FELLOW DIGGERs:

I desire to take the opportunity of the approaching New Year to extend to the members of the League, as well as to every ex-service man and woman in the State, the compliments of the season, and to wish that the year will bring each of them a great store of prosperity and happiness.

I have only just been installed into the position of President of the League in W.A., and I am already learning that the office, just because it is such an honourable one, demands constant attention and the closest devotion. All that is demanded of me as President of the League, I am prepared to give, and I ask my comrades to grant me this in return—their co-operation and help in making the League a living force in the community and in giving it a prestige and a power which the whole State will be glad to acknowledge.

The symbol “A.I.F.” possesses a magic which calls forth the proud homage of every Australian. Shall we not strive to infuse the same magic into the symbol “R.S.L.”? The men are the same and the lustre of one should shine from the other.

“A.I.F.” stood for defence of right, home and liberty; loyalty to the throne; self-sacrifice in the cause of Australia and the Empire. “R.S.L.” stands for the same high purposes, with these in addition: readiness to stand by our comrades who were bent and broken in the A.I.F.; watchfulness over their dependants; willingness to put out a helping hand to every digger in the hour of his need.

Everyone who was in the A.I.F. ought to be in the R.S.L. Far too many are standing out. We ask them to join up. There is room for them all, whatever the nature of their political views may be. There is a welcome for all, whatever their creed may be. For the League is non-political, unsectarian and rigidly keeps out of all industrial disputes. In whatever part of the country they may live they will find a branch of the League, and we appeal to them to link up with it. If they wish to know what they will get from the R.S.L., our answer is: The benefits are many, but perhaps the most important of all is the knowledge that they are helping to strengthen an organisation which, made up as it is of all that proved itself strong and virile in the nation, must be a force of incalculable value in securing the stability and greatness of Australia.

STATE PRESIDENT.

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Editors: E. S. Watt, L. Gibbons.

Subscription: 3/6 per annum, payable in advance.

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All business communications should be addressed to the Manager, "The Listening Post," 70 King Street, Perth.

All other communications should be addressed "To the Editor."

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THE SCOPE OF THE NEW YEAR.

The closing year has not been free from incident. The steps which have been taken towards pacifism by civilisation have been fraught with such insurmountable obstacles that most rationalists are of the opinion that they have been retrograde steps. The economic conditions of-to-day are such that it can hardly be said that the promised after-war epoch is approaching our war-time ideals. We had long since realised that the psychological finding in the matter of permanent peace establishment is, that until human nature changes, war cannot be entirely eliminated. The world cannot be purged from the disability of incompatibility of temperament whilst the component units are possessed of chafing moods; and realising the impotence of human efforts to remove the situation, we can say that the advocacy of preparedness has ever been ours. Soldiers have unanimously—the exceptions may be ignored—supported the introduction of adequate defensive measures; well known that such precautions are the reverse of conducive to war. Notwithstanding this logical conclusion, we have seen our hopes in the Singapore Base crushed, but we have lived to see the fate of Government in the Mother Land.

Our communication lines with the Imperial Centre were not strengthened by the introduction of home rule in Egypt, and the present British Government is to be praised for taking advantage of the assassination of the Sirdar to protect the vital way from Suez to Port Said.

With the progress of time the Digger is feeling his responsibility in world affairs. Happenings of grave importance had little significance for him until he was forced to play in the greatest drama ever enacted: he now sees the trend of collective thought and is desperate of helping to avert disaster, or to improve what is already undesirable and useless. Little can be achieved in national or domestic affairs unless there is an effective organisation. This fact is indisputable, as the proposition that a straight line cannot pass space. The existing organisation is responsible for far more than any individual can comprehend. We see as a rule the tangible and obvious results, we saw the introduction of the Repatriation and War Services Department, we saw improved conditions in the matter of training, visits, and medical benefits and more liberal pension rates. These all owed their inauguration and administration to the League's existence and largely in a sub-conscious sort of way. The tendency to whittle away benefits conferred, and to brandish with subtle craftsmanship the pruning knife, was curbed by demonstration of the League's disapproval.

In domestic matters the League has played no mean part, and so in matters of national importance it can also be felt. In fact, although its strength could be augmented by closer adherence on the part of returned men generally, it has that duty of active interest in national affairs to perform and as a stepping stone in the right direction it might send forward a message to the Home authorities denoting the League's appreciation of the honouring of the agreement at the Imperial Conference.

SOLDIER MENTALS.

As each day goes by the Soldier mental patient becomes more irrevocably condemned to suffer the jangle of unreasonable all time. He grows under institutional restraint less amenable to the wonderful restorative of Therapeutics. The delay in providing congenial environs, in furnishing scientific treatment and creating avenues of physical employment is due largely to the raising of side issues by irresponsible.

Firstly—The League, some years ago, sought to improve the conditions for the men who suffered as a result of the war-caused malady. Later the public became interested as well as the politicians. The politicians knew their job, and prepared a certain plan of action—but the sickness remained in need of restoratives. The patient grew less amenable to the wonderful restorative of Therapeutics. As the sickness grows, the League grows less amenable to the wonderful restorative of Therapeutics.

Secondly—There is an admittance by all parties that the soldier injury is of a very different category, and that the inherent madness is of a very different category, and that therefore these men should be given the chance from a purely humanitarian standpoint. The lunacy laws of State are such that the Repatriation Department cannot handle these patients in any way which does not conform to the State legislation; otherwise the seeming impasse would never have been reached.

The conditions under which these men have lately been kept are such that there is not the slightest need for hysteria, such as one still hears and sees; but there really is need for scientific treatment without further delay. The food and accommodation are both subjected to criticism, but we can assure the R.S.P.C.A. that the State pays about 100 per cent. profit on the war-caused mental, the accommodation is greatly improved and the food is beyond reproach. Now that the doctrines of the irrepressible wave of progress cannot be isolated unless these ingrates cease their babble about two years' time limits and equal treatment for war-caused and non-war-caused disabilities.

R.S.P.C.A. DISPUTE.

After a heavy and prolonged bombardment against the autocratic officials of the R.S.P.C.A. the outer walls of their citadel have failed. At the recent annual meeting of the Society there were two applicants for the position of Hon. Treasurer. Mr. O. L. Haines and Mr. H. S. Humphrey, and the former was declared elected by the Chairman after he had ruled the admittance of the former in favor of Haines. A writ was then issued against the Society, and an injunction sought to prevent Haines from functioning as Treasurer. The application for the injunction was successful, and Mr. Humphrey is now fulfilling the duties of Treasurer. The hearing of the writ will take place after the vacation.
STATE EXECUTIVE
MEETINGS.
13/11/1924.

Present.-Messrs. Isaac, Collett, Morrell, Philip, McDonald, Bader, Colvin, Wedd, Bateson, Watt, Zeffert, Bolton, Cooke, Tyler, Butler, and Egan.

Soldier Settlement Scheme.—A letter was received from Mr. Cornwell regarding the scheme submitted by the Boyup Brook Sub-Branch for the establishment of a sinking fund to repay interest, and it was resolved that this matter be referred until the delegates returned. (Mr. Cornwell had informed him he had some interest on money.)

War Service Homes.—The Secretary reported with regard to deposit required for War Service Homes in this State, and the matter was held over pending the report of the delegates to the Federal Congress.

Water Supply Department.—The Secretary reported that he had been in touch with Mr. H. Hart, who did not desire any action to be taken at present.

Benefits for Soldiers.—The preparation of a pamphlet compiling the various benefits provided for ex-soldiers was considered, and Mr. E. S. Watt promised to prepare the necessary matter in connection with the Scholarship Trust, and other matters dealt with by the Repatriation Department.

Land and Agricultural matters would be dealt with by Mr. Morrell, who would request the assistance of Mr. McAdam and Mr. Bolton volunteered to assist.

Mr. Philip promised to provide the necessary information in connection with War Service Homes.

Interest on War Service Homes.—Moved Mr. Colvin, seconded Mr. Bader, that the State Secretary make enquiries as to the method of computing interest on War Service Homes.—Carried.

New Railways.—The State Secretary advised that the Minister for Works had informed him that no matter of new railways involved the question of finance, and would have to be referred to the Colonial Treasurer. A letter had at once been sent to the latter, but no reply had yet been received.

Lake Brown Water Supply.—This matter had been referred to the Hon. Mr. Cunningham at the request of the Minister for Works, and a reply was now awaited with regard to the proposal for a depot for a depositing point.

Kalamunda Home.—Correspondence was read with reference to the proposal for a deputation to wait on the Red Cross Society. Moved by Mr. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that the Committee appointed be requested to move at the earliest possible moment with a view to securing the Kalamunda Home for the purpose of a Veterans' Home. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that it be an instruction to the Committee to send an urgent wire to the delegates to the Federal Congress, asking them to approach the Federal Government for an advance of £2,500 per annum for the purpose of carrying on the Kalamunda Farm as a Veterans' Home.—Carried.

War Aggravation.—A letter was received from the General Secretary with regard to the Royal Commission on War Aggravation, and as the finding of this Commission had not yet been published, it was moved by Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Zeffert that the matter stand over until the next meeting.

Arrears of Rates S.S.S. Properties.—A letter was received from the Minister for Lands stating that the Soldier Settlement Board had given an assurance that the soldier purchaser would not be held responsible for arrears of rates at the time of purchase, when the failure to collect such arrears was due to the negligence of the Department.

Osborne Park.—Mr. Cooke moved the suspension of Standing Orders to ask if the request from the Osborne Park Sub-Branch for a loan of £50 had been dealt with, and was informed that this matter was still with the Finance Committee.

After discussion it was resolved that the Finance Committee be given power to finalise this matter and reply to the request.

Anzac Day Bill.—A letter was received from Mr. Latham stating that the Premier could not see his way clear to introducing an amendment to the Bill as suggested. Moved by Mr. Watt and seconded by Mr. Zeffert that the State Secretary endeavour to arrange a meeting of Returned Soldier members of Parliament of both Houses, with a view to having the wishes of Congress put into effect.—Carried.

Caretaker of Kalgoorlie School.—A letter was received from the Premier's Department with regard to the position of caretaker of the Kalgoorlie Central School.

Moved by Mr. Morrell and seconded by Mr. Colvin, that in acknowledging the letter of the Premier dated 7th November, the State Secretary ask that this League be provided with what circumstances in the case arise, which would not be met by the strict adherence to the principle of preference to Returned Soldiers.—Carried.

REPORTS.

Hospital Nurses.—The State Secretary reported that with the State President and Past President he had interviewed several nurses with regard to the matter of hours worked by them, and the delegates to the Federal Congress would further discuss the matter in Adelaide.

Finance Committee.—The Finance Committee submitted as a report the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th October, which were received.

With regard to the motion relating to the expenses in connection with an investigation in the Eastern States, Mr. Bolton moved and Mr. Colvin seconded that this item be excised from the report.—Carried.

The remainder of the report was then adopted.

Mr. Zeffert tendered his resignation as a member of the Finance Committee, and it was resolved that this be further considered at the next meeting of the Executive.

26/11/24.

Present.—Messrs. Isaac, Collett, Morrell, Philip, Watt, McDonald, Humphrey, Cornwell, Colvin, Zeffert, McCarthy, Egan, Cooke, Bader, Butler.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Bateson and Bolton.

Soldiers’ Settlement Scheme.—The letter from the Boyup Brook Sub-Branch was again discussed, and Mr. Humphrey stated that the matter of Soldier Settlement had been fully discussed at the Federal Congress, and the Federal Government was asked to call a conference of representatives from each State with the idea of crediting and putting on equal terms, soldier settlement throughout the States.

Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. McDonald, that the Boyup Brook Sub-Branch should be advised of this.—Carried.

War Service Homes.—The report of the State Secretary with regard to the interest charged on War Service Homes was again placed before the delegates, and it was decided that no further action be taken.

The State Secretary reported that he had made enquiries at the Workers’ Homes Board as to the method of computing interest on War Service Homes, and gave particulars. Mr. Colvin stated that he did not wish to take the matter any further.

New Railways.—The State Secretary reported that before receiving a deputation, the Premier had asked for full particulars.
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of the suggested new railways, and details of that for Lake Brown district had been placed before him. A reply was now awaited.

With regard to the proposed railway on the Wongan Hills line, it was proposed to obtain full particulars from Colonel Fitzgerald, who was now in town.

Lake Brown Water Supply.—The State Secretary reported that he had waited on the Minister for Water Supply in company with Mr. Griffiths, M.L.A., and placed the needs of the settlers prominently before the Minister. He read copies of a letter which he had sent to Mr. J. Mulqueeny, who brought this matter up at Congress.

War Aggravation.—A letter from the General Secretary with regard to the Royal Commission on War Aggravation was again read. Mr. Humphrey stated that the report of the Commission had been handed to the Prime Minister, and would be dealt with on his return to Melbourne.

Caretaker, Kalgoorlie School.—The State Secretary stated that he had been unable to obtain a reply to the letter, but was still pressing the matter with the Premier's Office.

Resignation of A. H. Priestley.—A letter was received from Mr. Priestley tendering his resignation from the Executive on the grounds of ill-health.

Moved Mr. Morrell, seconded Mr. Zeffert, that a letter be written to Mr. Priestley in view of the valuable services he had rendered, asking him to reconsider his resignation, and extended leave should be granted to him if required. He could also be relieved from positions on all Committees.—Carried.

Co-Operative Stores for Produce.—Colonel Fitzgerald attended the meeting, and placed before the Executive a resolution from the State Congress dealing with the allocation of part proceeds of the recent Art Union, for the purpose of establishing a co-operative store for the sale of products grown by Returned Soldier settlers. Col. Fitzgerald outlined his scheme, and it was moved Mr. Zeffert that a committee be appointed for the purpose of investigating the scheme put forward.—Carried.

Messrs. McDonald, Zeffert and Butler were appointed as a Committee, and arrangements were made for a meeting.

Enquiry Committee.—Colonel Collett submitted a report on behalf of the Committee appointed to deal with the State Secretary's resignation, which was received.

After a lengthy discussion Colonel Collett moved the adoption, which was seconded by Mr. Colvin.—Carried.

Moved Mr. Bader, seconded Mr. Zeffert, that the report be left in the State Secretary's Office for the perusal of members of the Executive, and further consideration deferred until the next meeting.—Lost.

Mr. Zeffert then moved a vote of thanks to the Committee for the time they had given to their work, and the thorough manner in which they had gone into the matter generally.—Seconded Mr. Bader. Carried.

State Secretary.—The matter of the State Secretary's resignation was then discussed, and the Secretary stated that he had no desire to withdraw this. It was then moved Mr. Butler, seconded Mr. Cooke, that the resignation be accepted with regret.—Carried.

Moved Mr. Cornell that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of advertising the position, and that a schedule of the duties of the State Secretary be prepared for the perusal of applicants. Seconded Mr. Morrell.—Carried.

The following Committee was then appointed:—Colonel Collett, Messrs. Humphrey, Cornell, McDonald.

Moved Mr. Morrell, seconded Mr. Tyler, that a Special Meeting of the Executive to be held on the 3rd of December to receive the report of the above Committee.—Carried.

Finance Committee.—Mr. Watt submitted the report of the Finance Committee, and then handed in the resignation of the two remaining members of this Committee.

Moved Mr. Colvin, seconded Mr. Cooke, that the report be adopted.

Moved Mr. McDonald as an amendment that the report be adopted with the addendum regarding the resignation excluded. Seconded Mr. Morrell and carried.

Adjournment.—The meeting then adjourned until after the Special Meeting on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1924.

3/12/24 (Adjourned.)

Present.—Messrs: Isaac, Collett, Morrell, Philp, McDonald, Humphrey, Pady,
Colvin, W. W. and others.—The State Secretary reported that efforts had been made in an endeavour to obtain compensation for Waring for the period he was out of employment, but without success.

Moved Col. Collett, seconded Mr. Bolton, that the report be received.

Mental Patients.—A letter was read and received from the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission in connection with mental patients, and it was decided that this be handed to the Press for publication, and that the discussion stand over until the State President return from the Eastern States.

Moved Mr. Morrell, seconded Mr. Bader, that a statement be prepared and handed to the Press showing what this League has done with regard to the question of Mental Patients.—Carried.

Oaklands.—A letter was read from the Secretary of the Oaklands Sub-Branch in connection with the Annual Congress.

Financial Clips.—A letter was read from the Federal Executive showing resolution carried at last Federal Congress to the effect that the Crown for 1925 shall have a green base with yellow figures.

It was moved Mr. Humphrey, seconded Mr. McCarthy that the letter be received and that an order for 3,000 clips be placed with a Melbourne firm.

Primary Producers' Branch.—A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive showing resolution passed at the Ninth Annual Congress of the League, recommending the formation in each State of a sub-branch of Soldier Primary Producers.

Lake Brown Railway.—A letter from the Premier's Department in connection with the Lake Brown Railway was received.

Reports.—Reparations Committee: A report of the Reparations Committee meeting, held on the 18th November, was received.

State War Memorial: A report of the State War Memorial Committee meeting, held on the 9th November, was received.

House Committee: The report of the House Committee in connection with the Dining Room was received.

On the motion of Messrs. McDonald and Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Philip was elected to take the place of Mr. Priestley as member of the Committee.

Mr. Colvin stated that he was forced to resign from the House Committee.

Moved Mr. Humphrey, seconded Mr. Pady, that the resignation be accepted with regret. Mr. McCarthy was then elected in his stead.

Kalamunda Home: Mr. Butler's report in connection with the Kalamunda Home was received.

Moved Mr. Humphrey, seconded Mr. Philip, that the Committee as appointed endeavour to arrange a meeting with Dr. Earle Page, during his visit to this State.—Carried.

Art Union Committee: The State Secretary submitted a report in connection with the recent Art Union, which was received and adopted.

Finance Committee: It was decided that the resignation of this Committee tendered at the last Executive Meeting be accepted with regret, and in the meantime that all accounts be attended to by the two Vice-Presidents.

Executive Meeting.—It was decided that the next meeting of the Executive take place on Tuesday, the 16th December.

R.S.P.C.A.—Mr. Humphrey reported in connection with the recent activities of the League's R.S.P.C.A. Committee. The report was received.

It was moved Mr. Humphrey, seconded Mr. McCarthy that an amount of £200 he set aside for the use of the R.S.P.C.A. Committee of this League.—Carried.

On the motion of Mr. Bolton, it was resolved that the Executive empower the Committee to await upon the Government with the requests as outlined in the report.

The report of the Committee was then adopted.

3/12/24.

Special Meeting of the Executive, held at the Soldiers' Institute on the 3rd December, 1924, called for the purpose of receiving the Sub-Committee's report in connection with the position of the State Secretary.

Present.—Messrs. Isaac, Collett, Morrell, Philip, McDonald, Humphrey, Pady, Colvin, Wedd, Bateson, McCarthy, Egan, Bolton, Cooke, Taylor, Bader and Butler.

Report.—Mr. Isaac submitted a report of the Committee, which was received.

Expenses.—It was moved Mr. Morrell, seconded Mr. Butler, that an amount of £15 per day be allowed as expenses to the State Secretary in addition to his salary of £8 per week.—Lost.

An amendment was moved Mr. Cooke, seconded Mr. Wedd, that the salary of the new State Secretary be £416 per annum, and that £25 per day be allowed as expenses, when away from home.—Carried.

Termination of Appointment.—Moved Col. Collett, seconded Mr. McDonald, that the termination of appointment be one month’s notice on either side.—Carried.

The remaining portion of the report was then adopted on the motion of Messrs. Collett and Bateson.

On the motion of Messrs. Bader and Egan, it was resolved that the matter of advertisements be left in the hands of the Committee already appointed.

BEVERLEY SHEEP DISEASE.

The matter of the Beverley Sheep Disease was brought under the notice of the Returned Soldiers at the State Congress, held in October, when it was resolved that the Government should be requested to thoroughly investigate this disease; and if sufficiently experienced observers are not to be obtained in this State, the Government procure the services of an expert from France or Great Britain.

This matter was placed before the Agricultural Department, and the Director advises that provision has been made on the estimates for the appointment of a Veterinary Pathologist, and it is intended to call for applications for the position almost immediately.

The dining room of the Soldiers Institute, Perth, was recently re-opened, after being closed for a few weeks for a thorough re-organisation. A big improvement has been effected and we have no hesitation in recommending it to diggers and their friends, and it is to be hoped that this splendid convenience will be well patronised by city diggers, particularly during the lunch hour.

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AVONDALE ESTATE AND SOLDIER SETTLERS.

A deputation waited on the Minister for Agriculture on Friday, the 12th December,
to protest against a portion of the Avon-
dale Estate being used for the purpose of
a jam thicket. Cattle would not keep the
seeding flocks from growing up, but it had been
proved that running sheep on the property
would have this effect. It was also point-
ed out that in all probability the cattle
would come from all parts of the State,
and there would be the danger of noxious
weeds and plants being introduced into
the Beverley district. The deputation was
strongly of the opinion that the estate
should be put to the purpose for which
it was originally intended, and that it
should be used to settle returned soldiers.
If so used and utilised for the purpose
of wheat and sheep farms, there was no
doubt but that it would prove a very
profitable asset to the district. The other
members of the deputation strongly sup-
ported the contention put forward.
The Minister regretted that he would
be unable to comply with the request of
the deputation and stated that it was ab-
solutely necessary that a depot should be
provided for cattle for the Group Settlers.
The matter had received very careful
consideration and it was found that the
Avondale Estate was the most suitable
property which the Government could put
to that use. He stated that although the
Estate was intended for Returned Sol-
diers, it would still be a benefit to those
men as the cattle would go to quite a
number who had taken up properties
under the Group Settlement Scheme.

He noted their objection with regard
to danger of suckers growing up, and this
would be carefully watched. When asked
how long the depot would be required,
he stated that he was unable, to give
definite information on this point. The
Minister was then asked whether, after
the depot had been abolished the Estate
would revert back to its original purpose,
and he stated that this would be a matter
for the Minister for Lands, and he would
discuss the matter with him.

SANDALWOOD AND
PREFERENCE.
At the Annual State Congress of the
R.S.L., held in October last, the matter
of preference to Returned Soldiers in
the sandalwood industry was discussed.
This was brought under the notice of
the Conservator of Forests, who states
that the total number of orders, which
may be issued is restricted, owing to the
total tonnage, which may be exported in
any one year, being limited to 6,000 tons.
There has consequently been great difficulty
in finding work for all men who have
previously been engaged in the industry.
Last year there were sufficient men pulling
sandalwood to forward the wood to
Fremantle at the rate of 20,000 tons per
year.
The placing of orders is in the hands of
licensees, but is supervised to some
extent by the Forestry Department.
The Conservator gives the assurance
that in cases which are brought under the
notice of the Department, where a num-
ber of persons have claims to a limited
number of orders, the influence of the
Department will be directed, provided
other things are equal, to seeing that Re-
turned Soldiers receive preference.
**THE LISTENING POST.**

**DECEMBER 19th, 1924.**

**SUB-BRANCH NOTES.**

**BEVERLEY SUB-BRANCH.**

Beverley is very much perturbed over the Government’s decision to use the Avondale Estate as a depot for dairy cattle for the Group Settlers. The estate was purchased a good many years ago for closer settlement purposes, and a large portion of it has been sold for soldier settlement. It is some of the finest land in the fertile Avon Valley, that is to say, it is some of the finest land in the State. We of Beverley have advocated the establishment of an Agricultural College on the Estate, which is eminently adapted for the purpose, and had hopes of its being used for such until the recent purchase of Muresk. Although as used at present for wheat-growing and sheep, it does bring in some little revenue to the State; if it were used for dairy it would bring in no direct revenue at all.

The Beverley Sub-Branch is in favour of the Avondale State Farm, the area of which is about 1,700 acres, being cut into two portions, and it has long been desired by returned soldiers, and we have written the Executive asking them to approach the Minister for Lands and place the suggestion before him.

The Sub-Branch will probably go into recess for two or three months during harvest.

**WAGIN SUB-BRANCH.**

Owing to the demand on his time, Secretary C. Firman recently sent in his resignation and the Branch was fortunate enough to find a successor in Mr. F. Peakes. Efforts are being made to resuscitate the Library and it is intended that new books and magazines be purchased. At the instigation of the Branch, Thanksgiving services were held on the Sunday nearest to Armistice Day. In the morning the service was held in St. George’s Church, by Padre Moorhouse, who delivered a powerful oration. A special address was given by the Rev. G. Philp, at the Baptist Church, in the evening, who concluded with a passionate appeal to diggers to exercise the same virtues apparent on the battlefields, through their civil life and thus assist to make Australia a better and a happier country.

On Tuesday, December 9th, the Sub-Branch held a Euchre Party and Dance in St. George’s Hall. Considering the warm night and another attraction the attention was good. During the evening a raffle for a £5 note was drawn, the winner being Miss Mavis Flannery. When the round of euchre was completed a dainty supper served by the Women’s Auxiliary was enjoyed. Dancing was indulged in until the wee sma’ hours, the floor and orchestra adding much to the pleasure of dancers.

**BOULDER SUB-BRANCH.**

Secretary Vic. O’Grady writes:—During the past three months satisfactory progress has been made by the Boulder Sub-

**DALWALLINU SUB-BRANCH.**

The best attended and most enthusiastic meeting yet held by the Dalwallinu District Branch took place in the new hall at Dalwallinu recently. Fifteen new members were enrolled and an ambitious programme was decided on for the coming year. Visitors were present from Perth, Moora and other centres.

The report, as read by the President, showed a fine return for work done during the past year, while the balance sheet proved that the handling of the finances was above reproach.

The system of sub-district organising, instituted during the year, was commenced, and the following were re-elected:

Pitara, Mr. W. Cleaver; East Pitara, Mr. E. Monks; East Dalwallinu, Mr. W. Bicket; North Dalwallinu, Mr. R. P. Bickett; Wubin, Mr. F. Myers, J.P., and Jilleam, Mr. G. S. Chamberlain.

The following new Committee was elected:

Messrs. H. McL. Orr, C. Leavers, A. Cranwell, and many new members have been enrolled. In September the branch conducted a Street Carnival, and notwithstanding adverse weather conditions a profit of £10/- was realised. A motion has been granted by the Commissioner of Police to conduct a sweep on the Sydney Cup, the proceeds of which will be divided equally between the District Fund and the Rest Rooms Fund. The proceeds of a special collection held in the Railway Reserve on Armistice Day, and was fairly well attended. Mr. Humphrey, past State President, was met at Kalgoorlie by representatives of the Branch on its return from the Federal Congress, held in Adelaide recently, and shown over the rest rooms, which, by the way, are being painted and renovated in readiness for our big re-union social on December 4th. Our guest of honour on that night is expected to be our new State President, Rabbi Freedman, who is expected to arrive on that date and spend a few days in Kalgoorlie.

The Sub-Branch will hold the establishment of an Agricultural Department in the State, Mr. E. S. Watt, paid us a visit in September, and addressed members at a special meeting on Repatriation and the Executive, etc., etc., a live wire and a good sport. Things are very quiet in Boulder at present, but we are hoping for better times ahead.

The Boulder Sub-Branch extends hearty Xmas greetings to all sub-branches and members of the League in the State.

**After the Meeting.**

What was generally agreed as the largest and most cheerful gathering of its kind yet held in the district, sat down to the Smoke Social. The toast of the King was first given, followed by that of fallen comrades given in silence.

The Day We Celebrate" was given by Messrs. Cleaver and Bickett, and Mr. Cleaver requested them to use their experience abroad, and consequently broadened minds to advance the interest of their district. He recommended taking part in all public affairs, for the day was coming when practically every soldier would be employed in public and commercial, would be held by returned men. The day, in fact, was fast coming when they would control the destinies of the nation, and their influence must be for advancement and the broader outlook at all times. The defence of the country had been sadly neglected, and returned men, who most of all knew the horrors of war, must see that our great country was so defended that a foreign power would not deem it wise to encroach on our rights or attack us. Wars in the past have come with startling suddenness. The young boys were all right if given the material and money to train, which was a working man in an entitled position. The East was overflowing, and Australia was handy and large and empty. A well trained and well-equipped soldier was our only insurance and the R.S.L. must leave no stone unturned until that was secured.

At the conclusion of the President’s address the boys rose en masse and lustily sang "For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow."

The happy convivial spirit of those assembled was worth going a long way to see, during the hours that followed old friendships were renewed and new ones made. Men from famous British regiments changed notes with diggers of the A.I.F., the slang of Australia was blended with that of the Midlands of England, Tasmania, the Shires of New South Wales, and the Hills of Donegal; Digger Collyer was a host in himself, producing the old war songs and marches in endless profusion. Volunteers fairly fell over themselves to give songs and recitations, the latter ranging from classical Gunga Din to the Wild Colonial Boy. The well-known choruses were sung as only a re-union of soldiers can sing them, while, during an interval, Mr. Perry put a first-class comedy on the screen, the humor of the actors being in touch with the spirit of the gathering.

Mr. Cranwell, with other members of the Committee, kept a steady hand on the liquid ammunition, while Mr. Jenkin made an excellent Master of Ceremonies.

Mr. Pitara, Mr. Cleaver, and a string of Scotch Schottische started the men from the Land of Burns could contain herself no longer, and joined by others of the Sassenach breed, they stepped as they had done a thousand times in their camps during the war.

One smiling digger was heard to explain, "I'm back at war again; what memories it all recalls, and how good it is to meet this way again." And that was the spirit of the evening. It will long be remembered.
XMAS GREETINGS TO DIGGERS

From His Excellency the Governor-General the Rt. Hon. Lord Forster:—

"A Very Happy Christmas to all Returned Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of Australia, and the best of luck for the New Year to them and their families.

From Mr. G. J. E. Dyett, Federal President R.S.S.I.L.A.:—

"Kindly convey to your Members and readers my best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

"Whilst most of the ex-Servicemen and women have successfully re-established themselves in civil life, there are unfortunately some who, through unkind and unexpected developments and sickness have not realised their tenderest wishes and confident anticipations, but who, nevertheless, are striving with that dogged determination, courage, and fortitude, which characterised their efforts and undertakings during their service abroad. Needless to say, it is the bounden duty of their comrades (each and every one of us) to whom fate or fortune—whatever it may be—has been kinder, to facilitate in every way the difficulties of those concerned by extending the hand of encouragement and—good-fellowship, and also affording them every opportunity to ensure the attainment of their most cherished hopes and desires.

"The Returned Soldiers’ League, through the instrumentality of the official organs and other suitable journals, can do much to alleviate the troubles of ex-members of the A.I.F., who are in need of any kind of assistance; consequently, those who served their country in time of dire necessity should not be subject to a continuance of unnecessary suffering or hardship.

"In re-assuring your members and readers of the desire and preparedness of the Federal Executive of the League to make available in the interests of ex-service men and women and also their dependents its influence and facilities, I again desire to wish the diggers, their families and the dependents of our fallen comrades a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

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COLLIE PERSONALITIES.
A strong believer and a solid worker for the League is George Beaver, of the Collie Sub-Branch. When called upon to do his bit for the Branch he is always there, and never misses Branch meetings unless his work takes him away from home. George has been tried out by the local Forests’ Department, and has made good, easily justifying the recommendation of the Branch regarding his capabilities when applications for the position were made. We wish him every success.

A chap who does a lot of good work for the League is Jack (“Blukey”) Bamford. Has been a member of the Collie Branch for years, and takes an active and useful part in all the stunts conducted by the Branch. He is a model League member.

Missed from the last two meetings of the Branch is Jim Crocker, Jim’s cheery and illuminating tales during Branch meetings are worth listening to. Manages to keep on the right side of the Chairman always by adopting a disarming attitude in regard to whatever business is before the chair. Jim is a good worker and possesses a great disposition, and the Collie Branch hopes to retain him so long as he remains Jim Crocker.

W. A. Green and Reg. Galvin, both soldiers settlers of the Collie district, and of course, both members of the League, attended the last meeting of the Branch, and between them gave some useful information in connection with the discussion on the proposed conference of soldiers settlers. They would certainly be a useful pair at such a conference, as both are making good on the land.
ARMISTICE DAY AT WOGAN HILLS.

Delegate A. E. Pady writes—In response to an invitation from the Local Branch for a member of the State Executive to pay them a visit, I found myself landed at the Wongan Hill Station at about 4 a.m. I was met by a member of the Branch and conducted to the State Hotel, where arrangements had previously been made for my stay. After a short sleep, breakfast was announced, and the Secretary, Mr. A. W. Hensworthy, was introduced. I found him most enthusiastic in R.S.L. matters; and afterwards learnt that it was mainly through his efforts that the Branch was brought into existence. During the morning I was also introduced to the Branch President, Mr. Hugh Ackland, and although I did not see much of him during the day, I was assured by all those interested that he was the right man in the right place. The rest of the afternoon was spent in visiting and chatting to members who lived near at hand.

In order to bring members together a dinner had been decided upon as part of the day’s proceedings, and at 7 p.m. a splendid dinner was served in the large dining hall of the State Hotel. The tables were nicely decorated and the food was of the best and the manager and staff are to be congratulated in the very excellent way arrangements were carried out. A fine having-done justice to the good things provided, President Hugh Ackland submitted the toast of “The King,” all present joining in the National Anthem. Army and Navy was proposed by the Secretary, Mr. Hensworthy, and responded to by Mr. Yorkey Murrow. The toast of the Central Executive, by Mr. H. Coomer, response, Mr. A. E. Pady, gave me an opportunity of giving the gathering a resume of the activities of the League during the year. The discussion on the policy of the Executive as set out by Congress during the coming year. My remarks were well received, and I believe that as a result the members present gained a better knowledge of the aims and objects of the Executive. “Absent Friends and Kindred Associations,” was also proposed by Mr. McKenzie, and responded to by Mr. O. Gauzer. A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the dinner portion of the programme.

All present then adjourned to the adjoining hall, where a Masquerade Ball was carried on. About midnight a dainty supper was served, and I was again asked to address the gathering whilst they were having supper; this I did and my remarks were again well received. Prizes were offered for the best comic character, lady and gent, and also most original character, open to children, boy and girl.

About 2.30 a.m. proceeds came to a close after a most enjoyable night.

SISTERS’ WORKING CONDITIONS.

In the endeavour to obtain for nursing Sisters better pay and shorter hours the League has for some time been in touch with Federal and State Ministers. The following reply was received from Mr. G. W. Munsie, the Hon. Minister in control of Hospitals:

“This matter has received consideration by the Government, and early this year a conference was called to discuss the ways and means for a reduction of hours.

“The maintenance of the nursing staff of Government Hospitals receives more thought and causes more concern in the Administration than any other phase of the administration, as it is realised that through causing the nursing staff has not always, received as much consideration in the past as it should.

“The conditions have, however, been reviewed, and the first decision recorded was a reduction to a maximum of 54 for day duty and 60 for night duty.

“Unfortunately, this decision, although agreed to by the Government, cannot be put into actual practice until more nurses can be secured and placed on duty at certain of the larger hospitals. At the smaller hospitals with a limited nursing staff, it is recognised that it will be impossible to adhere strictly to definite hours and days off (but, at hospitals where this is possible, reduction as mentioned is given in each case to adding a few additional days to the usual period of annual leave.

“In regard to the metropolitan hospitals, the reduction of hours cannot be put into operation until increased accommodation for nurses has been provided, and this matter is at present under consideration.

“So far as Departmental hospitals are concerned, the trouble is not so much the staff accommodation as it is the finding of additional nurses to relieve the duties of the existing staff, but as additional nurses can be secured the reduction of hours will be put into operation.”

The State Secretary of the Returned Soldiers’ League has communicated with the Fremantle Tramway Board with a view to obtaining travelling facilities on the Fremantle trams for incapacitated Returned Soldiers. Any Returned Soldier incapacitated in such an extent that he is receiving a 75 per cent. pension should place particulars of his case in writing before the State Secretary of the League, when representations will be made on his behalf.

Points from Wongan.

The Wongan Hill Branch Secretary is a live wire. He is also a most stubborn man; he was told it was impossible to get a Branch formed there, so out of pure cussedness he set to work and formed one—30 strong.

The President of the Wongan Hill Branch is the right man in the right place. We hope to become better acquainted.

There are critics even at Wongan Hill. Well, they are welcome as long as they are constructive! Anyway, what is wrong with joining up and improving your Branch?

Mt. Lawley—North Perth Sub-Branch are to be congratulated on the marked success of their Re-union Smoke-O held recently in the Lyceum Theatre at Mt. Lawley. Social, Secretary Alf. Fisher arranged a programme which would take a power of hearing and President Morrie Zeffert made an ideal host. General Secretary “Pat” V.C. busied himself in keeping the tumblers bem full. This Branch has become famous for its smoke socials, which they hold half yearly, and members of sister branches look forward to receiving invitations to these functions.

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**VARIA.**

*Camelot:* So the dirty “Gip” got it where the chicken got the axe. Foolish sentimentalists and others who obviously had an axe to grind (no pun intended) have criticised the Baldwin Government’s firm and just stand, but Diggers who had years of experience of the traitorous smell’l shun know the wisdom of Britain’s strong action. A weak move would have eventually resulted in tragedy for both parties.

*Spot:* Good on you Rabbi! It was high time that someone came out into the open to put a “stopper” on a few of the hysterical limelight loving people who have been exaggerating the plight of our mentally sick comrades at Claremont. The Rabbi and the League recognised the unsatisfactory position as it existed and, quietly and surely, have almost attained their objective. In my humble opinion the “hysterical” party have only succeeded in drawing a hierarchy across the trial and, in their “consistent” abuse of the Federal Government, the matter they have displayed their ignorance of the true facts. What rot! It is to keep reiterating that the full responsibility of all disabled ex-soldiers, whether war or otherwise, is a Commonwealth Repatriation one. One prominent busybody, who, when she suited her, championed the soldier and the League, and who has lately been displaying a marked change of front, is responsible for the statement that the League has done nothing for the ex-soldier mental patients. This lady’s ignorance of the whole matter is colossal, but it evidently suits her to belong to the “hysterical” mob.

*R.S.L.*—The philanthropic spirit has moved in a gratifying manner for the boys at Anzac Hostel. These totally and permanently incapacitated men have been provided with a wireless receiving set by the best quality procurable. Mr. Isokine is the philanthropist, and his action is cheering to soldiers generally.

*Rey.*—Your correspondent in the October number who said that war pensions were payable to children after the age of 16 made a rather elastic statement. I think he will find that only orphan children are entitled to have their pensions carried on beyond 16, and then only in special circumstances. I also understand that no widow has her pension reduced to 2½/ per week when the youngest child becomes 16 without first having her case considered regarding her income generally; the result of such consideration is to give her such rate of pension as will enable her to live without hardship.

A “Jack” Michael writes:—“I am the proprietor of a street fruit barrow, and am of Greek nationality, with practically my life-time spent in Australia. The ‘Sunday Times’ in commenting on the barrow problem some little time ago stated that if any other stands were thrown open they should not be given to oily foreigners. I wrote to that paper objecting to the insulting para, and mentioned that three of the oily foreigners served abroad in the A.I.F., and that on my return to this State from the war my home town honoured me with a public reception, at which I was presented with a gold medal. The S.T. published the letter omitting all references to A.I.F. service and on calling at that paper’s office I got no satisfaction, and they would not sight the wrong done by them. This from a paper which pretends to champion the cause of the diggers. ‘Fair play is bonnie play;’” (Jack Michael was a good soldier and is a good citizen.—Ed.)

Collie sub-branch is as important and as necessary to Collie as its municipal council, and nearly every activity or interest of its individual members appears to be catered for. We don’t know if they run an official or unofficial two-up school, and if they do, whether or not Harry May and Tom Shannon act as ring keepers, but we do know that the Collie Eleven would have had some tall exercise chasing the leather had they been game enough to visit Coal Town and take on the sub-branch eleven. Nothing but sheer bad luck and bad scoring will prevent this team from winning the local premiership this year.

An astounding iniquitous regulation in force in England debars a widow from receiving a pension if her husband dies more than seven years after his discharge from the army, although he may have died as the result of disease contracted on service. The British Legion has been fighting this matter energetically for some time without success, but they are living in hopes of an early rectification of this injustice.

**BRITISH EX-SERVICE MENTALS.**

The British Legion appears to be having a similar fight on behalf of their mentally sick comrades as the League is having in this State.

Here are over 6,000 British ex-service men classified as insane to-day and until recently they were all inmates of county asylums, where they received the same medical attention as hereditary and pauper lunatics. Recognising that justice demands that in every case where there is the slightest possibility of recovery ex-service men should receive special treatment, the Legion eventually persuaded the Government to agree to separate institutions being set up, where specially selected cases are sent from the county asylums, and where the men receive the best medical skill and attention possible.

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"LEST WE FORGET."

(Contributed by Alec. G. D. Esson.)

"Judge of the Nations, spare us yet—

Lest we forget—Lest we forget."

With the above lines from Kipling's "Recessional" ringing in his ears, the writer left St. George's Cathedral, Perth on 11th November last, after attending Armistice Day Memorial Service in honour of the men who will not come back. All honour to these men who have enlisted in a Higher Command where neither class prejudice, nor petty spite, nor Government lack of sympathy worry them.

It is otherwise with the men who came back. Although one can see that public sympathy is still with the ex-soldier, it must be admitted that practical demonstration of war-time promises and obligations is beginning to die out. We were told that nothing could compensate us for our part in the Great War, but recent events prove that, in the opinion of many, the time is passing for preference and adequate compensation for the returned man. It almost seems that we are to have similar treatment to that meted out to the Boer War Archbishops.

Archbishop Riley, in a stirring and sympathetic address, made an appeal for soldiers and their dependants. He quoted Admiral Sturdee's words: "It would be perfectly humiliating to us if, after sending our boys off, we brought them back to give them work." Yet it is only too true, however great the humiliation may be, that they have had to beg for work, and perhaps the humiliation is not to those who ought to feel humiliated, but to the soldiers themselves that they should be brought to such a condition. What a commentary upon human ingratitude! We were beseeched to treat our youths as home girls, Minister of the Crown, members of the Government, and by public dignitaries of every shade of creed, class and kind, to do our bit to protect our Empire from the invasion of those who habitually beggars.

It is true that in times of danger and stress, all that is best in an individual or nation comes to the surface and makes its appearance. This applies equally to soldier and civilian. The difference in application lies in that in the soldier's case he may and does receive lasting mementoes of his time of trial in the shape of medals and often mental disabilities and war injuries; whereas it is still true that the oft-repeated "nothing is too good for the returned soldier" is still applicable.

My personal opinion is that the returned soldier's best friend is the returned soldier. Too often does one see the sneering, half-tolerant smile upon the face of the man, who stayed at home, when he looks at some poor unfortunate, broken upon the wheels of the war chariot.

Might I make an appeal to all soldiers of our Empire? Men, let us unite, for unity is strength. Let us sink personal differences and, by numbers, by propaganda, by insistence upon our own case, let us show the public and those in positions of authority that we are fully determined to be a force in the community—a force that will make itself felt in every branch and phase. Let us go further and put forward returned men as Members of Parliament—men who will be pledged to look after the interests of the soldier and who will be shamed by no party bias or opinion.

It seems to me that the ideal of real democracy lies in the protection of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Australia, although democratic, has not fully attained to that ideal, and it lies with the soldiers themselves to attempt to make it real, particularly in regard to the less fortunate fellow-soldiers.

To a certain extent there is in Australia a prejudice against the Imperial Soldier. After all, the latter fought for the same ideal as the Australian soldier—including amongst other things an united British Empire—and it is only fair to keep this in view. Sink prejudices and differences and make the soldier influence and the soldier vote something with which to be reckoned.

A further point that suggests itself is that Governments, by honouring their promises and obligations, may find a growing reluctance, on the part of ex-soldiers at least, to participate in the defence of their country in the event of another war, threatening the safety of the nation in the near future. This is a point that is worthy of consideration, the more so as it is a definite bar to patriotism. Archbishop Riley said in his address that "some people appear to think that, by merely adopting resolutions, it would be established that there would be no more war. Nobody can reasonably expect this, and it is well for the powers that be to bear it in mind. If a feeling of dissatisfaction is encouraged among the enemies of our Realm, then it will indeed be as Kipling says—"

"Far called, our navies melt away, Our doughty headland sinks the fire;"

Lo, all our pomp if yesterday Is one with Nineveh and Tyre! Judge of the Nations, spare us yet, Lest we forget—Lest we forget."

EMPLOYMENT.

THE SITUATION IN BRITAIN AND AUSTRALIA.

"Party Politics" is the everyday cry when the cause of unemployment is sought. The British Labour Gov-ernment was enabled to hold its office by its slogan "Find Work for the Unemployed." We have seen that the Ramsey-McDonald Government was unable to improve the situation. Over seventy thousand ex-service men are living on the Poor Law Relief or charity. They are anxious and willing to work, but work is not to be had because money is being loaned for creating work in foreign countries and England cannot spare any for creation or maintenance work in Britain! The progress of time will make these men habitual beggars unless a change of policy is introduced.

In Australia we find, with our wider range of scope, which results from the need for progress, that the position is less acute. There are instances where men were in employment of a more or less permanent nature, and when they enlisted these positions were taken by the stay-at-home, who still hold them. These things do not tend to make the returned soldier a better citizen. The fact that many are so insane that they cannot follow their pre-war calling swells the ranks of the unemployed; but so much more has been done to vocationally train our men who were unfit for the pre-war work, that the position is very much more favourable than it is in Britain. We have the assurance of our present Government in Western Australia that preference to soldiers will be operative during its term of office, and yet we find it said that Departmental Heads have been circularised to the effect that first preference must be to unionists. We do not quarrel with the principle of unionists having preference in all things excepting where the soldier element is concerned, and we do feel strongly that soldiers having risked and lost so much for the country's weal, they are entitled to the first chance of employment going.

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FEDERAL CONGRESS

Mr. H. S. Humphrey, who with Rabbi Freedman, represented the State Branch at the recent Federal Congress of the League, presented an interesting report on his return. Mr. Humphrey stated that appreciation was general of the entertainment that was extended to them by the South Australian Branch.

Victoria was not represented, owing to their continued unfavourable condition, but their agenda resolutions were considered.

Telegrams of greetings were received from the Prince of Wales, Earl Haig, and General Birdwood.

The most important matter dealt with was the adoption of a national policy for inclusion in the Constitution, dealing with national interests and the integrity of the British Empire.

The bulk of the W.A. Branch resolutions were carried without amendment, i.e., the mental soldiers questions; re-assistance to purchase war service homes, and discharge of mortgage; re 50 cent. of losses borne by Federal Government; adequate defence measures; applicants who passed Commonwealth service exam. in 1918; employment of soldiers in polling booths; certificates of merit for Mr. Donaldson and Dr. Mackie, and the motions re non-fulfilment of pre-war promises.

It was decided that a Certificate of Merit Badge be given a recipient of that honor, and that the 1923 crown have yellow figures on a green base. It was also agreed that the Commonwealth Government be asked to have the cut inscription on the gravestones of deceased soldiers as suggested by the State Branch. Singapore Base was asked for and Congress favoured military training as at 1914.

The following important resolutions were also carried:

**J. C. Morrell’s Appointment.**

"That inasmuch as General Glasgow was not mutually accepted as an arbitrator or referee, but as an examiner of S.P.R. and in view of the number of competent returned soldiers available, and of the Commonwealth Government’s repeated declaration that Returned Soldiers would fill war-created positions, Congress reopened the matter and protest against the appointment of a stay-at-home to the position of a War Service Homes Commissioner for New South Wales."

**Furniture Grant.**

"That this Conference made strong representations to the Minister of Repatriation, urging that all applicants who have been prevented through war-caused circumstances, recommended by the R.S.S.I.D.A. for Furniture Loan, and provided that the Deputy-Commissioner for the State is satisfied with the integrity of the applicant, though such application is lodged after five years from the date of discharge, be accepted."

War Service Homes.

"That in view of the fact that there is at present no official other than that of the Commonwealth Bank who collects rent only, an inspector in the person of an employee of the Commonwealth Works and Railways Department be appointed to this State, to enable complaints etc., being lodged and dealt with on the spot."

"That this Congress expresses its dissatisfaction with the action of the Federal Government in retaining Messrs. Morrell and Peterson in the positions of Deputy-Commissioner W.S.H. Department, New South Wales, and Secretary to the W.S.H. Commission respectively, and instructs that further steps be taken to secure their replacement by returned soldiers."

**Land Settlement.**

"That it be a recommendation to the State Branches to create in each State a Sub-Branch of Soldier Primary Producers, as being the most successful way of bringing the matters affecting this most important industry prominently before both Federal and State authorities."

**War Service Homes—War Widows.**

"That representation be made to the Commonwealth Government be made with a view of securing in all States the same conditions for soldiers’ widows in the matter of providing a home, as obtainable in South Australia under the State Bank Soldiers' Homes' Act."

**Education of Blinded Soldiers’ Children.**

"That children of Blinded Soldiers should receive benefits under the Soldiers’ Children’s Education Scheme, in the same manner as children of deceased or totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers as now eligible."

**Widows’ Pensions.**

"That the matter of Widows’ Pensions be placed before the authorities with a view to obtaining an increase in the payment, and more adequate provision for providing the necessities of life, having regard to the number in family."

**Pensions Widowed Mothers.**

"In lieu of the present discretionary powers of the Repatriation Commission to make a Living Allowance, the pensions of Soldiers’ Widowed Mothers be increased to not less than $2 2s. per week."

**Commonwealth Public Service.**

"That in view of the extreme dissatisfaction existing throughout the C.P.S. owing to employees being continued on the temporary list for extended periods until the age limit is reached preventing permanent appointment, this League endeavours to bring about legislation providing for appointment at the age of 51 years and over in cases of Returned Soldiers with years of temporary service to their credit."

"In the opinion of Congress the Federal Government should take immediate action to appoint to the positions for which they have qualified the remaining 387 returned soldier candidates who were successful at the Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Examinations."

**Employment.**

"That the Federal Government be requested to introduce the necessary legislation to ensure the complete absorption into the industries of the Commonwealth of all disabled ex-soldiers."

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PERSONALITIES.

Tom Campbell of the Repatriation Department who conducts the affairs of the Imperial Pensioners is at present holidaying, and has been enjoying some Rottnest bathing.

Stan. George, of the same Department, has recently undergone an operation as a soldier patient and is reported as convalescent once more.

Dr. Beveridge, returned man, holds degrees many members of his profession cannot boast. He is attached to the Soldiers' Department and has earned the esteem of all diggers who have had to report to him. His examinations are thorough, and his knowledge shows him the true position; his personal disability gives him a view point of another man's disability, which is the only just angle for consideration.

Bill Elpherson, ex 28th Battalion, and devoted Treasurer to the 28th Association, scored an easy victory at the last Subiaco Municipal Elections. Congrats!

Another victor at these elections was Albert Johnsen, better known as Johnsie; he served on the Palestine front and is now a Treasury (Federal) Officer, and employed on Old Age and Invalid Pensions. It is gratifying to see diggers in the van of their local affairs.

Alec. J. Campbell passed away on December 8th, after a long and distressing illness. His circle of friends was a wide one—he was a member of the West Perth Sub-Branch, and comes of soldier stock. His father was killed at Gallipoli, and his grandfather—Col. Campbell—saw much service in the Boer War and in the recent World War. Alec was with the Artillery, and laterly with the 44th Battalion. Our sympathy is with his widowed mother.

Mr. T. Bird recently resigned the Secretaryship of the "Wingies and Stumpies" Association to take up a Government position, and the popular A. G. "Stumpy" Wright was elected to the vacancy. "Stumpy" was the Association's first President, and for a few years was an Executive Member of the R.S.L. He is also a member of the State Repatriation Board. When this journal was mooted three years ago the proprietors were racking their brains for a suitable name to call it. It was "Stumpy's" suggestion to christen it "The Listening Post", so let he that is without sin cast the first stone.

Stan O'Grady has returned from the East looking more prosperous than ever. Prior to Stan's departure eastwards this journal hinted that Hywomen or Hymen, or whoever is responsible for man's downfall from bacchicordon, was interesting herself or himself in this case. We now desire to offer Stan an apology, and state that the rumour proved to be a lying jade. But we still 'ave 'opes.

G. Spencer Compton, who represented this State's mining interests at Wembley, recently returned to the West.

Died recently in Perth, Mrs. Curle Smith, who during the war organised and controlled the Red Cross Society at Kalgoorlie. No woman worked harder for the soldiers with less limelight, her self-imposed task being that strenuous that it sapped her vitality and hastened her death.

After about three years good and faithful service for the State Branch of the League, Arthur Penny has tendered his resignation as State Secretary and applications have to be called for the position. Mr. Penny leaves possessing the respect of a large majority of diggers in the State, who wish him every success for the future.

Claremont-Cottesloe Sub-Branch, which has been more or less dormant for the past year or two, has suddenly sprung into activity and is gaining in prestige and membership daily. The credit is largely due to Secretary Arthur Brown, who served with the fighting 31st for a period of about three years, receiving his share of knocks and wounds during the process.

An enthusiastic champion of good, better and best diggers, also the occasional bad one, is Mr. J. Orr of Mount Lawley. Mr. Orr is Chairman of the Committee which was responsible for the beautiful war memorial at Mount Lawley, recently unveiled by the Governor. We would like to see Mr. Orr revive or resurrect the dormant or defunct Fathers' Association.

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Interesting Impressions of a Digger Globe-Trotter

Mr. Jim Paterson, who was in charge of the W.A. Quota of Boy Scouts to the recent Imperial Jamboree, recently returned after a tour of many old-world countries, and a representative of this journal scenting interesting copy, interviewed him on his return and secured the following interesting impressions:

"In such a crowded and eventful trip, one finds it difficult to know where to start, but the following are perhaps the chief impressions I have received. One thing I am certain of, and that is 'Aussie' is a mighty fine country, and W.A. will always do me."

"I paid an official visit to the head office of the British Legion and met Colonel Heath, General Secretary, and Captain Appleby, Assistant General Secretary (who is blind). They were much interested in Western Australia, and at their invitation, I paid a visit to Mr. Vivian, a departmental secretary who looks after migration service men. Mr. Vivian wanted first-hand information on agricultural matters in W.A., and I, with the assistance of several of my senior scouts, who are practical farmers, told him what I knew. The impression has since got around that we gave incorrect information; I stoutly deny this. We believe we told the simple truth; the information is not in anyway detrimental to the interests of the State, although perhaps not in keeping with propaganda issued by Government representatives in London."

"As for London, it was a mighty exposition and a monument to the prosperity and wealth of the great Empire to which we belong. Truly we are a wonderful people, and I came away from the Exhibition with several resolutions that we are the only successful colonising nation the world has known. Many an able pen has extolled its virtues, but perhaps not in keeping with the true spirit of the Empire, the combined efforts of nations of the world."

"I enclose you with these details from the Glasgow Herald regarding the Australian Pavilion, and its display."

"If the effect was intentional, the success was a phenomenon; if unintentional, it is extraordinarily fortunate. There is no bunching, no overcrowding. The suggestion of sunshine and freedom is everywhere. The place simply exudes the sunny and free, with that of the checks of its apples which by the way I can heartily recommend."

"The lighting, the colours of the rich tall wheat, even the stall owners, all have a goldish hue about them, so that with the closing of a door you seem to have left grey England far behind."

"In the W.A. corner of the Australian Pavilion I ran across Mr. Compton and Captain Craig cheerfully answering hundreds of enquiries re Australia, in general, and our State in particular, and at Savoy House, Our Government Office in the Strand, I nearly bumped into General Hoth."

"When the King inspected the Boy Scouts of the British Empire in July just prior to the Imperial Jamboree at Wembley, His Majesty was visibly pleased with the comprehensive nature of the gathering. There were assembled one thousand of his subjects from every far-flung corner of his vast Empire, black, brown or yellow. South Africa held pride of place in numbers, being two hundred and forty strong, but more credit is due to Australia for sending two hundred and thirty almost twice the distance. Perhaps, too, physically, Australia led, the appearance of the boys being favourably commented upon. The day of the inspection was wet (no snowfall, vide Australian press), and the boys filled the Royal Riding School at Buckingham Palace. Such a wonderful movement as that of the Boy Scouts is found to prove a decided asset to the Empire."

"All eyes in England are at present turned towards Australia. Wherever I went I found people eager to discuss this country and its prospects. The Old Country holds out nothing for them, they have wasted for the trip to turn them and they have been disappointed. Still it is a big thing for a man to leave England, home and beauty, especially if he is married, and travel ten thousand miles to a new, strange country, perhaps without prospects. The desire, natural as it is, to cling to one's land of birth until the last, is strong. Yet, if sufficient assurance were given to these men, that in coming out to our country, they would be treated decently and fairly, I am convinced many would make an immediate decision."

"The unemployment dole in Great Britain is doing untold harm. Many people are not 'troubled themselves to look for employment; married men, with families find they can get on at a pinch without having to work; single men, actually get married on it and one even hears of persons throwing up their employment in order to obtain this cursed allowance. Worse than all these, however, is the dangerous fast that children, on leaving school and unable to obtain employment, automatically receive the dole, and in many cases do not acquire the habit of work and probably never will so they will become hopeless loafers. Truly, the Old Country is in a sorry plight, one way and another, and one prays that she will eventually emerge prosperous, happy and free."

"With regard to my visit to the Continent, one found that the old French feeling of cordiality towards Britain and British people has almost disappeared, and in its place has appeared a coolness and restraint, due, of course, to our firm attitude with France on the reparations problem. France is still heavily armed, intent on having her own way. Moreover, she is in dread of Germany, which nation will soon have a population double that of France. The feeling between the two nations is one of intense hatred. One finds in Germany preparations for a 'War of Revenge,' not against Britain, but against France. Germany seems to be a prosperous nation; one could discern no signs which would lead one to conclude otherwise. Her peoples attitude towards Britain on the whole seems to be a friendly one, especially among those peoples whom we formerly knew as Bavarians. Still, speaking personally, I would not care to trust a German, for not only have people in England and France told me what is going on, but in the little country of Denmark, which has been such a cause to dislike her powerful neighbour, my Danish friends averred that Germany was not at all repentant, but one the contrary, revengeful."

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