For the festive season

send your relations and friends a neatly printed artistic card with your own private greetings.

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specialise in this work, and have an extensive range of attractive cards to select from.

GUNN & PHALANGAS

Wholesale and Retail FISH MERCHANTS

Late N. BLACK & CO.

Manager, J. GUNN (of 28th Batt.), late Returned Soldiers' Fish Supply.

481 Wellington St., Perth

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We deliver Fish to any part of the State. Country orders promptly attended to.

Fresh Fish Twice Daily

CATERERS TO ALL THE LEADING CLUBS AND HOTELS IN PERTH.
ROYAL HOTEL

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The Bottle Department of this hotel is fully stocked with goods of the best QUALITY and the public will be able to prove this statement by making a call or sending an order, when they will also satisfy themselves that the PRICES are right.

R. A. JONES,
Proprietress.

ROSELEA NURSERY - 677 Hay St.
For the Best Quality of Seeds, Plants and Fruit Trees
ARMISTICE DAY.

The celebrations were most fitting and impressive, excepting that a large number of people did not wear the "Poppy." Among the people wearing the Flanders emblem, women were inconspicuous: It may have been that they could not in many cases wear them from some colour scheme objection, or it may have been because they were being sold for one shilling each. In any case, it was common to hear the price raised as the objection to purchase, and it is an easy estimate that quite a hundred per cent. increase in sales would have resulted if the fixed price had been sixpence.

The celebration at St. George's Cathedral was a most impressive service, and was so well attended that the spacious building was taxed to its limit in capacity. Archbishop Riley, the indefatigable champion of the digger, conducted the service. Interested in the ceremony were His Excellency the Governor, Senator Pearce, E. A. Mann, M.H.R., the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation, Mr. Chas. Taylor, Q. Collett, League Vice-President Isaac with Executive Members, Naval and Military Officers, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts. A number of wreaths were laid in the Memorial Chapel, and a regimental bugle played the Last Post, and Reveille at appropriate periods.

The Archbishop's address was true to the speaker, and carried conviction as it held interest. Opening with the mental review of conditions of privation on the Western Front, he carried his listeners through the shell-torn fields where the fearful explosions, resembled a perpetual avalanche, and hamlets and villages were consumed in flame. The people over there were subdued in silence when it was known that the Armistice was to be signed. They had endured such strain and were so closely in contact with the dread spectacle of war that they became quiet—whereas on the other hand, we who were then in Australia, made great shoutings and boisterous rejoicing. So it is that the two minutes silence is far more realistic and impressive, and is so more fitting the occasion.

After the two minutes silence elapsed his Grace continued to remind the people present that though they had worked or fought to win the war, it was not possible to win peace without continued work also. Peace would not continue unless all people worked for it. The world would be free from war until every community of people was at peace with itself and in turn with its neighbours. They must strive to attain harmony within the land before they could hope to avoid a wrong word or action toward another entity. Those people who spoke at peace meetings on disarmament questions were going the wrong way about things. They should learn the psychological aspect and should realise that preparedness for defence was not conducive to war. It was not the soldier who made war. Care should be exercised in the legislature and the people should take a keen interest in the affairs of the State: they should guide their Government representatives; and by their work in preserving peace within they would exercise a far-reaching influence. In the League of Nations great hope had been placed, and it had made strides in the matter of arriving at an agreement in launching the protocol, but a difficulty which was of no mean dimension was that of enforcing its dictates.

The lesson of Armistice Day must be to make people think and think deeply. Think of the things which were in the field, of the sacrifices made, and that it is necessary to work hard to preserve the highly-valued prize—"peace." They must firstly remember the mained men who returned, and should attempt to improve their lot, and the widows and other dependants should be made subject of their sympathy at all times.

ATTENDANT ALLOWANCE FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS.

Prior to the increased rate of pension being granted to Blinded Soldiers some little time ago, an allowance was made to these disabled soldiers to provide for an attendant, but on the pension being increased, the Attendant Allowance was dispensed with.

Representations were made by the Federal Executive to the Federal Government, at the request of the Blinded Soldiers' Association for an allowance of £1 per week to be granted to these soldiers, and the Federal Government has now agreed to this request, the provisions not applying, however, to any soldier who is maintained in an establishment at the public expense.

Authority has also been given for a similar grant at the discretion of the Repatriation Commission in the case of a soldier whose eyesight is so defective that he has no useful sight.

The Vice-Regal Party, attended by Major Nicol, A.D.C., paid a visit to the Anzac Hospital at Peppermint Grove, recently, for the purpose of meeting the inmates of this Institution.

His Excellency and Lady Campion conversed for some time with the patients on the verandah, and afterwards visited the wards to meet several others who were confined to their beds.

The Governor and Lady Campion expressed the pleasure it afforded them to visit the Hostel, remarking on its delightful surroundings and ideal position.

Matron Dunn, the Officer-in-Charge, conducted the party over the Institution. The Repatriation Commission was represented by its Deputy Commissioner—Mr. Charles Taylor—and Mr. Hocking of the Local Branch Office.
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

21/10/24.
Present.—Messrs. Freedman, Isaac Collett, Morrell, Philip, McDonald, Humphrey, Cornell, Colvin, Wedd, Bateson, Watt, Zeffert, Egan, Bolton, Cooke Tyler, Bader, and Butler.

An apology was received from Mr. McCarthy.

New members of the Executive were welcomed by the President.

Leave.—Mr. A. H. Priestley applied for two months' leave of absence owing to ill-health, which was granted, and it was also resolved that a letter of sympathy be sent and wishes for a speedy recovery.

Preference.—The Secretary reported with regard to the proposed deputation regarding the policy of Preference, stating that he was informed that the Premier did not consider the appointment necessary, as he had already promised that this policy should be carried out, and he did not intend to depart from his promise. The instructions regarding preference to unionists were not to interfere with preference to soldiers.

Moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Bateson, that the question of preference be referred to a committee consisting of the President, the Past-President, and Mr. Watt, with power to act.—Carried.

"Douglas Mawson" Survivors.—A letter was received from the Boulder Sub-branch stating that they wished this matter to be placed in the hands of the delegates to the Federal Congress, and it was moved by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Cornell, that the delegates be given a free hand.—Carried.

Quorum.—It was decided that the quorum remain the same as last year, namely, 9 Delegates.

Executive Meetings.—It was decided that the Executive meet fortnightly on Wednesdays.

Appointment of Committees.—The following Committees were elected:

Finance: Messrs. Zeffert, Tyler and Watt.
House: Messrs. Colvin, Priestley, and McDonald.
General Purposes: Messrs. Bader, McDonald, Egan, and Bolton.
Repatriation: Messrs. Pady, Bateson, Wedd, Cornell, and Butler.

It was decided not to appoint a Propaganda and Social Committee.

It was decided that those present members of this Committee should continue to act.

Messrs. Wedd and Zeffert were appointed Delegates to the New Settlers' League.

Enquiry from the State Congress.—The President read the State Secretary's resignation, which was received.

Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Isaac, that a Committee be appointed to consider the questions outlined in the State Secretary's resignation, which be deferred pending a report thereon, and they bring forward suggestions in connection with the re-organisation of the Executive Office.—Carried.

Messrs. Colvin, Collett, Egan, McDonald and Butler were appointed.

Agenda.—It was resolved that those items on the Agenda Paper that could not be dealt with by Committees be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting on the 29th inst.

29/10/24.
Present.—Messrs. Freedman, Isaac Collett, Morrell, Philip, McDonald, Humphrey, Pady, Wedd, Bateson, Watt, Zeffert, McCarthy, Egan, Tyle and Bader. An apology was received from Mr. Colvin.

Midland Junction Municipality.—
Moved Mr. Bateson, seconded Mr. Bader that a letter of congratulation be sent to Mr. Geo. Jamieson, on his appointment of Town Clerk at Midland Junction.—Carried.

Condolence.—Mr. Philip moved the suspension of Standing Orders for the purpose of passing a resolution conveying the sympathy of the Executive to Mr. F. E. Wedd, in the loss of his grand daughter.

General Purposes Committee.—The General Purposes Committee submitted a report on the business to be placed before the Executive, and the various items were then dealt with.

Invitations.—The matter of sending a representative to visit Kirup Sub-Branch was deferred pending the arrangement of an itinerary for travelling to the country districts.

In reply to a request from Wongan Hills Sub-Branch, it was moved by Mr. Watt and seconded by Mr. Philip that Mr. Pady should visit that district on Armistice Day, as a representative of the Executive.—Carried.

S.S.S.—A letter from the Boyup Brook Sub-Branch containing a scheme for the establishment of a sinking fund to repay interest was referred to Mr. Cornell on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee.

Application for Loan.—An application from the Osborne Park Sub-Branch for a loan was referred to the Finance Committee.

Poppies.—The Executive confirmed the action of the President in instructing that the registered labels should not be fixed to the Poppies already in stock, on account of the expense.

War Service Home.—The Secretary was instructed to make enquiries regarding the amount of deposit required in Victoria, as against that in Western Australia. This matter to be taken up by the delegates to the Federal Congress, should it be found that there was any difference.

Soldier Settlement Enquiry Committee.—Letters from the Minister for Lands stating that this Committee could not be further continued was received.

Moved by Mr. McDonald, and seconded by Mr. Bateson that the Minister be approached and asked to give effect to the request of the Land Settlement Committee from Congress with reference to the advisability of allowing the Local Committee of three returned soldiers already agreed to by the Minister, to report on any properties which are the subject of any future enquiry, in lieu of the present method of sending a Central Committee of Enquiry to the district concerned.

H. A. Fanning.—A letter was received from the Minister for Lands regarding arrears of rates on Soldier Settlement properties at the time of purchase.

Moved by the State Secretary, and seconded by Mr. Bolton, that an assurance be obtained from the Minister that any arrears of rates on property purchased by the S.S.S. for Returned Soldiers shall not be charged against the soldier purchaser.—Carried.

Norham.—A request was received from the Norham Sub-Branch for a delegate from the Executive to visit them on Armistice Day. It was resolved that Mr. Colvin be asked to attend.

Invitations.—It was further resolved on the motion of Mr. Humphrey that in future when invitations are received, all delegates on the Executive should be notified.

C.H.I.—The General Purposes Committee reported that the Secretary had been requested to obtain a report from the Colonial Secretary regarding the dismissal of three returned soldiers from the Claremont Hospital for the Insane.
Anzac Day.—It was resolved that the matter of consideration of the amendment to the Anzac Day Bill should be deferred pending a reply from Mr. C. G. Latham.

Churchman's Brook.—The Secretary stated that Mr. Piesse, a member of the Kelmscott Sub-Branch, had asked for a representative to visit Churchman's Brook and investigate the conditions of the roads and the destruction of crops and stock, consequent upon the work in connection with the water scheme.

Moved Mr. Wedd, that Mr. McDona . and Mr. Bader should visit the district.—Carried.

Water Supply, Department.—The General Purposes Committee advised that enquiries were being made in connection with the report of the enquir y regarding filter beds, where it had been stated that a returned soldier was being considerably underpaid.

Moved Mr. Wedd, that Mr. McDona l and Mr. Bader should visit the district.—Carried.

Congress Land Committee.—Mr. McDonald submitted his report which was presented at Congress, and received the congratulations of the delegates for his work. It was resolved that a copy of this report be sent to all country branches, together with the subsequent replies received from the Minister for Roads, and the motion passed at this meeting regarding "Road Board rates."

Anzac Day.—The resolution regarding Anzac Day observance was deferred pending a reply from Mr. Latham in regard to representations already made.

State War Memorial.—The resolution regarding the State War Memorial was discussed, and the motion that it be deferred pending the receipt of a report from Mr. Cornetl was put to the meeting and lost.

Moved by Mr. Watt that a Committee of five be appointed as a War Memorial Committee, and the resolution be referred to such Committee. Seconded by Mr. Morrell.—Carried.

The following Committee were then appointed:—Messrs. E. S. Watt, Col. Collett, J. Cornetl, P. E. Wedd and M. E. Zeffer, War Patriotic Funds.—It was resolved that a copy of the resolution with regard to the various War Relief Funds now inactive, should be forward ed to Mr. A. A. Wilson, M.L.A., and the matter to be further discussed on receipt of his reply.

Hospital Nurses.—It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Humphrey that the resolution regarding the excessive hours worked by nurses should be referred to the Sisters' Sub-Branch for their comments, and that a copy of the motion should be sent to Mr. Munsie, M.L.A.,

New Railways.—It was resolved that the resolutions regarding the new rail ways on the Wongan Hills line and the Lake Brown area, together with the matter of water supply to the Lake Brown district, should be forwarded to the Minister for Works, and arrangements made for a deputation to interview him regarding these matters.

The deputation consisting of Col. Fitzgerald on behalf of the Wongan Hills district, Mr. Gilchrist on behalf of the Lake Brown centre, Messrs. Pady and McDonald and members for the district in the Upper and Lower House.

Kalamunda Home.—Dealing with the resolution regarding Kalamunda Home it was moved by Mr. Philip and seconded by Mr. Humphrey that a Committee consisting of Messrs. Watt, Collett and Tyler and the State Secretary should interview the Red Cross Society with regard to taking over the Home, and report to the Executive.—Carried.
An amendment by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. McDonald, that the Committee should be appointed to formulate a scheme for the taking over of the Kalajunga Home by the R.S.L. was lost.

Producers' Co-op. Store. — It was resolved that the resolution regarding a Co-operative Store for the sale of products grown by Returned Soldier Settlers should be forwarded to Col. Fitzgerald, with the request that he should name a time when he will be able to place this personally before the Executive.

Federal Congress. — The following resolutions were referred to the delegates to the Federal Congress:

That in the interest of T.B. cases amongst Returned Soldiers the incoming Executive endeavour to obtain from Madam Karl Olsen (Adelaide) information regarding her method of treating T.B.

That the decision of the Repatriation Commission in connection with the case of F. W. Wood, of Collie, be considered by Congress.

Reports of Congress Committee. —

Group Settlement: Referred to the Repatriation Committee.

Dried Fruit Industry: Referred to the Repatriation Committee with the suggestion that Messrs. Yeates and Andrews, be asked to collaborate.

Group Settlement Appointments: Referred to the Executive Enquiry Committee.

"Listening Post": Referred to the General Purposes Committee for action.

Collie Sub-Branch. — A letter was read by the President from the Collie Sub-Branch, appreciating the work of the State Secretary, and it was resolved that this be referred to the Enquiry Committee.

Mental Patients. — Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Zeffert, that during his visit to the East to attend Congress the State President be requested to investigate throughout the Eastern States the problem as affecting ex-Service Mental Patients. Carried.

Merged by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Philips that the Repatriation Commission be advised that the State President will investigate in the Eastern States, problems as affecting ex-Service Mental Patients, and they be asked for their co-operation and assistance. Carried.

C.H.I.—Mr. Zeffert referred to a paragraph in the "Listening Post", referring to a visit to the Claremont Hospital for Insane, in which his name was mentioned, and the Secretary was instructed to make enquiries from the C.H.I. Sub-Branch regarding this.

SUB-BRANCH NOTES.

BEVERLEY SUB-BRANCH.

Mr. George Broun presided over an average attendance at the monthly meeting of the Beverley Sub-Branch on the 11th inst.

A circular from the State Secretary re Poppy Day was received, and it was decided not to take any action this year in the sale of poppies. The meeting considered that the League should not demean itself by cadging for public support in this manner. There are far too many "button days" and "flag days", etc., now and it is considered that the profits from the sale of poppies should be used for the benefit of some Amelioration Fund.

The Secretary reported having written to a returned soldier at Jacob's Well re pension matters, and his action was endorsed by the meeting.

Mr. Holloway, the Beverley delegate to Congress, reported the result of his labours at Congress, and several items of interest connected with Congress were discussed.

PILBARRA SUB-BRANCH.

A small but representative meeting of the above was presided over by Mr. R. A. Keesing last month at Marble Bar.

So great has our Library become, both in membership and popularity throughout the district, that it was decided to place an order with a Perth firm of booksellers for a fixed number of new editions each month. This Branch Library has become a boon to members living away out at the back of beyond, and others, beside League members, may obtain books on payment of a small exchange fee.

A committee was also appointed to inquire into the cost and suitability of installing a wireless listening-in set in our new hall, so ere many months have passed Marble Bar will be leading the whole North-West in up-to-dateness.

A hearty welcome was extended to a visitor in the form of ex-Captain Buchan, who is visiting our district in connection with the North-West Department. The Captain has had a distinguished naval and military career extending over 36 years, and, in the last Great War, although over military age, was eventually accepted by the authorities, and with the rank of captain served with great distinction in Servia and Salonika, in which country he was awarded the greatest foreign decoration possible. At the conclusion of the meeting the Captain entertained those assembled with a brief account of his varied experiences and all present were sorry when he had to draw to a close owing to the lateness of the hour.

WAGIN SUB-BRANCH.

This branch recently decided to canvass their supporters with a view to purchasing a piano for the club room. The result has been well above expectations and success is assured.

Later, however, it was felt by a number of members that a listening-in set would best serve the habitants of the club room, and to give due consideration to this proposal a special meeting of the branch was held. So great was the interest shown that Branch President R. Gladstone had the pleasure of presiding over a record meeting.

Mr. Meeks, in accordance with notice of motion given, proposed that the motion recorded in the minutes relieved nations and eventually displaced for the purchase of a piano be rescinded, and that full particulars and

REMINGTON PORTABLE TYPEWRITER

Most people have writing to do at times, and this handy little friend makes all writing easier. It has the standard keyboard, is easy to operate and light to carry. Its weight is 11 lbs., and it fits into a case only 4 inches high.

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Cash or Easy Terms if desired

Sole Representatives in Western Australia for the Remington Typewriter Company

E. C. STOTT & COMPANY

ONLY ADDRESS:

Perpetual Trustee Buildings
Howard Street, Perth
Separators
THE OTHERS COME AND GO, BUT THE
"DAHLIA" and "SYLVIA"
GO ON FOR EVER.

A FEW REASONS WHY:
They are Clean Skimmers.
They are Mechanically Simple consequently have few Wearing Parts.
They Last for Years and are a Standing Advertisement of their Capabilities.
The Agents are Actual Users and Know Their Qualities, so Guarantee Them
in Every Respect.
The SPARES ARE ALWAYS PROCRUABLE.
The Sizes range from 9 gals. per hour to 150 gals. per hour.
The Prices are as low as the Best of the Others, and being a Superior Article
are the Cheapest in the end.
The Terms on which you can Buy are framed to suit Every Genuine Trier.

CHURN CANS and ALL DAIRYING REQUISITES

MACFARLANE & CO. LTD.
48 MURRAY STREET, PERTH

C.S.A. has now submitted to the Public Service Commissioner.
A very excellent suggestion tendered by Mr. Morrell was the formation of a
fund to be devoted to amelioration purposes. This met with general appro
bation and it was decided that the Sub-Branch's share in the proceeds
Poppy Day would form the nucleus of this fund. Other interesting items
were reports by Messrs. Tyler and Egan (two of the delegates to State
Congress) who were cordially thanked therefor. The meeting terminated with
good wishes to the President (Mr. H. S. Humphrey), who is one of the dele
getes representing W.A. at Federal Congress.

The Ladies' Auxiliary did wonderful work on Poppy Day, for which the
Branch is very grateful; they being assisted in selling poppies by many
young ladies from the "Sally" Opera Company. The sales exceeded all ex
pections, and amounted to £10.

The sincere thanks of this Branch is extended to the following firms who
donated—through Mrs. Tyler, and it is hoped that members will not forget
these firms who have assisted them—Messrs. Boans Ltd., £1 ls.; The Bairds
Coy., 10s. 6d.; Messrs. Fenton, Grim
wade and Coy., £1 1s.; Economic Stores, Ltd., £1 1s.; Messrs. Brennan's
Ltd., £1 1s.; Melrose Advertising Co.
(per Mr. W. Green), £1; Messrs.
Patterson & Co., 10s. 6d.; Charles
Moore & Coy., £1 1s.; Messrs. Foy and
Gibson, Ltd., £1 1s.; Ezywalkin Ltd.

costs of listening-in sets be obtained
with a view to installing a set in the
club room." The mover detailed the
result of enquiries he had made. Mr.
K. Allport, in seconding the motion,
strongly supported the proposal. At
this juncture the Secretary read a let
ter from Mr. M. Noonan, the mover of
the motion to purchase a piano, who
was out of town, agreeing to the
proposal to purchase the wireless set.
Support was also given by all mem-
bres present. The motion was carried
unanimously with the proviso that
subscribers be consulted before final
action was taken. Messrs. Gladstone,
Firman, Lloyd, Murdoch and Meeks
were appointed a sub-committee to
collect full information and report to
next general meeting. Arrangements
were made to carry out a canvas of
the country districts with the object
of enrolling members and augmenting
the funds. This concluded the busi-
ness.

WEST PERTH SUB-BRANCH.
This Sub-Branch is still making good
progress. Its membership is steadily
increasing, and the good work perform-
ed by Secretary A. H. Morrell and his
able assistants continues to achieve
results which are, in the main, entirely
satisfactory.

At the general meeting held last
month a brief resume of the Sub-
Branch's activities during the past few
months was disclosed in a report fur-
nished by the Hon. Secretary.

A gratifying feature was the excel-
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Eighth Annual State Congress

(Continued)

CONSTITUTIONAL.

Congress Delegates.

Motion by Mr. Smalpage (Claremont-Cottesloe), seconded by Mr. Parret (Subiaco)—That a move to prevent any semblance of packing Congress, any country sub-branch unable to be represented thereat by any member thereof, the Executive, when so informed, shall appoint its delegation: but no delegation so appointed shall possess any voice in or vote at Congress until the duly accredited delegates have by resolution endorsed such appointment.

By leave of Congress, Mr. Smalpage (Claremont) withdrew the words, "With a view to preventing any semblance of packing," and the word "country."—Lost.

Women’s Auxiliaries.

By consent of Congress, Mr. Philip (Fremantle) was given leave to withdraw agenda item as follows—"That the Constitution be amended to provide that Women’s Auxiliaries branches be given equal status with sub-branches and sub-branch members.

Amendment by Soldier Organisations.

Resolved by Mr. Clay (Railway Workshops), and seconded by Mr. Morrell (West Perth)—"That Congress is of the opinion that the League Constitution should be amended to provide for an affiliation of all ex-soldier organisations, each retaining its own identity."

Expenses Executive Members.

Resolved by Mr. Clay (Railway Workshops), seconded by Mr. Connolly (Railway Workshops)—"That the Constitution be amended to provide for the payment to any member of the Executive of expenses incurred: (a) For travel or train fares attending Executive meetings or transacting any business arising therefrom; (b) actual time lost when transacting Executive business by Executive direction."

By leave of Congress, Mr. Bader (Mt. Barker) withdrew agenda item as follows—"That the annual visit of Executive members to sub-branches be a direct charge against Executive funds."—Lost.

Order of Congress.

Motion by Mr. Fanning (Dingup), seconded by Mr. Yeates (Upper Swan)—"That the Constitution be so amended as to provide that at a future Congress the first two days’ittings thereof be devoted to agenda items submitted by country sub-branches."—Lost.

Executive Representation and Zone Organisation.

By consent of Congress, leave was given to Mr. Whiteley (Vandana) to withdraw agenda items as follows—"That the Constitution be amended to provide that the Executive shall be so constituted as to secure a representative therein, so that each profession or calling shall be so co-ordinated as to allow of the formation of groups, each group to elect one Executive representative, the whole to constitute the Executive."—Carried.

In order to permit of a greater measure of co-operation, and until the W.A. branch is in a better financial position the State be divided into zones; the Hon. Secretary of the sub-branch within the zone wherein zone delegates meet, act as Hon. Secretary to that particular Congress, conditionally upon such sub-branch submitting in writing to the Executive for action, if thought fit, the underlying principles contained in such items.

Define Sub-Branches.

Resolved by Mr. Cornell (Boyup Brook), seconded by Mr. Colvin (Mt. Lawley)—"That a new rule as follows be added to the Constitution: Whenever in the opinion of the Executive a sub-branch has failed to conduct its business or to ascertain the right of the branch, it may cease to be a sub-branch willing to take over the branch in good standing."

President Entertaining Expenses.

By consent of Congress Mr. Watt (Koorda) was given leave to withdraw agenda item as follows—"That Congress vote a definite sum of money for the President’s use as entertaining expenses."—Carried.

Retrospective For One Year.

Further resolved by Mr. Cornell (Boyup Brook), seconded by Mr. Cooke (Metropolitan Railways)—"That the resolution allotting the State President’s use as entertaining expenses be retrospective for one year."—Carried.

Alteration Date Congress.

Motion by Mr. Holloway (Beverley), seconded by Mr. Barron (Narrogin)—"That the Constitution be amended to provide that the Annual Congress shall meet in the month of March in each year."—Carried.

Amendment by Mr. Fanning (Dingup) seconded by Mr. Bloomfield (Jarradup)—"That the opening session of Congress shall occur on the fifth Wednesday prior to the opening of the Royal Agricultural Show."—Lost.

Further amendment by Mr. Zeffert (Mt. Lawley), seconded by Mr. Stahl (Glenorchy)—"That the incoming Executive shall arrange for a referendum amongst all sub-branches to ascertain the most convenient date for the Annual State Congress, and a report to be submitted to the next Congress."—Carried.

Agenda Consideration Congress.

By leave of Congress, agenda item as follows was withdrawn—"That the Constitution be so amended to provide for consideration of agenda items as follows: (a) Metropolitan Sub-Branch items from assembling of Congress each morning until 1 p.m. that day; (b) soldier land settlers’ items from 3 p.m. onwards until the afternoon or evening adjournment."

Executive Representation R.M. and L.M.A. and W.H.

Motion by Rabbi Freedman (Bunbury), seconded by Mr. Bader (Mt. Barker)—"That the Constitution be amended to provide that a representative of the R.M. and L.M.A. may attend any meeting of the Executive with right to speak, but not to vote or move a motion or amendment, except on any question deemed to be urgent by the Executive, and Association."—Carried.

Amendment by Mr. Cornell (Boyup Brook), seconded by Mr. Philp (Fremantle)—"That all words after the word ‘amendment’ be deleted."—Carried.

Motion as amended was then carried.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

Interest War Service Homes.

Resolved by Mr. Colvin (Mt. Lawley), seconded by Mr. Zeffert (Mt. Lawley)—"That Congress was impressed into the methods of charging interest on War Service Homes."—Carried.

Erected Dwellings: War Service Homes Act.

Resolved by Mr. Zeffert (Mt. Lawley), seconded by Mr. Colvin (Mt. Lawley)—"That whilst realising that the War Service Homes Commission must be vested with certain discretion in powers, Congress is of the opinion that the Commission is carrying out the original intention of the War Service Homes Act, in ruling that assistance cannot be granted to a Returned Soldier erecting a new dwelling, or purchasing an already erected dwelling house, furthermore representations be made at the next Federal Congress with a view to having such action taken as will result in reversing this ruling."

Preference Imperial Soldiers: Erected Soldiers’ Homes.

By consent of Congress Mr. Whitely (Perth) was given leave to add the following words, "in the delegate was given leave to urge that each delegate be instructed to urge that such applicant shall be placed on a more favourable footing than civilians in the matter of rate of interest and duration of contract, such rate of interest to be at more than 6 per cent, over a maximum period of 20 years," to agenda item as follows—"That the War Service Homes Commission be urged to instruct its Deputy Commissioners or Boards acting in like capacity that, in cases where there are no ex-A.I.F. soldier applicants for an already erected soldiers’ home under disposal, preference be given to ex-Imperial Soldier applicants."
November 21st 1924.

The Listening Post.

Seconded by Mr. Fitzpatrick (Perth).

Advertising Art Union.

The President referred Congress to a letter appearing in the current issue of the “Daily News” relating to the advertising of the art union. Discussion ensued.

Resolved by Mr. Cornell (Boyup Brook), seconded by Mr. Bader (Mt. Barker)—“That the question of art union advertising be referred to the committee controlling the art union for immediate enquiry and action.”

Subsequently, Mr. Bolton (East Fremantle) reported on behalf of the Art Union Committee, and stated that the committee was quite satisfied that no breach of the preference policy had occurred in regard to art union publicity work, which was given to a Returned Soldier member of a city firm. The committee had made full enquiries before placing this work, but would go more closely into the matter, and if within three days full confirmatory evidence was not produced, the work would be advertised and placed with a Returned Soldier if a suitable one could be found.

Defence of Australia.

Resolved by Mr. Watt (Koorda), seconded by Mr. Bader (Mt. Barker)—“That Congress views with alarm the inadequate measures provided by the Commonwealth Government for the defence of Australia, and is of the opinion that a more adequate system of land force training is of vital importance.”—Carried.

Burdens of Future Wars.

By consent of Congress Mr. Peers (Kelmiscott) was given leave to withdraw agenda item, as follows—“Congress is of the opinion that soldiers and sailors who serve in future wars shall not be expected nor asked to bear burdens similar to those borne by soldiers and sailors who served in past wars,” and to move instead—“Congress directs the incoming Executive to urge the Federal Executive to take such action as will ensure in the event of a future war, in which Australia may be or become involved, that the measure of relief and compensation contingent upon death, injury, impaired health, and economic loss shall be definitely fixed prior to, and be a condition of, service.” Seconded by Mr. Pady (Fremantle).—Carried.

Pre-Enlistment Promises and League of Nations.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Andrews (Herne Hill), Mr. Cornell (Boyup Brook) was granted leave to withdraw agenda item as follows—“That as no real endeavour is being made by the League of Nations to give effect to pre-enlistment promises, namely, ‘This is a way to end war and militarism, and thus make the world a better world for the masses,’ when calling on men to fight for the allied cause, during the Great War, Congress is of the opinion that its non-fulfilment is a betrayal of the trust on the part of such leaders towards soldiers who fought and died for the Cause,” and to move in its stead—“That as little practical result had so far been obtained towards the fulfilment of pre-enlistment promises given by leaders of belligerent nations during the Great War, 1914-1918, namely, ‘This is a way to end war and militarism,’ Congress trusts that proposed League of Nations will in the future so evolve as to ensure the fullest consummation of such promises.” Seconded by Mr. Watt (Koorda).—Carried.

Pre-Enlistment Promises.

Resolved by Mr. Calvin (Mt. Lawley), Mr. Fanning (Dingup)—“That the attention of the Commonwealth Government be drawn to the hardships of many returned soldiers through the non-fulfilment of pre-enlistment promises.”

State War Memorial.

Moved by Mr. Watt (Koorda) seconded by Mr. May (Collie)—“That Congress deplores the failure of the citizenship of this State to erect a suitable State War Memorial, and trusts that it will rise to the occasion in the near future and rectify such a regrettable omission.”

Pooling War Patriotic Funds.

Motion by Mr. Morrell (West Perth), seconded by Mr. Egan (West Perth)—“That Congress instructs the incoming Executive to formulate a scheme for submission to the Premier, recommending that the balance of monies held by the various War patriotic bodies be pooled, then transferred on the following basis: 75 per cent. to the State War Memorial Fund, 25 per cent. to
the Executive for Returned Soldier Amelioration purposes.

Amendment by Mr. Tooth (Kata-ning)—“That Congress instructs the incoming Executive to formulate and submit a scheme to the Government to pool the funds of any patriotic body that is inactive to be allocated as follows: 75 per cent. State War Memorial and 25 per cent. to the Executive for Amelioration purposes.”—Lost.

Further amendment by Mr. Corcell (Booyup Brook), seconded by Mr. Isaac (Osborne Park)—“That the incoming Executive enter into negotiations with the Government with a view to having the monies now in the hands of inactive patriotic bodies pooled and allocated for War Memorial and Soldiers’ Amelioration purposes.” Motion withdrawn. Amendment—Carried.

Hours and Pay of Nurses.

By consent of Congress so much of the standing orders were suspended as to permit the passage of a resolution as follows (Mr. Edmondson (Kalgoorlie), Mr. Fitzpatrick (Perth)—“Congress is of the opinion that hours now worked by nurses and probationers in hospitals are excessive, and the remuneration therefor inadequate, and considers that the hours of working should be reduced and the rates of pay increased in hospitals generally and Repatriation wards particularly.”

State Secretary.

By consent of Congress, Mr. Stahl (Glenoran) withdrew the following agenda item—“That the State Secretary explain his undue laxity in dealing with important branch correspondence.”

Conditionally upon its purport being the subject of enquiry by the committee appointed to inquire into the subject of preference and employment to ex-soldier Group Settlement Foremen.

State Lottery.

By consent of Congress, so much of the standing orders were suspended to allow Mr. Hart (Trayning) to submit a motion as follows: (Motion moved by Mr. Hart (Trayning), seconded by Mr. Mulqueeney (Perth)—“That with a view to minimising, and if possible, obviating hospital appeals to charity, Congress instructs the incoming Executive to approach the Government and urge it to sanction the conduct of a sweep on similar lines to the “Golden Casket” in Queensland, the net proceeds thereof to be devoted towards the maintenance of Public Hospitals and charitable purposes and institutions.”—Carried.

Amendment by Mr. Weal (Coolup), seconded by Mr. Cooke (Metropolitan Railways)—“That the Government be urged to immediately introduce legislation for the purpose of providing, by taxation adequate funds to finance all charitable institutions.”—Lost.

Discrimination. Ex-Imperial and A.I.F. Soldiers.

By consent of Congress, Mr. Watt (Booinda) was given leave to withdraw agenda item as follows—“In view of certain statements made by ex-Imperial men, the Koorda Sub-Branch requests that the Executive inform Congress whether any discrimination is made between ex-A.I.F. and ex-Imperial men, when both are in need of the support of the League,” and to move in its stead—

“In view of certain statements made by ex-Imperial men the Executive in Inform sub-branches what, if any, discrimination is made between ex-A.I.F. and ex-Imperial men.” Seconded by Mr. Bader (Mt. Barker).—Carried.

Certificates of Merit.

Resolved by Mr. O’Grady (Boulder), seconded by Mr. Morrell (West Perth)—“That the League’s certificate of merit be awarded to Mr. David Donaldson, of Boulder.”

Further resolved on notice of motion by Mr. Isaac (Osborne Park), Mr. May (Collie)—“That the League’s certificate of merit be awarded to Dr. W. H. Mackie, of Narrogin.”

Beverley Sheep Disease.

Resolved by Mr. Holloway (Beverley), seconded by Mr. Isaac (Osborne Park)—“That the Government be requested to thoroughly investigate the disease known as ‘Beverley Sheep Disease,’ and if sufficiently experienced observers are not to be obtained in W.A., the Government procure the services of an expert from France or Great Britain.” Executive and Departmental Investigation.

By consent of Congress, Mr. Blocke (Jarnadup) was given leave to add these words, “by the department concerned,” to agenda item as follows: “That at all times returned soldiers and settlers’ complaints forwarded to the Executive shall have a thorough investigation.” Seconded by Mr. Bolton (E. Fremantle)—Carried.

Land Possessions: War Service Homes Commission.

Item as follows from Claremont-Cottesloe Sub-Branch—“Congress directs the incoming Executive to approach the proper authority with a view to procuring a complete list of blocks and unalienated land in possession of the War Service Homes Commission still available for the erection of War Service Homes.”

Lapsed for want of a mover.

Railway Passes Executive Members.

By leave of Congress Mr. Bader (Mt. Barker) withdrew agenda item as follows—“That steps be taken to procure free railway passes for members of the Executive when visiting sub-branches.”

Madonna Oif CARS Treatment.

Resolved by Mr. Stahl (Glenoran), Mr. Fanning (Dingup)—“That in the interests of T.B. cases amongst Returned Soldiers, the incoming Executive endeavour to obtain from Madame Karl Osen (Adelaide) information regarding her method of treatment of T.B.”
Diggers' Sport Day and R.S.P.C.A. Items as follows from Claremont Cottages Sub-Branch—"That Congress affirms the desirability of a 'Diggers' Sports Day,' within the Metropolitan Area."

"That the dispute as between the R.S.P.C.A. and with W.A. Branch he discussed by Congress."

Lapsed through the absence of its delegates.

Mental Treatment Ex-Soldiers.

Resolved by Mr. McDonald (Armadale, seconded by Mr. Corn (Boyup Brook)—"That this Congress deplores the delay in the matter of making adequate arrangements for the treatment of mental soldier patients and strongly urges upon the Federal and State Governments the necessity of immediate action."

The President and Mr. McDonald gave a resume of the work done by the ex-committee in reference to the legal and other aspects of mental ex-soldiers.

R.S.L. Co-op. Director's Report.

Mr. H. E. Bolton (W.A. Branch Director, R.S.L. Co-operative Company Limited) gave a lengthy resume of the company transactions for the past year.

Resolved—"That Mr. Bolton be thanked for services rendered as the W.A. Branch Director."

Executive Profits to be Used for Distress Purposes.

Motion, by Mr. Stahl (Glenorana), seconded by Mr. Blescombe (Jarradup)—"That Congress affirms the desirability of granting to sub-branches a proportionate share of profits accrued by the Executive to be used to alleviate cases of distress."

Carried.

Amendment by Mr. Zeffer (Mt. Lawley), seconded by Mr. Bader (Mt. Barker)—"That Congress suggests that if possible the incoming Executive so distribute the profits, if any, derived from the present art union for amenity or entertainment purposes, as to ensure an equitable distribution amongst the sub-branches."

Carried.

Appointments C.P.S.

Resolved by Mr. Egan (West Perth), seconded by Mr. Robertson (West Perth)—"That in the opinion of Congress the Federal Government should take immediate action to appoint to the positions for which they have qualified the remaining 41 Returned Soldier candidates who were successful at the Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Examination in August, 1920."

Transfer: 1920 Art Union Funds.

Resolved by Mr. Zeffer (Mt. Lawley), seconded by Mr. Philip (Fremantle)—"That Congress approves the transfer of the balance of funds unallocated from 1920 art union to the accumulated funds of the League."

Repatriation Decision—P. W. Wood (Mt. Lawley) seconded by Mr. May (Collie)—"That the decision of the Repatriation Commission in connection with the case of P. W. Wood be considered by Congress."

Kalkaling Railway Extension.

Resolved by Mr. Mulqueeny (Perth), seconded by Mr. Pady (Fremantle)—"That Congress bring under the notice of the Government the urgent necessity of extending the Railway from Kalkaling to a distance of ten miles in the direction of the Lake Brown centre."

Lake Brown Water Supply.

Resolved by Mr. Mulqueeny (Perth), seconded by Mr. Pady (Fremantle)—"That the Government be urged to extend the Goldfields Water Supply to the Lake Brown area, under the scheme put forward by Mr. O'Brien."

Issue Pamphlet Giving Summary Benefits Ex-Soldier and Dependents.

Motion by Mr. Smalgape (Claremont-Cottesloe), seconded by Mr. Stahl (Glenorana)—"That the Executive prepare and issue to all sub-branches and other persons interested on application a pamphlet embodying a summary of the benefits and privileges that—(a) returned soldiers generally, (b) incapacitated soldiers and their dependents, (c) deceased soldiers and their dependents can obtain under Commonwealth and State laws, and from any fund or trust, especially formed to assist Returned Soldiers or deceased soldiers' dependents."

Carried.

Amendment by Mr. Isaac (Osborne Park), seconded by Mr. Pady (Fremantle)—"Insert the words 'endeavour' to after the word 'Executive.'"

United Services Fund.

By consent of Congress, Mr. Greaves (Posel Estate) withdrew agenda item as follows—"That the Imperial authorities be approached in regard to the United Services Fund, with a view to having W.A. considered independently," and moved in its stead—"That the proper authorities be approached in regard to the United Services Fund, with a view to having Western Australia better treated in view of the greater proportion of ex-Imperial men in this State."

Sec'd by Mr. May (Collie).—Carried.

"THE LISTENING POST."

Considerable discussion ensued on agenda Items 40, 41, 42, 43. Item 40 being accepted as the substantive motion by Mr. Egan (West Perth) and Mr. Zeffer (Mt. Lawley).

Committee Appointed (5).

Congress resolved, on amendment by Mr. A. N. McDonald (Armadale), Mr. Bateson (Midland Junction)—"That the question of continuing the 'Listening Post' on the present basis for another year be referred to a committee as follows: Mr. Corn, Mr. Zeffer (Mt. Lawley), Philip (Fremantle), May (Collie), Isaac (Osborne Park), and A. N. McDonald (Armadale), for consideration and report, such committee to amongst other things especially inquire into—

(a) Business arrangements with W.A. Branch;

(b) Methods of distribution;

(c) Space for League publicity;

(d) Payment of subscriptions by sub-branches.

Mr. Colvin (Mt. Lawley), on behalf of the committee, subsequently submitted the report as follows:

1. That an agreement be entered into with the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd. for the supplying of copies of the "Listening Post" to members as to embody—

(a) That the agreement be for twelve (12) months certain, subject thereafter to six (6) months notice on either side, the Executive to have power to give such notice if it deems it advisable.

(b) That the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd. be paid monthly a sum equal to one halfpenny (½d.) per copy for all copies supplied at the request of the State Secretary.

(c) That the Imperial Printing Company address and post at its expense the copies supplied unless...
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The last business of Congress is to pass the following motion:—

That the thanks of Congress be extended to—(a) The retiring President and members of the Executive; (b) the secretarial and office staff; (c) Ministers and departmental heads who received deputations and co-operated with Congress committees; (d) delegates from Women's Auxiliaries who attended Congress; (e) Sir Thomas Coome and the West Perth Sub-Branch for hospitality extended; (f) the Press; (g) the institute staff.

Adoption.—Resolved by Mr. Fanning (Dingup), seconded by Mr. O'Grady (Boulder) "That the report be adopted."

Thanks to Agenda Committee.

The President moved, Mr. Mulqueeny (Perth) seconded—"That a vote of thanks be extended to Mr. Cornell."—Carried.


Congress concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

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THE LISTENING POST.

NOVEMBER 21st, 1924.

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 requested in writing by the State Secretary to supply the papers of any one of their sub-branches in bulk, in which case such action as is necessary to comply with the request shall be taken by the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd.

(d) That 65 per cent of the letterpress space of each and every issue of the 'Listening Post' be available for the use of the Executive and sub-branches of the League.

(e) That the letters printed in any one issue be not less than ten pages.

(f) That the style of journal and quality of paper be similar to that at present in use until altered by mutual consent.

2. That such agreement be in writing and in such form as the League's solicitor considers necessary.

3. That the State Secretary supply to the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd. monthly, not less than seven days before the date of publication, a list showing the names and addresses of all FINANCIAL members of any branch with the request that copies of the 'Listening Post' be sent to each member shown thereon.

4. That the State Secretary upon the receipt of a copy of a resolution of a sub-branch to that effect request the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd. to supply the copies for that sub-branch in bulk to the address stated in the resolution.

5. That the monthly lists of members to be supplied by the State Secretary be prepared from the record of members in the Executive office with such variations as are shown to be necessary upon a perusal of the copies of the receipts hereafter issued by sub-branches to members and upon a perusal of the latest quarterly lists supplied by the sub-branch secretaries.

6. That each sub-branch Secretary submit quarterly a complete list of FINANCIAL members of the sub-branch to the address of the member when paying his initial or renewal subscription.

7. That the name and address of the member concerned be entered in BLOCK TYPE on the receipt issued to a member when paying his initial or renewal subscription.

8. That the present system of payment by sub-branches of members subscriptions to the 'Listening Post' be continued, viz., by remittance to the State Secretary with the monthly returns.

9. That the arrangements of the staff of the 'Listening Post' be left entirely to the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd. as the committee is of the opinion that it is not practicable for the League's official to control or dictate to the company as to the method of arranging their staff appointment.

10. That where any sub-branch considers it is not receiving proper consideration from the proprietors of the 'Listening Post', with regard to matter forwarded for publication, that the Executive take the necessary steps to investigate the complaint and advise the sub-branch accordingly.

Your committee desire to further re-
A PENSION INCREASE.
FOR IMPERIAL EX-SERVICE MEN.

The Federal Secretary of the R.S.L. recently received from the Organising Secretary of the British Empire Service League the following letter relative to an increase of pensions for ex-Imperial Soldiers:

"I write to inform you that a Bill has recently been passed in the House of Commons increasing certain Government Pensions, and I think you will like to have particulars of the same, which I enclose herewith.

In August, 1920, the Pensions (Increase) Act was introduced, providing for certain increases of certain pensions, one of the provisions being that the pensioner must be resident in Great Britain. Owing to the steps taken by Headquarters at the Conference of the British Empire Service League, the Government have agreed to further increase some of the pensions, and to remove the bar to pensioners who have emigrated. The necessary money resolution, after being considered by the Standing Orders Committee, was passed in the House of Commons on the 5th June last. The resolution covered not only soldiers, sailors and airmen, but also other civil servants, such as the Police, Postmen, etc., and the appropriate Departments will be making the necessary arrangements to cater for their own particular pensioners.

So far as our own organisation is concerned, the War Office will be principally affected, also the Admiralty and the Air Ministry to a smaller extent. The War Office state that they will be sending to every pensioner affected the necessary forms to complete, whereby it will be possible to ascertain whether they are eligible for increase or not, and it is anticipated that the other Service Departments will follow suit. The following increases (and this is the old 1920 Act brought up to date with the present increases) will now apply to pensioners resident in any part of the British Empire.

Any pensioner in receipt of pension which commenced before the 4th August, 1914, and (a) who has attained the age of 60 years, or if a widow has attained the age of 40 years, or who was retired or discharged on account of physical or mental infirmity; (b) whose means, including pension, are less than £150 a year if unmarried, or £200 a year if married, may be granted, as from the 1st July, 1923, an increased pension as follows:

If the existing pension does not exceed £25, it may be increased by 70%; if the existing pension exceeds £25, but does not exceed £50, it may be increased by 56%; if the existing pension exceeds £50 a year, but does not exceed £100 per year, it may be increased by 50%; if it exceeds £100, but is less than £150 in the case of an unmarried person, or £200 in the case of a married person, it may be increased by 30%.

No pension shall be increased by an amount which is greater than is sufficient to bring the total of the pension up to £150 a year if unmarried or £200 a year if married.

Pensioners coming under this warrant would be:

- Officers Retired Pay and Wound Pensions;
- Widow’s Pensions;
- Service of Disability Pensioners;
- Victoria Cross Pension;
- Additional Pensions for Gallant Conduct;
- Special Campaign Pensions.

OUTSTANDING LIABILITY OF SOLDIER SETTLELS.

Cases have come to the notice of the League where settlers under the S.S.S. have been billed by the Lands Department for rates, taxes, and rent which accumulated during prior ownership of the property. The League has been in communication with the Department for some time in the endeavour to have this injustice righted. The following letter recently received from the Minister for Lands clarifies the position somewhat:

"Re arrears of rates on S.S. properties. Replying to yours of the 3rd November, I have to advise having referred this matter to the Soldiers Settlement Board, and the general manager now reports that he has no objection to the assurance being given, provided it is distinctly understood that the effect will be given to it only when the failure to collect arrears is due to the negligence of the Department. In some cases the soldier purchases a property on the understanding that he is to assume liability for outstanding rent, rates and taxes, particularly when a family transaction is involved, such as a sale from father to son. In such instances it is usual to accept the assurance of the parties that they have arranged the matter between themselves."

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A SOLDIER WELCOME.
To A Soldier Governor.

Our new Governor, Sir William Campbell, looks every inch a soldier, and we feel sure that he will be very popular in digger circles. He belongs to the type of English gentleman which appeals to Australians, being broad-minded, frank and jolly and devoid of foolish and hollow sham.

Sir William must have felt pleased with the splendid digger reception accorded him at the Soldiers' Institute on the day following his arrival in this State. The large dining room was packed, and a pleasing feature was the strong representation of the new Sisters' sub-branch.
PERSONALITIES.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Campion paid a visit to “Stromness,” both evoking keen interest in the institution and the patients, and expressed pleasure with the home and its surroundings.

On the eve of his desertion from the ranks of the all-too-few digger bachelors, the returned soldiers on the staff of the Union Bank of Australia, recently presented one of the members of the team, Mr. G. L. Haffner, with a little consolation gift. Mr. Haffner served on Gallipoli and in France with the 11th Battalion, receiving more than his fair share of war rations.

Sir Thomas Coome has very generously donated to all W.A. winners of the Victoria Cross a free pass to attend at any time all shows under his control.

Another prominent digger shortly to forsake his liberty and join the ranks of the beneficiaries—League assistant-secretary Carl Ferguson. The 21st of this month is the day of days and the girl of girls is Miss Agnes Pilgrim of South Perth. We wish them happiness and prosperity.

His host of friends in the League were delighted to know that Mr. H. A. "Dad" Fanning, the energetic secretary of the Dingup Sub-Branch, was lucky enough to win second prize in the R.S.L. Charity Art Union. "Dad" has been having a hard struggle on the land and will appreciate his good fortune.

Geo. H. Aspinal, ex 2nd Battalion, whose death occurred in one of the Repat. Institutions, was buried on 3rd November, the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation, Mr. C. Chas. Taylor, and the Officer-in-Charge of the Department's medical activities, Mr. Hocking, attended the funeral.

The reception to the Governor tendered by the League was attended by a huge crowd of nurses and diggers, members of Women's Auxiliaries and the much-respected veterans from former wars. Amongst those present was the President of the Swan Sub-Branch, Col. Wilson.

Norman Hales, who was a Repat. Inspector after his taste of stoush, is farming down Kulin way, and tells of a great local reunion on Armistice Day. Incidentally he mentions having exhausted his repertoire of stories, and we suggest that he peruses this journal more regularly.

The success or otherwise of country sub-branches in particular depends almost wholly on the secretary. There are secretaries, who, are capable but not energetic, and others who are energetic but incapable. A sub-branch such as Wongan Hills, which has both a capable and energetic secretary, is indeed fortunate. Secretary Arthur Hensworth on arriving at Wongan Hills about five months ago decided to do his bit for the movement in general, and the local digger in particular, and endeavoured to start a local branch of the League there. He was advised to give up the idea, because he was on a fool's errand, but Arthur persisted, and his reward is a good branch of about 30 new members. If any digger resident in the vicinity of Wongan Hills thinks that he can dodge joining this new sub-branch, he has not reckoned with Arthur Hensworth.

The C.H.I. Sub-Branch wrote explaining the appreciation being shown by the Hospital patients of the wireless set kindly donated to them by the A.A.O Druids Society; also the billiard table which was installed last month. The writer wishes to correct a misstatement which appeared in his last month's letter, in which it was stated that Mr. Zelley, who is an ex-jail worker for the League, had made certain statements referring to meals the soldier patients were receiving. It is now understood that a prominent League official is responsible for the statement and the branch would like to know who he is and why he promulgated information devoid of fact.

(Note.—In our last issue we signified our intention of including in this number the full report of the Land Settlement Committee appointed at Congress but owing to it being in the meantime promulgated throughout the branches, and due to pressure on our letterpress we have decided not to publish it.—Ed.)

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THE PROBLEM OF DEFENCE

An American Viewpoint

"BY FREDERICK PALMER"

"Smile when you say it!" Anybody who has seen army life knows that it is all right if you smile when you use certain epithets and that when you do not smile you'd better be ready for trouble.

The man who carries a gun in a rough community knows that the best way to avoid having to use it is to smile, and that it is well, at the same time, to keep it loaded and to let the fellow with his big coat know over a scowl that it is. When you do need that gun how you do need it—on what short notice! When you use it you're past the smiling stage.

General Pershing did not smile much at the Germans in France. He was past the smiling stage with the declaration of war. He will be smiling on Defence Day (September 12).

This week we are to consider his methods of keeping the peace. Last week we considered two other methods. We found that no peace plan which would lead the nations to lay down their arms and guarantee permanent peace had yet been adopted. And we found that no engine of war whose powers of destruction would make war impossible had yet been invented. Both of these methods had been talked for centuries. Meanwhile we are living in the present.

General Pershing's method is the one that the other nations are applying in practice. He would carry a gun and see that it is ready for business. As our leading expert he knows how much heavier the cost of war is if we are unprepared.

We slipped into unpreparedness after the Revolution and when we needed a gun and needed it quick in 1812 the British so far had the jump on us that they were able to burn Washington. After the Civil War we got slack again. Our navy became obsolete wooden hulls against steamers until we started the White Squadron, our regular army was reduced to 25,000 and our neglected National Guard went into the war with Spain with rifles that carried less than a thousand yards against rifles that carried twice as far.

If we had been prepared in 1812 Britain might have given us our rights at sea for which we had to fight. If we had been prepared in 1898 Spain might have freed Cuba without our having recourse to force. There are two wars which the Pershing plan might have prevented.

But there are people who say that if we prepare for war you breed war, if you build an army you are bound to use it. We have had the armed strength to overrun Mexico, but we have not used it. We have kept smiling at Mexico, while our loaded gun has been a restraint on her wild elements.

After the Spanish War we trebled our regular army and we re-organised our National Guard and whole military system. If we had not and, in 1917, had had only our pre-Spanish War nucleus we should have been more unprepared than we were for the World War. We should not have been ready for St. Mihiel as soon as September 12, 1918, which was seventeen months after our entry into the War.

After the World War we again increased our regular nucleus, applied the lessons of organisation learned in France and provided for an organised reserve, by the Defence Act, of 1920.

On September 12, St. Mihiel Day, we are having a Defence Test. We do not mean that, we are going to mobilise all our forces on an actual war footing. We are to have the answer to the question, "How ready are you?" to all who can offer to help in the defence of the nation. As a people we are to think and act in terms of defence on that day. To this end we say that there is no danger of war in sight, the answer is: who would have thought in September, 1918, that we should have an army at St. Mihiel in September, 1918?

Whatever the size of our army, whatever the nature of our defence, this method, as an efficient people want them efficient for their size. Otherwise we are wasting our money and do not know how we stand. Defence Day is a test of efficiency, taking account of stock, an inspection in each corps' area according to the local commander's direction, and in keeping with the sentiment of the community. We are simply going to see in what condition our gun is if we need to use it in a hurry as we have had to in the past. We are not going to draw our brass down in order to put a chip on our shoulder. We are going to smile, or if we are not, we are not making a fair test of the American spirit. And the spirit is what counts.

A braving spirit would mean that we wanted to pick a fight. Pershing is not a braver. The American people are not bravers and our ex-service men are not. But we know what war means and on that day. This does not mean that we are going to fight. Pershing is not a braver. The American people are not bravers and our ex-service men are not.

Armies stand for material force. But so do police. So do firemen who fight not men but fires. The policeman smiles on his beat, but we know he has a gun and a club to use if need be. He does not go about picking quarrels and beating and shooting people because he has a club and a gun. Public opinion commands him. It also commands the soldier who makes war only under orders. It sets the spirit of the Defence Test.

When you pass a fire engine house you do not say: "This town must be fond of fires." School fire drills do not encourage fires, but awaken the children's imagination to the meaning of fires and how to guard against them. Forest rangers, who are trained to fight fires, also put up signs not to throw lighted matches about. But people continue to throw lighted matches about. Human nature is careless; it has many passions. Fires have a way of breaking out and wars have.

Defence Day, presents no picture of the assembling and manoeuvres of vast armed hosts of conscripts such as regaled the eyes of the European warlords before the war. Our nation depends upon all our people if war does break out.

"Now I don't want to fight with you," said a Western cowboy to a tenderfoot in the old days, "and I don't want you to pick a fight with me. But before you come in here show me how I can shoot a target and then let's speak fair and see if we can't settle our differences in a friendly way. Take it from me, this shooting is a good unness unless you just have to do it."

Compare this view with that of a Balkan officer whom I heard say: "Of course, we're going to have another war. What would we do without war? They're the big sport.")

If there is any man in the United States who feels in this way, whether he be a lawyer or not, and the kind of trouble-maker who misuses the Defence Test. Every word and act which promotes the growth of fair play, of justice, of good feeling among nations is keeping, with the braving spirit of our people in responding to the call to do their part on September 12 as on all other days. Peace is what we all want and we may have peace in the future while we keep ourselves strong within reason, not as a threat, until there is some better guarantee than we have now for the ideal. Then, we all desire—that there will be no more wars. —"American Legion Weekly."

Camelo: I congratulate "Spot" (Sep. 11, L. P.) on his suggestion to hold the "day of the Mexican Army" for veterans. Now that the bitterness of the death struggle for supremacy has abated, nothing but harm can result from a continuance of expressions of hatred and feelings of hate. If we nurse such germ, as sure as our sins, eventually bring their day of retribution, so the day of reckoning will come to us as a nation.
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