicemen unable to purchase wire locally be subsidised by the Government to the extent of the difference in price between local and imported wire."

C.R.T.S.

A Swan View item dealing with increased allowance to trainees on any future rise in the basic wage was carried. Victoria urged that all benefits under the scheme be payable for full duration of courses and that students who have completed training be placed on an equal footing with other tradesmen. New South Wales had an item passed which would allow ex-service personnel to avail themselves of the facilities under the scheme at any time from the date of their discharge up to attaining the age of 26 years. Another item passed was that business loans be increased by £1,000.

Migration

Migration matters were widely discussed and a report from the New South Wales representative accompanying the sponsored migrants was submitted. The Highgate item, "That a high priority for persons of British nationality be continued, and that there be careful screening of migrants of other races," was carried. Two motions from the Capital Territory branch, which sought to have nomination provisions waived in respect of British ex-servicemen and to obtain provision for family accommodation for such ex-servicemen "equal to that provided for new settlers" were lost.

The North Perth item referring to periods served under British Commonwealth Command by allied ex-Royal Netherlands naval men who have since settled in W.A. which should be included in residential requirements for naturalisation was carried.

Land

About half of the 47 items submitted to the Land Settlement section of congress came from the W.A. branch. An important item was a recommendation that dual administration of land settlement cease where so desired by any State branch, and that a Soldiers' Settlement Panel be set up in such States (consisting of a representative of each of the State and Federal authorities and an independent officer being an ex-service man nominated by the League) to adjudicate on all disputed matters and delays.

A Kojonup item seeking to give 1939-45 applicants outside the scheme a prior right to purchase properties over those under the scheme was lost. The North Perth item, calling for a Federal Government enquiry into the W.S.L.S. scheme in W.A. was carried in the following form: "That, at the request of the W.A. branch, the Commonwealth Government be requested to institute an enquiry..." etc. [It was made clear that such an enquiry was not intended as a criticism of any Minister or of his officers, but was intended to draw attention to the difficulties which were inherent in the scheme itself and which an enquiry might remedy.] The W.A. item, "That the Governments be asked to vary the present policy of perpetual leasehold to optional freehold," was carried, as was the Manjimup item recommending that all farms acquired in production be purchased on a walk-in, walk-out basis.

P.O.W. Subsistence

All items under this heading were ranged under one motion which gave the parallel of the U.S. Government compensating its prisoners of war to the extent of one dollar per day. The opinion was expressed that it would be unwise to give preferential treatment to one section of the forces over another, but the motion for re-submission was passed.

Defence

Items were fairly evenly contributed from State branches and the Tasmanian branch item more or less covered all the other items including one from Mr. Hawthorn. Motion carried was: "That in view of the failure of the voluntary recruiting system the Commonwealth Government be urged to introduce compulsory military training." Queensland submitted a motion to increase the present numbers of both Permanent Army and Militia and N.S.W. was successful in having a motion passed to make it compulsory for all employers to give employees leave to attend military parades. Victoria had a request passed regarding rebating all or part of tuition fees of trainee pilots on gaining their "A" license. A motion was also agreed to that the policy be adopted to keep Japanese disarmed for many years to come.

(Continued on page 25)
Here is an article of more than passing interest by a local member of the League

The Obligation Is Twofold

By H. G. ROSENDORFF

Dr. B. V. Pusenjak, in his article on the "Migrants' Strangeness" in Australia" [West Australian, November 11, 1949], has put forward the migrants' case clearly. Nevertheless, the picture is one-sided. He deplores that not one old settler of Italian, Yugoslav and Greek origin has ever said to him: "I am an Australian," and he blames Australians for this attitude. Yet, it is not necessarily always the Australian's fault. Even Dr. Pusenjak must admit that some foreign migrants do not want to become "Australianised." And if this is so, he cannot blame Australians.

The attitude of the migrant's own mind is of vital importance for his assimilation. And it therefore does not appear to be out of place to repeat what the writer published in overseas newspapers and in The West Australian in November, 1945:

"To make a success in Australia... one must have the determination to leave behind all European manners and habits. One should never make comparisons with other countries, at least not in public. ... The immigrant can do a lot himself to overcome antagonism, e.g., mix freely with Australians. The Australian will mix if the foreigner is on his own, but never if he is in a crowd of foreigners. The immigrant must learn English and never speak his language in public. He must try to get used to Australian ways as soon as possible and not criticize; not settle in a district where foreigners already live; educate his children in Australian schools; live decently within the law and fulfil all obligations as a citizen of his adopted country; get naturalisation papers as soon as the law permits. In short, try to become a good Australian citizen."

If he conforms to these simple rules of fair play, most Australians will help the migrant to feel like an Australian. If not, he will be ostracised and will never say, "I am an Australian."

There is no denying that antagonism against foreign migrants existed in Australia before the war. But in comparison with 1937-38 it hardly exists today. Then, no Minister kissed the unripe migrant, no union official presented footballs to the children. On the contrary, the Government of the day only tolerated the new arrivals and unions barred them from membership. No jobs were guaranteed for two years; no accommodation found. No officials cared whether they made good and no officials helped them over the first difficult months. Nevertheless, in spite of this attitude, the thousands of migrants, mainly of German and Australian origin who arrived in Australia for political and racial reasons between 1937 and the outbreak of the war, while contributing to the welfare of this country, have made every effort to become good Australians and have, in most cases, succeeded. If proof is needed, the records of the C.M.F. and A.I.F. will provide it.

Only when both parties—Australians and newcomers—play their part can the ideal of "one family" be fulfilled. The obligation is twofold.

NAVAL PRIZE MONEY

The directorate of navy accounts at the Admiralty is inviting naval ratings claiming entitlement to prize money and campaign stars and medals to apply to the Director of Navy Accounts, Branch 3B, the Admiralty, Bath, Somerset, England. Application forms may be obtained from the British High Commissioner, Canberra.

SUPPLEMENTARY UNITS

The Minister for the Army recently announced that under the sponsorship of certain Commonwealth and State civil departments, supplementary reserve units are being raised within the Citizen Military Forces framework. Those units will be manned from the departments by technicians whose qualifications can be used in time of war without the need of further technical training in peace or war and who can be released by the departments in an emergency. The training will be restricted to an annual camp of a fortnight, at which the members of the units will receive instruction in Army subjects to imbue them with a service outlook. Trainees will be issued with uniforms and will receive the usual rates of Army pay and allowances.

Already the 22nd Construction Regiment is in course of being formed in Victoria, and it is hoped that its raising will be sufficiently far advanced for the regiment to attend the C.M.F. camp in March, 1970. It will be sponsored by the Country Road Boards, by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

It is expected that New South Wales will follow the lead of Victoria in the comparatively near future.

T.P.I. LUNCHEON

The seventh annual luncheon of the T.P.I. was held in Anzac House Ballroom recently and, according to reports received, both refreshments and entertainment were outstanding. Mr. W. E. Shearer (State President) proposed the toast of all present; the Lord Mayor (Mr. J. Trotterdell) proposed the T.P.I. Association; while the toast of "Our Friends—the W.A. branch R.S.L. Women's Auxiliaries and Kindred Associations," was proposed by the Hon. State Secretary, T.P.I. (Mr. C. C. Walker). Artists providing entertainment included Miss Nell Shortland-Jones, Mr. Ted Kean, Miss Letty Hoskings, Mr. Ted Scott and Mr. Ted Bewescher. Reveille and The Last Post were sounded by Gnr. J. Noble.

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"GOLDSBROUGH HOUSE," 162-164 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH.
MEMORIAL UNVEILED

At a simple and most impressive ceremony the Broomehill War Memorial was unveiled recently by Mr. F. Chaney, of the State Executive. Following the unveiling, wreaths were laid by the State Executive, Broomehill and neighbouring sub-branches, and by relatives of the thirty-four men of the district who gave their lives in the defence of the nation.

During the first year of its existence Broomehill sub-branch has, with the financial support of the district residents, erected a memorial dedicated to the memory of district servicemen who, in two world wars, paid the supreme sacrifice in the defence of their country.

At 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 20, some 200 people were present, when at a simple and impressive ceremony the unveiling of the memorial was performed.

Mr. Keith Brew, president of the sub-branch, in introducing Mr. Chaney, stated that the erection of the memorial had been proposed ten months before and, with the support of the residents of the Broomehill district, it had been possible to provide a memorial worthy of the town. He apologised for the unavoidable absence of the State President (Mr. W. J. Hunt).

Mr. Chaney prefaced his remarks by saying he felt greatly honoured at being able to perform the ceremony on behalf of the State President, and considered Broomehill had done a marvellous job in a very short time. He thought Broomehill was the first centre in the State to erect a completely new memorial since the cessation of hostilities. “This ground represents the burial place of those gallant men who gave their lives in two wars to keep their country free,” said Mr. Chaney. “The memorial is well placed and is a fitting reminder of the contribution the district has made to the cause of freedom. When people think of the dead, they also think of the living, and our main work now is with those men who carry the scars of battles fought; who suffered so that others can be free.” With those simple and sincere words, Mr. Chaney removed the drapes from the memorial. Following the sounding of the Last Post, wreaths were laid until the base of the memorial was covered by a mass of blooms. The ceremony was concluded by the sounding of Reveille.

TRAINING SCHEME EXTENDED

An ex-serviceman who works his own farm, or who expects to become a farm owner, may now apply for a rural course under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme, the Minister for Post-war Reconstruction (Mr. Dedman) announced recently. Previously, these men were not eligible to apply for a course, but they can now apply to the Deputy Co-ordinator of C.R.T.S. in the various States.

Men who took the courses would have to pay 25/- a week board and would not receive a training allowance, said Mr. Dedman. Neither would they be eligible for compensation for sickness or injury received during training. The Government, said Mr. Dedman, was satisfied that soldier settlement after World War II would be a success—not, as in 1927, when less than ten years after the Armistice, 11,000 returned men were forced to abandon their blocks.

H.M.A.S. SYDNEY TO VISIT U.K.

Tentative plans have been made for H.M.A.S. Sydney to leave Australia early next June for the United Kingdom, where she will embark members of a second carrier air group and their aircraft and stores. It is expected that she will leave England to return late in September or early in October.

While the Sydney is in the United Kingdom she will do a two-months' working-up, with the second carrier air group, 80 per cent. of whose air crews are Australians who enlisted in the Commonwealth and have since been undergoing training in England. Some of the pilots in the group are rating pilots who received their elementary training at the R.A.A.F. Training School at Point Cook.

Because aircraft will be stored on the Sydney's deck when she leaves the United Kingdom, it will be impracticable for the carrier air group to do any flying on the passage out. It will resume flying, however, on disembarking at Jervis Bay (N.S.W.) for H.M.A.S. Albatross, the Royal Australian Naval Air Station at Nowra.
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THE CASE FOR INCREASED WAR PENSIONS
(Continued from page 3)

live solely on her pension of £3 per week.

The Government has cited war widows who have other incomes or are able to earn, and has mentioned the educational benefits available to war orphans, but this is to select the favourable case and to callously ignore the many unfavourable ones.

The League's contention is incontestable—that £3 per week is not sufficient today for a war widow to maintain herself in the way her serviceman husband thought she would be maintained.

It is the considered view of the various committees of the League—which are composed of men of standing who give of their time freely to welfare work amongst the disabled and bereaved—that the country has a sacred obligation to maintain its war widows in reasonable comfort and that the pensions paid to them should be at least equal in value to what their husbands thought their widows would receive should they fall in battle.

What the League asks for is a minimum war widows' pension of £3/10/- per week, which, we think, is small enough in all conscience, having regard to the high cost of housing, food, clothes and other basic essentials of life.

Men Who Marry Late

Another injustice that mars the record of the nation's treatment of its returned servicemen is the time limits imposed on men from the first world war who marry and have children.

No 1914 service pensioner who married after September, 1931, can obtain a pension for his wife and child, and no 1914 war pensioner who married after June, 1938, or had a child after that date can claim a pension for that wife or child except on the death of the serviceman through war service or upon his becoming totally and permanently incapacitated.

For these dependants of pensioners who served in the 1939 war, there is a time limit of 15 years as from the date of discharge, after which they no longer become eligible for Dependants' Pension Benefits.

In the League's opinion, all married disabled ex-servicemen should be treated alike, according to their degree of disability, without any regard to when they were married or to their children's birth dates.

Australia is the only British country where a time limit is imposed. Britain had a time limit but discarded it long ago as unjust, and Australia should be no less fair.

To set down a date on which a man should be required to marry to be regarded as a "married man" for the purposes of the Repatriation Act is contrary to all accepted principles, and to refuse to acknowledge a birth merely because the child was born in July, 1938, instead of in June, 1938, is to inflict a penalty on a serviceman for having children or for having them late.

In a country where population is such a great need—where migrants are being given free passages to Australia with many other forms of assistance—and where the Government goes out of its way to search for children overseas, this ungenerous attitude towards the Australian born—the children of the nation's own ex-servicemen—is, to say the least, hardly understandable.

There are many shortcomings in present repatriation procedure, and the League believes that you should be told of them, so that you, too, may join in pressing for an improvement. For instance, a man who is totally deaf through war service gets 70 per cent. of the present standard rate of 55/- a week. Few would deny that he should get the 100 per cent. standard pension, which is 55/- a week at the moment, and will be 70/- if the Government grants the increase sought by the League.

This is, in brief, the story: These are some of the anomalies which should not have to wait long for a remedy.

All that is ever needed to adjust anomalies is to do justice, and these anomalies will not have to wait for adjustment if you, with every other reader, will take up the points raised with Federal Parliamentary members, urging their recognition and acceptance of the League's requests.

Please, then, seize every opportunity of making this the subject of discussion, private and public.

Remember, its success depends on public opinion, and you can help in forming that opinion.

In the present aggressive age the survival of a nation depends on the fighting spirit of its citizens, and the maintenance of that spirit depends in turn on the degree of public admiration and gratitude shown towards those who have suffered as a result of their active service in defence of their country.

"Let the nation so honour its brave that from sire to son the torch shall pass to burn with an unquenchable flame, lighting the path to national service."—Court.

BRITAIN BUILDS THOUSAND BUNGALOWS FOR AUSTRALIA

A United Kingdom firm has received an interesting order from Australia: It is for one thousand timber bungalows to house employees of the Victorian Railways.

The bungalows are "pre-cut" dwellings, as distinct from prefabricated, and have been described as a kind of "Meccano" house-building set. They have been designed by a panel of Melbourne architects and all components are to be cut and shaped at a U.K. factory and then shipped for assembly at their destination.

The whole building comes off woodworking machines ready for assembly, the only prefab. units being the doors, window frames and cupboards, so that very little shipping space is required. Floor boards will, in fact, be used as crates to save both space and packaging material.

The bungalows are to be supplied in two, three and four bedroom types. The basic design has two bedrooms, with an overall floor area of 24 x 36 feet, but additional bedrooms can be added as required. They are intended as permanent homes and first deliveries are due to take place in a month or two.

It's 1950 - - - Have You Paid Your Subscription?
AN OLD-TIMER PASSES

Many members of the forces in both the first and second world wars will remember that "grand old lady," the 19,000-ton troopship Nevasa, which for most of her thirty-four years' service in the British India Steamship Company carried troops to and from the East and Middle East. This "happy ship," as she was known to all who sailed so comfortably in her, has completed her last voyage and is to find a resting-place in the breaker's yard.

She and her sister ship, Nervalia, had not long been in service when World War I broke out, and they were immediately requisitioned as troopships. The Nevasa was soon converted into a hospital ship, and from August, 1916, to March, 1918, conveyed sick and wounded from Mesopotamia, Suez and East Africa to Bombay.

In July, 1918, she was attacked by gunfire from a submarine, but her commander's skilful handling saved her. In October, on a voyage from Glasgow to New York, she was attacked by a large U-boat, mounting guns in batteries, but by means of superior speed was able to draw out of range.

After the war she returned to her normal B.I. duties between Britain and India and East Africa until 1925, when it was decided to refit her for conversion into a regular troopship and she carried many thousands of soldiers under peace-time conditions. During the summer-months, when not required by the War Office, she would carry school children on cruises to the Baltic and Norway, giving them an opportunity of seeing other lands and peoples at extremely low fares.

When World War II came along the Nevasa carried troops throughout the Eastern seas to East, South and West Africa, the Middle East, Malaya and the East Indies, Australia and Madagascar, steaming a total of 305,898 miles.

Still with the Nevasa when she arrived at Southampton last year was Quartermaster Frank Huntley, B.E.M., who joined her originally in September, 1914. In all that time he had never missed a voyage and had become an inseparable part of the ship. It is appropriate that they "retire" together. He has had a long career at sea, beginning in 1887 as a 15-year-old apprentice in a sailing ship.

He was one of the survivors of the Mohegan disaster of 1897 when that ship struck the Manacles and 107 of her passengers and crew perished. He saw service in various ships until he came to the Nevasa, which has since been his home.

Throughout her long life the Nevasa had but eight commanders and, by coincidence, eight chief engineers. Many of these officers are now enjoying their well-earned retirement.

REQUIEM

"Hail and farewell, Nevasa,
I raise my glass to ye,
The ship that's borne a million men
A million miles too sea.
Weel are ye keat in every clime
O'er oceans fair and wide,
A braw bit o' construction.
A credit to the Clyde.
Toe se ye in the knacker's yard,
I could na really thole.
For ye're the ship that found herself,
May Neptune rest your soul."

(J. W. Fairley, for many years Chief Engineer of the Nevasa.)

FREE CARS FOR DISABLED

Fifteen hundred war disabled people in Britain are being given motor cars specially designed for them. This is disclosed in the Ministry of Pensions report for the twelve months ending March 31 last, published recently in London.

Those who receive these vehicles are also allowed £45 a year for upkeep. Tax and insurance are both paid by the Ministry of Pensions. In addition to cars, the Ministry is also providing for the war disabled a new type of motor tricycle. This is suitable for using in all weathers, being fitted with a hood and sidescreens. These will replace the uncovered tricycles now on the road.

The report states that during the twelve months reviewed the Ministry spent nearly £30,000,000 on assistance for the 1,076,000 war disabled in Britain. In addition, the Ministry looks after 3,000 war orphans.

A remarkable demonstration was recently given in Britain of a novel technique for dropping guns and vehicles by parachute, and an entirely new type of container for releasing heavy equipment from aircraft was seen in action for the first time. The display was organised by the Royal Air Force for the purpose of showing almost every kind of air transport support for ground troops.

The new container which created so much interest is known as the paratechnicon and is being produced in two types. One is made to be carried in the standard British heavy transport plane, the Hastings, while the lighter model is designed for use in Halifax aircraft.

The paratechnicon is considered by experts to have great possibilities. It enables the entire load of a transport plane to be dropped without damage and without becoming dispersed. It is a large metal container fitted on to the belly of an aircraft which, when released, is brought gently to earth by eight 42ft. parachutes. The lighter model, which was also demonstrated, carries 6,000 lbs. of equipment.
Government appointments, both remunerative and honorary, was carried.

Communists

Items from West Swan and Highgate were carried. One referred to the League's claim to the membership ban on communists, and the other to declaring communist teachings illegal by Act of Parliament. Queensland had carried a resolution seeking the purging of the Public Service of all communists.

Constitution

A Queensland resolution adding to the objects of the League water and soil conservation was carried. Victoria succeeded in having the words "life membership" altered to "life subscription." N.S.W. unsuccessfully sought to have eligibility extended to any person who voluntarily enlisted and was accepted for service in a theatre of war with six months' service. There was unanimous feeling regarding the necessity of increasing the annual subscription to 15/-.

War Gratuities

A number of items seeking early payment and relaxation of restrictions were carried. The Bunbury item relating to the decreased value of bonds since they were issued was covered by a N.S.W. item which sought to increase gratuities to compensate for devaluation. The resolution was lost.

Social Service

A number of items concerning the abolition of the means test, so far as war pensions are concerned in the matter of Social Service benefits, were covered by one resolution submitted by the Victorian branch. This was carried. An item from Katanning was amended: "Thaet the R.S.L. approach the Government in a view to obtaining financial assistance towards maintaining R.S.L. homes where required for disabled, convalescent and aged ex-service men and women." This was carried. A New South Wales resolution seeking to waive the five-year residential qualification for Social Service benefits as it affected widows of Australian ex-servicemen resident in Australia for a lesser period was also carried.

Commonwealth Public Service

Several items were submitted and the North Perth item which requested that no distinction be made between first and second war ex-servicemen in

South Africa to secure an increased international monetary value for gold was ruled out of order, as was the North Perth item regarding the excessive cost of tobacco and the unsatisfactory position regarding supplies. A Subiaco item regarding quotas of tobacco in new areas was referred back to W.A. The Balingup item concerning the limited resumption of trade with Japan was ruled out of order.

A good case was submitted by the W.A. branch for steps to be taken directing the Government's attention to plans in the hands of the League for development of the North-West. A great deal of attention was paid to the points raised. Victoria had already submitted an item requesting the Government to send suitable men to investigate ways and means of supplying undeveloped Northern Australia and this item was bracketed with the W.A. item with the request that all correspondence be submitted to the Federal Executive.

The Mr. Hawthorn item seeking to have privileges and facilities of the Legal Aid Bureau extended to members of the 1914-18 war was carried. The Rockingham item desiring a questionnaire to be sent to leaders of political parties was referred to the Federal Executive, as it was thought that the submission of such a questionnaire at a time when Federal elections were due would confuse the issue.

The congress agenda contained over 350 items. It was gratifying to the W.A. delegates to note that their contributions, particularly regarding pensions, housing and the North-West, were recorded in the Press.

Congress agreed to a resolution "That the Commonwealth Government be asked to reinstate the two-minutes' silence at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, and that Thanksgiving Sunday be still retained."

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NEW ARMY DRESS

A summary of the progress made towards the introduction of the post-war dress for the Army was given by the Minister for the Army recently.

Uniforms of greatly improved cloths and quality of manufacture will be provided as follows:

- Battle dress for winter wear.
- Improved shirts and trousers for summer wear.
- Blue uniforms for ceremonial and social occasions.
- Shoes for walking-out and for general duty when boots are not necessary.

Rain coat.

Two factors have delayed the introduction of the new uniforms—

(a) the inability of industry to meet the general post-war demand by the community for clothing;

(b) the time taken to evolve the higher quality cloths and improved designs.

The Army is insisting on a uniform shade in the khaki cloth for battle dress. The woollen mills are cooperating in a most encouraging way but the technical difficulties are considerable and take time to overcome.

For the actual manufacture of uniforms the manufacturer will have to tool up and train his staff before he can undertake a contract; and once he starts making he must be able to go right on without interruption. This means that contracts to make uniforms have to be held up until the cloth has been supplied in sufficient quantity.

The only new pattern battle dress at present being made is for personnel sent overseas other than to Japan, and is to special order from the small stock of cloth as yet produced. No blue uniforms are as yet being made.

As far as can be foreseen the new battle dress should be produced in time to commence issue about June next, and the ceremonial dress will be available a little later.

As the new shirt, which resembles that supplied to the U.S. Army, will be worn in summer as an outer garment, it is essential that both cut and finish is to be good if the soldier is to be well turned out. The greatest difficulty is being experienced in getting it made, as manufacturers until recently were reluctant to observe the high standard of quality required by the Army. Now, however, several firms have accepted contracts.

The new raincoat will not be available for some time, and efforts are being made to obtain double-breasted greatcoats for wear in the meantime.

Embroidered unit shoulder titles in which the territorial name of the unit or the corps is spelled out in full in colours distinctive to the arm or service, will be worn on service dress, battle dress and greatcoats.

Regimental badges will be worn with blue ceremonial dress. Most designs have been finalised, but the cutting of dies is expected to take some time as the work involved in each is considerable and high-quality die-makers are scarce. These badges will be bright but will not require polishing.

CHRISTMAS TURKEY FOR R.A.N.

A special Christmas Day menu was provided for ratings in all Royal Australian Navy ships and shore establishments. It included roast turkey and other poultry, plum pudding, fresh fruit, nuts, raisins, mince pies and ice cream.

Supply officers were authorised to spend for the occasion up to an additional one and a half times the standard daily victualling allowance.

Arrangements made ensured that all ships and establishments could provide the special menu, wherever they might be.

The ship farthest from Australia on Christmas Day was the frigate H.M.A.S. Culgoa, which is doing a tour of occupation duty in Japanese waters.

The aircraft carrier H.M.A.S. Sydney, flagship of the Australian Fleet, and the cruiser H.M.A.S. Australia were at Sydney, together with the destroyers Bataan and Warramunga and the frigates Shoalhaven and Murchison.

The training corvettes Gladstone and Latrobe were at Melbourne and the tank-landing ships Tarakan and Labuan at Sydney and Melbourne respectively.

BOOKS AS MEMORIAL

For every member of the City of Perth sub-branch of the League who died in future, the Perth Boys' High School library will benefit by two books.

The sub-branch intends to give a book to the library instead of sending a wreath to the funeral.

Pasted into the front of the book will be a memorial sticker bearing the dead ex-serviceman's name, number and rank.

The second book will be donated by the boys of the school itself and a second sticker will be pasted into this book in memory of an ex-serviceman who died before the scheme started.

It would seem that the quack can always find victims. Prior to the issue a German advertiser used to regularly print this gem: "Are you ill? Send your name, address and date of birth, together with two marks, and I will tell you what you are suffering from." Maybe the answer was "curiosity" or perhaps "stupidity."

It's 1950 - - - Have You Paid Your Subscription?
The Broomehill sub-branch fittingly marked its first year's activities by a reunion in the Broomehill Hall recently, when over sixty members from the local and neighbouring sub-branches were present, as well as Messrs. F. C. Chaney and C. G. Ferguson, of the State Executive, and Mr. P. P. Thorn, Country vice-president.

The formalities of the evening commenced with those present honouring the Loyal Toast, following which the sub-branch president (Mr. Keith Brew) extended a welcome to all visitors present.

The toast to the State Executive was proposed by Mr. Edgar Richardson, who said its members were doing a fine, but often thankless, job. He drew the simile between the executive and the modern automatic pilot of the present-day aircraft: too often the attitude was adopted of “leave it to George.” Mr. Chaney said his principal duty on the executive concerned membership. Whereas the present membership was less than the peak reached in 1946, that record had been obtained on “discharge” memberships, a great many of which had never been renewed. He felt sure you could not give Australians “something for nothing” and expect them to appreciate it, and the job now was to work for the building up of the membership strength. He expressed the opinion that country sub-branches were more fortunate than their city counterparts as everyone knew everyone else and could get close contact and workers, whereas in the city you could do neither. The strength of the League lay in its workers, not members, and it was the desire of the executive to build it up so as when the League spoke in the voice of over 30,000 it spoke with a voice that demanded attention. He was supported by Mr. Ferguson, who requested that country members give their support to Anzac Club when in Perth, as it had been decided as soon as it was practicable to extend the club to provide residential facilities and cater for all the requirements of ex-servicemen.

Mr. J. F. Hillman expressed his pleasure at being called upon to toast the visitors, as he had been one of those who had made the initial move towards the forming of the present sub-branch.

**SPECIAL DIETS IN R.A.A.F. FOR HIGH-ALTITUDE FIERS**

Keeping pace with the tremendous development which is taking place in aviation is a little-known section of the R.A.A.F. — Aviation Medicine. The men of this section care for the human element, constantly seeking ways and means of assisting the aircrew member to adapt himself physiologically to the new environment which modern machines with their high-flying capabilities have introduced.

Some of the doctors in this branch of the R.A.A.F. possess flying qualifications. Others, whilst not necessarily possessing the qualifications to fly service aircraft, spend a considerable amount of their time in the air working on problems which have a bearing on the health and efficiency of aircrew generally.

With the introduction of jets, which are continually called upon to fly at high altitudes, the problem of assisting aircrew to fly comfortably and efficiently at these altitudes was presented. One of the results of investigations has been the adoption of a particular diet for aircrew.

Cooking a meal for aircrew can present quite a few problems to the R.A.A.F. chef. Apart from the normal routine of appeasing the healthy appetites of the thousands of personnel, the problem of providing a correct diet for high-flying aircrew is an important consideration.

It has been found that foods which are slow and difficult to digest, and which are gas-forming, can cause considerable distress and inefficiency to the aircrew member who is called upon to do high-altitude flying. The complete exclusion of these foods, e.g., apples, cucumber, radishes, bean products and so on, is, however, difficult, but they can be reduced to a minimum and other suitable food elements substituted. When aircrew are called upon to fly at high altitudes for periods of more than six hours, hot beverages or liquid nutrient mixtures are provided. These can be taken by means of a special tube attachment without removing the oxygen mask.

Aircrew not engaged on altitude flying are not necessary affected to the same extent and consequently do not require so special a diet. When called upon to do so they partake of the special diet up to a day before the flight.

R.A.A.F. cooks and testing officers are making these menus their special study so that whenever high-altitude teams arrive at any unit they can meet the diet requirements forthwith.

**ETHER DAY**

(Continued from page 5)

For several years women looked askance at this aid to childbirth, but in April, 1853, Queen Victoria, who was expecting her seventh child, accepted the advice of her accoucheur, James Clark, and with the aid of an anaesthetic brought her child painlessly into the world.

From then on it was “fashionable” to follow the Queen’s example, and for once “fashionable” meant “sensible.” Both operations and childbirth lost much of their terror.

Today, when stricken with sudden illness which necessitates surgical attention, few people dread the knife. Rather do they, welcome an anaesthetic and its following operation as something which will ease their pain and restore them to normal health.

For that reason alone we should remember Ether Day.

★ The Victoria Park R.S.L. Concert Party is, we understand, doing a great job of work of late providing entertainment, not only for its own members, but for members of other sub-branches in the metropolitan area.

He was attending a meeting of the Henpecked Club. Suddenly the door opened. His wife sailed in, grabbed him by the collar, shook him until his teeth rattled, and exclaimed: “What do you mean by attending this club? You’re not henpecked.”

**Why not the Returned Soldier Printers?**

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CARLISLE

The usual monthly meeting was well attended and the best was achieved in debate on a motion on housing. Members are very concerned about this problem, as it applies to the majority of families being relegated to lower positions on the priority list each time a batch are pulled out. This is a matter of great concern amongst our officers. We are having present attendances and hope that the upcoming year will be even more successful. We entertained our regulars at a Christmas party on December 19, and had a great evening, there being nearly 100 members and friends present.

A wonderful evening was enjoyed by the Victoria Park R.S.L. concert party and our thanks go to them for a real treat. A very generous supper was enjoyed and the stewards did an excellent job in seeing that the eats were kept supplied with mutton and good wines. We are looking forward to an increased, active membership in the new year, as it is only with the support of members that we can achieve our objectives. Cheeroo, fellows!

SUB-BRANCH ACTIVITIES

January, 1950

THE LISTENING POST

Page 29

MANIPAN

In his last report for the year the secretary of the sub-branch (Mr. J. F. Berry) reported that the membership list stood at 228, which was lower than previous years. The sub-branch had once more raised money to support our sick visitors. The amount raised was 

MOORA

The annual general meeting of the sub-branch was held in the Australian Hotel on Saturday, November 12. A report was read by Mr. Geoff Gardiner covering all the sub-branch's activities. The report was very successful and has been accomplished during the year. Thanks are due to all the loyal workers. The balance sheet presented by the secretary, Mr. Les. Kuhl, was well received. Mr. Kuhl, who has been secretary for many years, is well regarded and is a very healthy attendance of 13, made the financial position very satisfactory. The secretary then thanked the sub-committee, Messrs. C. Reid, S. Prior and J. Symonds; secretary, Mrs. McCann; assistant secretary, Mr. Les. Kuhl; treasurer, Mr. H. Martin; Messrs. J. McCann, J. Gardner, K. Topham, W. Gardiner, Dr. Myles, W. Borecamp, D. Messers, K. Delves, I. Symonds; secretary, Mrs. McCann; assistant secretary, Mr. Les. Kuhl; treasurer, Mr. H. Martin; Messrs. J. McCann, J. Gardner, K. Topham, W. Gardiner, Dr. Myles, W. Borecamp, D. Messers, K. Delves, I. Symonds. The meeting then closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

RETURNED SISTERS

At the December meeting, held in the Club Rooms at Anzac House, 36 members were present. Reports were read by the president, Miss Lilian, and the secretaries, Messrs. J. and T. W. Winter, Mrs. O'Sullivan, who was unfortunately unable to be present. Mrs. E. Brown also gave a financial statement of the activities of the sub-branch and the chairman's report. The meeting closed with a motion carried that the League has made good its bank balance as at the end of the year, and that the League has made good all the outstanding debts. The meeting then closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne".

SHENTON PARK

Our annual meeting took place on December 7, with quite a healthy attendance of 40. Mr. Watson, the president's report, and the financial position of the sub-branch was read, showing the vast amount of work covered during the past 10 months. It boggles the mind for the coming year. Our building fund has increased considerably and now stands in the vicinity of £600. Some of our members have helped to raise the fund by purchasing tickets at 50/- each. We are most grateful for the support of the sub-branch members, who have always been loyal and supportive. This year has been a very successful one for our sub-branch, and we hope to continue this success in the future.

SOUTH PERTH

A prosperous and successful 1950 to all members and friends. The past year was a successful one for the sub-branch, with an increase of membership of 13, making a total of 137. The efforts of our committee have been recognized. This year gives every expectation of being even more successful. We have attended the various meetings and have been invited to a variety of events. A more varied programme is under way. We are most grateful for the support of our members, and we hope that this year will be as successful as the past one. We are looking forward to the future with great anticipation.

For the January meetings: January 26, February 9 and 23, at Swan Street Hall, South Perth.
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."

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**Sailors love the Law**

A judge of the High Court recently observed that if every man would pay as much respect to the law as do sailors and shippers, litigation would be reduced by one-half. It was a well-merited compliment, because seamen generally are meticulous in their regard for legal formalities.

They insist on a carefully-worded deed, contract, or agreement for even the smallest transaction, whether it concerns themselves, the passengers, or the cargo. Even the medical certificate—or the Bill of Health as they prefer to call it—is surely drawn up by a lawyer and not by a doctor!

Before a vessel of any kind leaves port it must secure this all-important Bill of Health; otherwise it will be refused admission at its first calling place. It is a masterpiece of legal wording, running as follows:

“To All to whom These Presents shall Come.

I, the undersigned Officer of His Majesty King George in the Port of Liverpool in the City or Town of Liverpool, send Greeting:

“Whereas the Vessel called the Mauretania of Liverpool whose Master is (A.B.) is about to sail from the said Port of Liverpool on this tenth day of May in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine and from thence for New York and other places beyond the Seas, with 977 persons on Board including the said Master.

“Now, know Ye that I, the said Officer, do hereby make it known to all Men, and pledge my faith thereto, that the time of granting these Presents, No Plague, Epidemic, Cholera, nor any dangerous or contagious Disorder exists in the said Port or Neighbourhood.

“In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Name and Seal of Office on the day and year aforesaid.”

A ship must indicate by appropriate signals when it arrives at its first port of call that it can produce this certificate; failing this it will be placed in Quarantine. A new certificate must be obtained at each port, before the vessel again sails.

The Bill of Health is the last document which the Captain secures before his boat begins her voyage. Prior to that he has been collecting many others, until his cabin begins to look like a lawyer’s office. There will be Charter Parties, Bills of Lading, Seamen’s Agreements, and others too numerous to mention.

There is nothing haphazard or casual about the Merchant Service. Should you desire to send a large parcel by train, the procedure is simple. A postcard or telephone message to the railway station; the van calls, and the package is handed over. The addressee signs a receipt, and the transaction is complete.

It is very different if the parcel is going overseas. The shipping company will require the completion of what is known as a Bill of Lading, describing the goods and limiting their responsibility. The usual form is in the following words:

“N.B.—Shipped in good order and well conditioned, by John Brown, merchant, in and upon the good ship called the Eagle whereof James Smith is Master, now in the River Thames and bound for Cape Town, the goods following, that is to say, two cases of books, marked and numbered as per margin, to be delivered in the like good order and condition at Cape Town aforesaid, the act of God, the King’s enemies, fire and all and every other dangers and accidents of the seas, rivers, and navigation, of whatever nature and kind soever, excepted, unto the said John Brown, or his assigns, he or they paying for the said goods at the rate of ten shillings per piece freight, with primate and average accustomed. In Witness whereof I, the said master of the said ship have signed to three bills of lading of this tenor, and date; and one of which bills being accomplished, the other two are void.”

It is a delightfully comprehensive document, being a receipt for the goods, a contract for their carriage, and a symbol of property. On its observance depend the rights of the owner of the articles in case of loss by fire, shipwreck, or other cause.

Should a manufacturer or merchant have sufficient cargo, he would hire an entire ship for its conveyance. In this case, the Bill of Lading would be replaced by the much more detailed agreement called a Charter Party, which not only describes the goods, but also the route to be taken by the vessel.

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**Women’s Auxiliaries**

**Carlisle**

The Carlisle auxiliary held its last meeting for the year on Monday, December 12, when their reports were read. Finances arrangements were made for the Christmas party at Heathcote. The bazaar was a success and the president expressed her appreciation for the work done during the year and which filled the compliments of the season. On December 18, the sub-branch entertained the auxiliary at a social evening. The tables were laden with good things and there was plenty of “the doings.” During the evening the members of the auxiliary took the opportunity of presenting a lovely sheet of Grose to their president, Mrs. Fitzpatrick; Secretary, Mrs. Crofts; Treasurer, Mrs. Stuckling; and each expressed her appreciation at this very kind thought. The president, when she rose to a toast of the auxiliary, urged the many young people present to join the auxiliary and so help share the burden of hospital visiting, and also assist in raising funds for the work. Mrs. Crofts supported her resolution. The evening the goose club was drawn. Members are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, when new 1950 crowns will be available. We wish all our sister auxiliaries “all the best for 1950.”

**F.D.S.W.**

The Christmas signal of the F.D.S.W. was held at Anzac House, Mrs. H. Dean president, Mrs. W. Worthington, Mrs. M. H. Crofts, Miss H. M. Worthington, and Mrs. J. T. Worthington. In the list of those present were Mrs. C. H. Crofts (India), Missed Thomas (State President Women’s Auxiliary), Mrs. B. C. Crofts (Town’s Widows’ Guild), and Mrs. E. S. Crofts (President), and Messrs. Walker and Kenneth (T.P.I. Soldiers’ Association). The singing was under the direction of Mrs. T. W. Wilson, who gave a word of greeting and appreciation to the Union for its splendid work throughout the year. Mrs. Crotts was the guest speaker; her interesting talk of women in India was greatly enjoyed. Miss M. H. Crofts (Vice-President) thanked Mrs. Crofts for her work in connection with the programme arranged by Mrs. E. B. Bows. Christmas carols were sung, the soloists being Mrs. E. C. Crofts (soprano), Mrs. A. A. Crofts (mezzo), Mrs. B. C. Crofts (tenor), and Miss Ada Crofts (pianist). Mrs. Dean thanked the Executive members of the Union for their splendid work, particularly mentioning the canter’s work at King Edward Maternity Hospital. The ladies made numerous donations for the hospital and had helped Matron pull the Christmas party. The social closed with a delightful afternoon tea.
It recites that the ship is "tight, staunch and strong, and in every way fitted for the voyage" and will "with all convenient speed, sail and proceed to Cape Town or so near thereunto as she may safely get and deliver the said goods."

The Charter Party usually prescribes the route which shall be taken by the ship. If a deviation is made, and there is consequent delay in delivery of the cargo, it is a matter for the Courts to say whether the change was justified. Several cases on this point arose during the civil war in Spain.

Having secured his cargo, the Master must obtain his crew. Again a comprehensive legal agreement is essential. No ship must sail until the Master and every seaman has signed. This must state the nature and possible duration of the voyage, the wages to be paid, the scale of provisions to be provided, and the regulations for conduct, including punishments for misbehaviour. A copy of the Agreement must be lodged with the Superintendent of the Port, in order that any seaman who makes a complaint can call for its production in evidence if necessary.

Apart from these agreements which the shipowners and seamen use for their own protection, the law generally takes greater interest in a ship than in any other form of transport.

No ship may sail unless it is registered. In the case of a British ship this must be at a British port, and the most minute details must be furnished. A certificate from the builder stating that it is seaworthy; particulars of the names, nationality, and description of the owners; and other details must be given before a Certificate of Registry is issued. This has to be kept in custody on the ship, and produced at any time on demand.

**ASOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN.**

- **ARMY MEDICAL UNITS ASSOCIATION**—Room 53, Fifth Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; 3rd Thursday each month; President: A. J. Col- leen, M.C.; Secretary: C. W. Brick, Holden Road, East Perth; Secretary: J. D. R. Casson, 106 W. Kipp, 26th Floor, North Perth (Phone B 8594).

- **ARMS.* COMRADES**—President: Arthur Hewett, Railway Parade, Cottesloe; Joint Secretaries: S. A. McVannery and A. J. Snow, 74 Hay Street, M. E. Secretary: Treasurer: M. J. Foster, 152 Gordon Street, Como.

- **AUSTRALIAN ARMORED CORPS ASSOCIATION**—Secretary: A. Wilkinson, Room 1134, G.P.O., Perth.

- **AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—Meetings as notified; President: A. Tuli, 305 Townshend Road, Subiaco; Secretary: Miss J. G. M. Stott, 160 Stirling W. H., Claremont; Treasurer: W. C. W. Cashmore. Room 53, Fifth Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; 3rd Thursday each month; President: W. A. Bondfield, 367 Lebeouf Road, Como; Secretary: J. Mackay, 51 Harding Street, Nedlands.

- **BATTLEFIELD ASSOCIATION (W.A. Division)**—2nd Floor; W. D. Buildings, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month; President: W. A. Bradfield, 257 Labouchere Ave., Subiaco; Secretary: Treasurer: W. T. Davey, 33 Kent Street, Victoria Park; Phone B 7000.

- **PARTIALLY BLEDING SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. Branch)**—Room 53, Fifth Floor, Gledston Building, Perth; 1st Thursday in each month; President: G. H. Ledgroom, M.C.; Chairman: C. W. Brick, Holden Road, East Perth; Secretary: C. H. Garner, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Treasurer: D. A. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, Subiaco; Secretary: J. E. Walker, 124 Willow Street, Mt Lawley.

- **BATTERIES ASSOCIATION**—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: H. P. Shepperd, 132 Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Secretary: Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

- **LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION**—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: Harry Welsham, 6 Aisles Rd., North Fremantle; Secretary: Treasurer: W. J. Morris, 132 Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Treasurer: D. A. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, Subiaco; Secretary: Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

- **LIGHT HORSE FUSILIER ASSOCIATION**—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: W. H. Huggett, 132 Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Treasurer: D. A. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, Subiaco; Secretary: Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

- **1/44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION**—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: H. P. Shepperd, 132 Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Treasurer: D. A. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, Subiaco; Secretary: Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

- **1/48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION**—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: H. P. Shepperd, 132 Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Treasurer: D. A. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, Subiaco; Secretary: Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

- **1/53RD BATTALION ASSOCIATION**—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: H. P. Shepperd, 132 Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Treasurer: D. A. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, Subiaco; Secretary: Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

- **1/53RD BATTALION ASSOCIATION**—Annual reunion, Friday of Show Week; President: H. P. Shepperd, 132 Bay Road, Perth; Secretary: Jack Kenny, 138 Sixth Avenue, Inglewood, Subiaco; Treasurer: D. A. Shearer, 47 Florence Street, Subiaco; Secretary: Assistant Secretary: Johnny Lodge, 25 Clothilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

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