State Presidency Goes To Mr. W. S. Lonnie

Mr. W. S. Lonnie, the senior vice-president of the Returned Servicemen’s League, was unani­mously elected as the League’s State president at a special meeting of the State executive held during Congress.

He succeeds Mr. F. C. Chaney, who had held the position for the past three years.

Mr. Lonnie is the second serviceman from World War 11 to be elected president of the State branch of the R.S.L.

He joined the League in 1945 as a member of the Subiaco sub-branch, becoming president of the branch in 1946.

Mr. Lonnie was elected to the State executive in 1947, and has been vice-president of the League for the past three years.

During World War II he served with the 1/2/4th Battalion of the 9th Australian Division in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo. In Borneo he was awarded the Military Cross.

Mr. Lonnie is administrative officer of the State Medical Depart­ment and Commanding Officer of the City of Perth Regiment (2/4th Battalion). He was assistant-director of the State Royal Tour, a service which he was a member of the Victorian Order.

Twice-determined

The election of president was dealt with twice during the currency of the 39th annual State Congress.

Although Mr. Chaney had previously announced his intention to retire, he was re-elected to a fourth successive term under a provision of the constitution which sets out that nominations for the presidency must be held in two months before Congress.

As Mr. Chaney’s nomination was the only one received, the returning officer had no alternative but to declare him re-elected.

Mr. Chaney then formally tendered his resignation, which was accepted with regret.

Under the constitution it then devolved upon the State Execu­tive to appoint a successor to Mr. Chaney, and Mr. W. S. Lonnie was chosen.

New Vice-president

Dr. R. I. Greenham was elected a vice-president of the Returned Servicemen’s League by a special meeting of the State Executive held on August 15.

He fills the vacancy caused by the election of Mr. W. S. Lonnie, to the office of State president.

Dr. Greenham, who served with the R.A.A.F. in World War II, joined the R.S.L. in 1945 as a member of the Midland Junction sub-branch.

He was elected to the State Executive in 1946, and had been a trustee of the League for the past four years.

The meeting also elected to replace Dr. Greenham as a trustee, and Mr. J. W. Walker joined the executive in place of Mr. W. S. Lonnie.

R.S.L. Men Aid War Widow

Members of the Kensington sub-branch of the R.S.L. were kept busy recently painting the war widow’s house inside and out.

Messrs. Hill and Owens, with other members, gave up Sundays to this work, and made steady progress.

The ladies’ social night held recently in the Collins-street hall was a great success.

Credit was given to the social committee for organizing the occasion and dance music was provided by Messrs. Robertson and Lyons.

Two Scottish pipes played the pipes for some Scottish jigs.

The branch welcomed Mr. Mackay home for a spell of leave.

Big State Land Scheme Planned

A case based broadly on the principles of the War Service Land Settlement Scheme would soon be submitted to the Commonwealth Government for the opening-up and settlement of 2,000,000 acres of land extending east and west along the coastline near Esperance.

The Minister for Lands and Agriculture (Mr. Hoar) revealed this to the delegates at the 39th annual State Congress.

He said that there was little doubt that the War Service Land Settlement Scheme had been a major contributing factor in stimulating interest in land settlement in Western Australia.

It was interesting to note, in most cases where there was now a demand for private settlement, that attention had been drawn to these districts by the initial proposals by the Land Settlement Board for soldier settlement.

The development of areas east of Onongup and Needleup for soldier settlement had drawn attention to tracts of land with a useful rainfall and suitable for fat lambs, wool and grain production.

It was his intention that, subject to classification and subdivision, these areas would be progressively opened for private settlement.

Provision were made for large grants of land being sold to settlers.

Mr. Hoar said he would be very glad to assist in any way he could to find assistance for the settlers.

Dr. Greenham advised that in view of the rapid increase in Western Australia’s population and the necessity for Australia to maintain exports a case could be made for this general land-settlement scheme on Commonwealth-State lines.

"Exaggeration"

Mr. Hoar said he had been particularly concerned in recent weeks at complaints as to the generally unsatisfactory returns being obtained from many dairy farms under the soldier settlement scheme.

He had been somewhat reassured, however, by a report from the R.S.L. land committees which indicated that these reports were greatly exaggerated.

Mr. Hoar said the committee had recommended that further clearing be carried out on a number of farms to permit free use of machinery, and that a degree of leniency should be exercised in regard to the annual commitments which farms had been asked to meet.

The first of the recommendations was now being carried out, Mr. Hoar stated, and he would assure Congress that each individual farm was examined and the commitments based on the actual activity of the individual property.

ON OTHER PAGES

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R.S.L. OFFICE-BEARERS, 1955-56

President: Mr. W. S. Lonnie.
Vice-president: Mr. E. O. Davies and Dr. R. I. Greenham.
Country vice-president: Mr. T. Stanley.

Regional vice-presidents: North-West, Mr. A. Lloyd (Broome); Central, Mr. S. J. Budd (Kellerberrin); South-West, Mr. A. Brown (Dinninnup); South, Mr. W. E. Parr (Gnowangerup).


War-Service Scheme Has Priority

As far as the Commonwealth Government is concerned, the War Service Land Settlement Scheme will be completed before any other civilian settlement scheme is commenced.

The Under-Secretary to the Minister of the Interior (Mr. C. T. Fander) said that at the annual State Congress of the R.S.L.

In reply to a question, he said that so far as the Government had already turned down approaches by the States to commence a civilian scheme on War Service Land Settlement lines.
CARING FOR VETERANS

Congress has come and gone, and one of its decisions was to instruct the State Executive to examine the possibilities of building and maintaining a war veterans’ home other than Faversham at York and to present its findings to the next Congress.

Whatever these findings may be, do not let us forget that one of the League’s main objects is to provide and maintain a home. Therefore, are we not all, as members of the League, morally bound to do our utmost to carry out that trust? Of course we are. Indeed, for us it must be one of the most pleasurable tasks we are called upon to perform.

How then can we help? Let us consider firstly what is required to run any home wherever it may be.

(1) The majority of our veterans require a comfortable home and good food, but at a price they can afford. It is interesting to note that the minimum charge at Faversham is £2.5/ a week, whereas the cost of maintaining each guest is approximately £5 a week.

(2) From the above, it is apparent that revenue from other sources, such as interest on the War Veterans’ Home Fund and donations, have kept the house solvent.

(3) Should the decision be to build another home, about £1,700 per annum will have to be found from board and lodging charges.

(4) To turn up the above three points, could the League be assisted

R.S.L. Wants Dock For Fremantle

The Commonwealth Government will be asked to build a graving dock, in or adjacent to the port of Fremantle.

A motion to this effect was passed by the State Council. Mr. L. J. Bartley (Fremantle), said that the opening of Cockburn Sound had strengthened the claims for such an undertaking and its establishment should not be outside the scope of the Commonwealth’s “overseas flowing finances.” Such a dock would be of national importance in time of war, Mr. Bartley said.

Anzac Day Observance To Remain Unchanged

The observance of next Anzac Day will be the same as in previous years.

This decision was the result of long discussion by State Council.

A motion to throw Anzac Day afternoon open to hotel, trading and sport was decisively rejected.

The majority of the delegates expressed the wish that the whole day be observed solemnly in memory of the war dead. Mr. E. C. Townshend (Public Service sub-branch) said that the public was not fully informed on the reasons for the sacred observance of Anzac Day. Shortly before last Anzac Day he was talking to a 16-year-old girl and found she had no idea why the day was commemorated.

The League was falling down in its job of teaching women and children the significance of Anzac Day, Mr. Colvin said.

Anzac Day was for doing nothing else but paying respect to the men who did not come back, he said.

Congress also carried a motion that “the State Executive take special and urgent action to educate the public and the younger generation in the significance of Anzac Day.”

Anzac Day was for doing something to brighten the home and feel in a national importance to the war veterans, and the York sub-branch women’s auxiliary provided afternoon tea on July 19.

Donations

Donations received during July were:

Wundowie Club (Inc.), tobacco on 1st X .
Red Cross, tobacco (monthly issue).
Hawks (Wyalkatchem), periodicals.
R. Banks (York), pickled pork.
Miss B. Lord (Busselton), clothes.

To all the above the committee offers its grateful thanks on behalf of the veterans.
FUTURE OF LEAGUE

This year, ten years after the cessation of hostilities in World War II, we may well ponder on the future of the League, both in regard to its purpose and its strength.

If you are one of those members who served in the 1914-18 conflict, you might equate your thinking with that of the parallel year following the first world War—namely, 1928.

The League was then on the threshold of its greatest hour. The depression was just around the corner and the adversity that struck men was to be the final requirement to bind the members of the organisation into a virile, all-respected force. Through this same adversity came the real strength of the League.

At that time the true significance of preference became evident; the spirit of comradeship, that had been kindled in France, was reborn in a thousand hearts as help was given.

Now, in 1955, it is impossible to foresee the future. Since the second World War we have seen a period of plenty, and those in need of a helping hand have been adequately catered for by the various funds that have been built up.

The framework of the League, its members, remains a solid force that, if ever the need arose, would be bound together by adversity, and the organisation would go from strength to strength. With the lapse of ten years the younger ex-servicemen have, in the main, rehabilitated themselves and are now rejoining their sub-branches in an active and useful way.

In this manner will they repay those who at all times maintained an organisation which ensured that rehabilitation was smooth and without the pitfalls and heartbreaks of 1918. The future of the League is in the hands of those men who are now accepting the responsibilities of League duties.

Home For 50 Veterans Suggested

A proposal to build a war veteran’s home with accommodation for at least 50 ex-service men is to be investigated by the State executive.

Mr. H. G. Holder (City of Perth) told the State Congress that the League had £48,000 in trust for such a home.

Since last Congress the Federal Government had passed legislation enabling the Social Services Department to make grants on a £1 for £1 basis to eligible organisations towards the cost of erecting homes for aged persons.

The League should take advantage of this and should effect a single-storey building equipped with all modern facilities, Mr. Holder said.

Such a home should be self-supporting. It should be equipped with vegetable gardens and poultry products.

A full report on the project will be prepared and submitted to sub-branches before next Congress. We hope that this will be given serious consideration.

Honorary Colonelcy For Brig. Lloyd

The Governor General (Field Marshal Sir William Slim) has approved the appointment of Brig. J. E. Lloyd, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D., as Honorary Colonel of 16th Infantry Battalion, Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia.

Brig. Lloyd has been associated with the disbanded organisation since its formation, having joined the unit in 1916 and subsequently served on second-in-command under the original Commanding Officer (now Brig.) T. S. Louch, M.C.

Brig. Lloyd took over command of the battalion in November, 1939, until in July, 1940, he was appointed to command the 2/28 Battalion (A.I.E.) and under him, the 2/28 Battalion served with distinction, and was in Tobruk throughout the siege of the town.

It was during this period that he was awarded the D.S.O.

In March, 1942, Brig. Lloyd was appointed to command the 16th Australian Infantry Brigade, which was firstly in Ceylon and then transferred to Burma, where it took part in the Kokoda trail operations. For his part in this campaign he was awarded the C.B.E.

Subsequently his wartime appointments were: Chief Instructor, Royal Military College, a secondment to Special School, a secondment on special duties, Commander of Lae Sub-Area, and Commander of Sub-Branch. In 1951, he was appointed to command the 2/28 Battalion in the Port Moresby district.

He was appointed to command the 2/28 Battalion in the Port Moresby district.

Past - President Extols The Men He Led

In his term as president it had been his honour to lead the greatest list of fellows in the world.

The retiring State President (Mr. F. C. Chaney) said this at a civic reception tendered in his honour by City Council Chamber to delegates to the annual State Congress.

It would be a pity in the life of the returned man if the R.S.I. ever ceased to exist, Mr. Chaney said.

The respect paid to the League was beyond the ordinary ranks; he said.

He believed the League was the beginning of a new generation. Because of this he would be retiring with sorrow yet with joy in his heart.

Mr. Chaney said that regardless of the threat of A-bombs and H-bombs it was vitally necessary that there should always be freedom of the individual.

"It is up to us to sacrifice anything, including our lives, so that freedom shall not perish from the earth," he said.

Welcome about 200 delegates, Government, civic and service leaders, the Lord Mayor (Mr. Murray) said that they represented possibly the largest gathering ever entertained in the Council Chambers.

Presentation

At the conclusion of the State Congress Mr. Chaney was presented with a set of six pewter drinking mugs and a silver tray.

The presentation was made on behalf of delegates to Congress.

Accepting the gift Mr. Chaney said: "This is my farewell. As a sit at home in front of my fire with my wife and family every time we lift one of those pewter mugs I will be reminded of so many who have served and the greatest list of fellows who ever lived—the men of the R.S.I."
Rumours Nettle Retiring Leader

Stories which were circulating about the reasons for his retirement from the presidency of the R.S.L. made him angry, the retiring State president (Mr. F. C. Chaney) said in his presidential address at the opening of the 39th annual State Congress.

The simple reason for his retirement was that the time had come for him to shape his own destiny without interference from his wife and family, he said.

Paying a tribute to his wife, Mr. Chaney said he could not have become president of the State without her help.

Then, it was unfair for people to say that he had retired because his wife wanted him to give more time to home. It was also unfair for people to say that he was retiring at the request of the Education Department.

Without the cooperation of the department he would have been unable to continue as president after his first year of office, Mr. Chaney said.

Mr. Chaney said that he was leaving the presidency of the League at the end of Congress, "though, however, I would do if I did not think that the League would be as well served by whoever succeeds me.

"The delegates to this Congress will face an agenda that may perhaps look less formidable than those of previous years. It is a fact that many of the principles fought for in the past have been won, and the sparsity of items can in itself bear witness to the success of the League in its past deliberations and efforts.

League's Task

"It has always been my idea that the League in any case did not exist for the establishment of principles in an individual case, and with strength in sub-branches and the machinery in operation at this head-quarters to investigate and assist the case of the individual there is no sense or strength in destructive and damaging criticism when negotiation can achieve what we desire.

"The League has a stern task. As an organisation of over a quarter of a million members it must see that its decisions are most carefully arrived at. "A force in public opinion, its members have a deep responsibility to themselves and to the nation. Even the simplest resolutions of this kind should receive the fullest consideration as to its implications for the lives of all."

"To our own members I would say that the badge you wear should be an indication of the part you are prepared to play. It is a badge worn to signify that you give service to others in peace as you did in war, a service that should extend outside the limits of your own local community itself."

Mr. Chaney said that one of the prime objectives of a League member should be to develop a feeling of defence awareness. "Too often the defence services are cried down by the people who should know best," he said. "League members should awake in their children and their neighbours an awareness of our defence.

"Touching on the search for a new National Anthem, Mr. Chaney said that in his opinion any move away from God Save The Queen was a most break down the ties of loyalty which existed between England and Australia. "I feel," he said, "that this Congress should pass on to the Federal Congress the first resolution that God Save The Queen remains the National Anthem of Australia."

High Praise

"The Congress was officially opened by the Lieutenant Governor (Sir John)," Mr. Chaney, Sir John said it, had served the League with grace and distinction. "I think it is a great pity, not only for the R.S.L. but the State too, that at his young age he should give away the leadership of the League," Sir John said.

"I felt sure that he would continue his service and leadership and through that play a vital part in the future of W.A."

The Premier (Mr. Hawke) said that Mr. Chaney had given the League "the best well-balanced and constructive leadership.

Further Check On Japanese Asked For

The Commonwealth Government will be asked to carry out a further security check on any Japanese divers introduced or about to be introduced into the Australian pearling industry.

A motion to this effect was passed at the State Congress as the State President (Mr. F. C. Chaney) told delegates that Japanese divers were essential to the pearling industry.

He tabled a book on Western Australia printed in Japanese and containing a complete survey of the State and its potentialities. A study of the book showed that the Japanese knew more about Western Australians, Mr. Chaney said.
Faversham House Extension
Among R.S.L. Aims

In view of recent Commonwealth legislation for the housing of the aged, the State Congress passed a motion asking the Federal Government to provide finance for extensions to Faversham House on a £1 for £1 basis.

The League vice-president (Mr. E. O. Davies) said that as assistance of those who could not help themselves under the R.S.L. policy there should be some arrangement under which this legislation could be applied to Faversham House.

That no people were more entitled to assistance under the Aged Persons Act than ex-service-vicemen, he said.

Other motions carried were:

State President Names Sub-Committees

State Executive sub-committee appointments were announced by the State President of the Returned Servicemen's League (Mr. W. S. Lonnie) at the executive meeting held on August 3.

The committees are:


Faversham House: Miss M. Mears, Dr. R. I. Greenham, Dr. K. W. H. Harris and Messrs. E. C. Townshend and A. J. Bartley.


Land: Messrs. W. S. Lonnie and E. O. Davids, Dr. R. I. Greenham, the chairman of the Finance, Trustees and Club and House sub-committees, and three ex-officio members, Messrs. Court, Steffanoni and Brisbane.

Building: Messrs. W. S. Lonnie and E. O. Davids, Dr. R. I. Greenham, the chairman of the Finance, Trustees and Club and House sub-committees, and three ex-officio members, Messrs. Court, Steffanoni and Brisbane.

Hospital Vetting: Miss M. Mears, Messrs. S. A. McNamara, H. Holder, A. J. Hartley and A. J. Hullett.

Staff: Dr. R. I. Greenham, Messrs. E. O. Davids and W. H. Stambury and the chairman of the Trustees.


Repatriation: Miss Mears, Dr. R. I. Greenham, and Messrs. S. A. McNamara, W. James and H. Holder.


War Veteran's Special Home: Mr. E. O. Davies and the chairman of the Finance, Trustees and Faversham sub-committees.

Anzac and Poppy Days: Messrs. W. S. Lonnie and E. O. Davids; Dr. R. I. Greenham, Miss M. Mears and the chairman of The Listening Post sub-committee.


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A.R.M.S. GAMES
Point Scores To End Of Round 4

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Port Moresby War Graves
Are. Well Cared For

Because of the gratification to parents of those
who died on war service to know that the graves
of their loved ones are well-cared for, the following
letter to League headquarters from Mr. W.
Downes, of Daglish, has been released for publica-

tion.

"I am writing to inform you
that Mrs. Downes and myself
wished to visit the War Graves in
Port Moresby. I must inform you
that the treatment given to
us could not be equalled but not
surpassed by the R.S.L. anywhere.

"On the arrival of the boat,
which stopped two miles out,
the launch came alongside and took
ashore about 36 persons, all
of whom had lost someone on the island. We were met by a
native brass band and taken by
car and bus to the R.S.L. head-
quartet and given refresh-
ments and a little rest, and then
to the War Cemetery about
12 miles out.

"To try and explain what a
wonderful place it is—its lay-
out and the way in which it
is kept—is nearly impossible,
and all I can say is: There is
no better.

"The Church of England,
Minister held a service before
we left and a tree was planted
outside the gates. Each per-
son threw in a little dirt to fill
the hole.

"We were then given lunch at
the R.S.L., headquarters, and
later a Mrs. Murray took us
to see the 'native dances, the
parks and other sights around
the town.

"We were also entertained by
the president (Mrs. Shorten)
and members of the Port
Moresby Women's Auxiliary.

"Before leaving at the jetty
we were given a send-off by a
native bagpipe band which
played as well as any pipe band
I have ever heard. The boat
was leaving the piper came out
on a launch and played again,
giving much pleasure to all on
the Himalaya as they waved
goodbye.

"We were sadly disappointed
not to find our son's name in
the cemetery. We got in touch
with the War Graves Commis-
sion in Melbourne and were in-
formed that our late son Alan's
name is on the Lae cemetery
and that we would be advised
later of further particulars.

"This letter is to inform the
R.S.L. officials and men of
Port Moresby of the splendid way
in which we were received, and
the attention bestowed upon
us by the R.S.L. at Port Mores-
by."

Mr. P. BELTON
HONOUR ED FOR SERVICE

The League's Certificate of Service was presented to Mr.
Phil Belton, vice-president of the
Mr. Lawley-Ingwoood sub-
branch, this month.

The presentation took place
at the sub-branch's August meet-
ning and V.P. night social.

The sub-branch president (Mr.
Val Abbott, M.L.A.,) referred to
the work done by Mr. Belton
for the sub-branch and the
League and asked the former
president, Mr. Fred
Chaney, to make the presenta-
tion.

Mr. Chaney joined Mr. Law-
ley sub-branch when Mr. Bel-
ton was membership secretary
in 1946.

He paid a glowing tribute to the
recipient, who, in his reply,
said that if he had not done
anything more for the League
than to suggest Mr. Chaney's
standing for the State executive
he had done the League a good
service.

Mr. Belton has held every
office in the sub-branch, he
being a member for three years. He
was editor of the sub-branch
journal for four years and also
a member of the "Listening Post" com-
mittee for several years.
Traffic Move Mars Fund-raising Plan

A plan by the Bassendean sub-branch to raise funds by supplying afternoon teas at the finishing post of a local cycle-racing event recently suffered interference when the finishing line was re-located owing to a difficulty with traffic arrangements.

The alteration took the crowd away and the day was less successful than had been hoped. This was reported by the sub-branch secretary (Mr. D. W. Robinson).

The race was the Okely Memorial event conducted by the Midland-Bassendean Cycling Club. It started at the R.S.L. hall -where stalls had been set up-and was to have finished there.

Mr. Robinson said that the sub-branch membership had now passed last year's maximum.

The building committee's activities, he said, were increasing and plans for a new hall might be ready for submission to the sub-branch this month. In an effort to increase the building fund a special 'bring and buy' evening had been arranged for Thursday, August 25, in the hall. The idea was for everyone to take a parcel valued at 3/- or more to be auctioned. There would be dancing and general entertainment.

Sub-branch May Revive Monthly Luncheons

There is a move on foot within the Public Service sub-branch of the R.S.L. to re-introduce the monthly luncheons.

The sub-branch secretary has traced their wish to do more in the matter. The proposal is to hold the luncheons at the Y.M.C.A. premises in Murray-street, commencing on August 10, and to have speakers to be arranged.

The charge is to be 4/3. Whether the proposal will be proceeded with will depend on the response of members to the suggestion.

“Mud Of Mortalai”

In a letter to members the secretary said: “Members of the R.S.L. have trebled the mud of Mortalai, the slush of Salonika, the floods of France, the snows of Syria, the rain of Rangoon, and the gales of Greece to say nothing of the storms of Germany, but alas far too few brave the elements ofunny Perth to attend their meeting. “What about swelling the numbers? Tuesday, August 19, at your sub-branch meeting? The time is 7.45 p.m., and the place the board room at Anringe House.”

“Now for a bouquet. It was very pleasing to see the excellent roll-up for the tree-planting ceremony at King’s Park.”

“Max Brice, of the Housing Commission, started long-service leave on Thursday, June 30, and was most persistent with his invitations at the tree-planting for members to visit his orchard for a little practice. Naturally enough there were no takers, but Max stated he would be prepared to entertain pruners instead at his orchard prepared by Giles Forrest.”

“Legacy Torch Bearers are at the moment conducting an appeal for funds to carry on their worthy work, so if someone should produce a card to you produce a bob and punch a hole in it. There are at the moment over 1,900 wards in this State and as it is through Legacy that the children of our fallen comrades are taken care of there should be no need for me to do any urging.”
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WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE THE REPUTATION OF 'THE HANDYMAN'

AUXILIARY FINDS £100 TO IMPROVE HALL

Without any flourish, representatives of the Manjimup R.S.L. auxiliary recently handed to the secretary of the R.S.L. sub-branch a cheque for £100.

The cheque was a donation towards the cost of a proposed septic system and reconstructive conveniences to serve the R.S.L. hall.

The auxiliary has also offered to meet the cost of a new stove for the hall kitchen, and has made a donation of £30.

These donations represent something in the nature of a change of policy for the auxiliary, which in recent years its members have raised money the hard way by catering for weddings and other social functions. Active membership is not large and the faithful few each year give many hours of unsuited toil to auxiliary activities.

Annually it has dispensed substantial amounts to charity, mostly of high value relating to ex-servicemen, but this money generally has been put through the State headquarters of the auxiliary.

At a recent meeting between the management committee of the R.S.L. sub-branch and representatives of the auxiliary, the view was expressed that while efforts of the ladies were highly commendable, it might be considered that the members of the auxiliary were not sufficiently supported.

It was probable that this discussion prompted the auxiliary to increase the present generous gesture.

Deep appreciation of the donation has been expressed by the president of the sub-branch (Mr. F. A. Haste) who said that the Manjimup auxiliary is an auxiliary of which it could be justly proud. It had always done a good job, Mr. Haste said, and now it had come to the assistance of the sub-branch in a manner previously unsurpassed and at a time when some concern was being felt regarding the financial aspect of the very desirable improvements to the hall.

Work Done For Women

The following report has been made by the Returned Ex-servicewomen’s sub-branch.

“At the present time members of this sub-branch are XV.

... working parties organised amongst the members during the week ends when they journey to York to do the work of making the rooms comfortable for occupation.

Other activities include providing supper for the Blind Ex-servicemen at their monthly meetings, and entertaining disabled ex-servicemen from various institutions during the year.

“Members of this sub-branch will also visit any disabled ex-servicewomen, taking with them books and sewing for their use, or any gifts for their comfort.

This includes an ex-servicewomen in her own home or those who may be in hospitals or other institutions.

VICTORIA PARK PICKS NEW EXECUTIVE

At the July general meeting of the Victoria Park R.S.L. sub-branch the main business of the evening was the election of officers.

The retiring president (Mr. G. Ford) did not seek re-election, and was acclaimed with thanks; with thanks also to the president, Mr. R. W. Armstrong, treasurer, Mr. T. Greensole; vice-presidents, Messrs. G. Hardman and W. Winter; trustees, Messrs. J. Barnett, T. Chandler and J. Jennings; auditor, Mr. G. Yates; assistant-secretary, Mr. W. Armstrong; committee, Messrs. G. Herbert, A. Winter, J. Vignoles, J. Woods and Robertson.

Once over the vote for the office of patron went to Mr. Gus Stewart.

Messrs. Harbin, L. Stoddart, and W. Lynch attended as visitors. Over 50 members were present.

Among the names on the list were Messrs. A. Murray, F. Brown and T. Taylor.

The August general meeting will be held on Friday, August 19, and a good attendance is being sought.

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Bugler Resigns At 72

The R.S.L. official bugler (Mr. George Gilmore) tendered his resignation at the annual State Congress. Mr. Gilmore (72) had been official bugler for the past five years but had not missed an Anzac Day or Rememberance Day service or, when his services were called upon, the funeral of any ex-service man over the last 27 years. He is a Boer War veteran. Paying a tribute, the retiring State president (Mr. F. C. Chaney) said that Mr. Gilmore had become a part of the atmosphere of the Anzac Day ceremony.

Personalities

Up from Denmark for State Congress was FRED STAHL, who for some years prior to taking over a farm in that district was a very active member of the State Executive. Fred, incidentally, is now chairman of the Denmark Road Board but has lost none of his interest in League matters.

JACK TOWERS, secretary of the Mt. Magnet sub-branch found time during a hurried visit to the metropolitan area to call and pay his respects at Anzac House. Jack reports that membership in his district is growing, as a number of chapts from Big Bell sub-branch (now closed down) are linking up with Mr. Magnet.

Seen in Perth during State Congress week was CLARIE MARTIN, of Northam sub-branch, he being one of the sub-branch delegates to Congress. Clarrie, by the way, is an erstwhile chairman of the Northam Road Board.

Down from Katanning last month was FRANK SEATON, president of the sub-branch at that centre. While in the city he called on League Headquarters to discuss matters of interest to his members.

TOM STEN, an erstwhile State president, due to pressure of work as principal of the Teachers' Training College, has severed his connection with the State Executive. His wise counsel and pleasing personality will be missed at Executive deliberations.

The president of Mt. Helena sub-branch, MENDAL COHEN, who by the way, has also been acting-secretary for some months, called at League Headquarters recently and invited Executive members to visit Mt. Helena to address his members on League matters. This will be arranged as soon as possible.

DON FYFE, president of the Boyup Brook sub-branch, when in Perth recently reported "all is well" with League concerns in his district. This sub-branch is holding meetings at centres away from Boyup Brook such as Boyup, Dandalup and Wilga. League members of these centres, it is reported, enjoy these "get-togethers."

LEW McCLENNAN, a well-known figure at Anzac Club is returning to Papa. Let it pipe major to the Perth Highland Regiment, which appointment he took up some time ago. He was pipe major in the Perth Highland Pipe Band and served in World War II with the 2/2 Battalion (Victoria).
Is "The Onus Of"

By

Vincent J. Brady

As one of the few lawyers privileged to get behind the iron curtain of Repatriation Tribunals I was in a position to examine the manner in which the Onus of Proof and the Benefit of the Doubt clauses of the Act is applied. Without the guide of written judgments or statements made by either the Commission or Tribunals it is difficult for the applicant, inexperienced in legal matters, to undertake or offer a correct guide as to the principles which have been followed.

I have had the advantage of perusing a statement issued by the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, Senator J. A. Spicer, Q.C., which purports to present an answer to the numerous enquiries made in Parliament. The following are my observations following on personal experiences in regard to my claims arising out of what I believe to be a war caused gunshot cancer disability. As the cause of cancer is unknown, it is natural that the Onus of Proof must play a prominent part in determining the issue.

As a result of my examination of the position, I am of the opinion that the Act should be amended to provide:

(a) for the right of appeal on a matter of Law to a Judge of the High Court or some other judicial authority. This would necessitate the Tribunal and the Commission giving some statement of judgment as to the reason for rejection of the claim where the application of Onus of Proof and Benefit of Clause is required.

(b) Giving to the Appellate Court the right to appear at all sitting when the Tribunal is not in session or to النقص the claim.

(c) The right to question those who have submitted medical evidence or opinions on the claim.

The Attorney-General’s statement, while correct, is mainly in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Act, and, of course in that respect, is purely academic. What the Service-seeks is some statement of the principles of Case Law and on which those administering the Act reach their decisions. For it is in this regard that the Ex-serviceman has doubts as to whether justice is, in all cases, being done.

Applying Act

The Commission and Tribunals are called on to apply the Act in a manner which, no doubt, Parliament thought would be just and sympathetic and protect the Serviceman. They want to know is the Law outlined by Senator Spicer being applied in the manner as laid down by the Common Law? Are they following the well established principles of Case Law? How is one to judge, since no judgments are delivered, no statements are recorded as to the principles which they have followed in the decisions given.

In a civil case or one under the Workers’ Compensation Act, decisions which do not follow the correct legal practice may be corrected by the Higher Court. This right is denied the Ex-Serviceman of Australia. Since the Onus of Proof in the Repatriation Act is on the Respondent, I feel it would be interesting for the serviceman to know what principles of Common Law are being applied. It might be stated that the Onus of Proof in these cases is in reverse being on the Respondent. The following are the Common Law principles regarding Onus of Proof.

(a) In civil claims where one is required simply to weigh down the evidence one’s favour.

(b) Those of Criminal Law where one must carry the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. It is to this latter type of case that the Repatriation Act applies.

Since the Ex-serviceman’s claims largely depend on evidence and opinions of the medical profession, it is somewhat difficult to find a majority of cases in the Criminal and Civil Law, where that given is mainly by the court or circumstances on which the lay mind may be able to form reasonable conclusions.

It is difficult to see that so much medical evidence is in the field of hypothesis, or in the field of uncertainty and doubt in regard to diagnosis, and it is doubtful. There is much conflict of opinion as to the correctness of section of the profession doubting frequently the correctness of others. One must only to visit a civil or Workers’ Compensation Court to know what medical evidence is being given. It is essential that where the onus lies on the same matters, e.g., the notorious Hocking v Bell case. In this case opinion was essential that those administering the Act apply the Onus of Proof as laid down by the Common Law. How is the evidence to be considered by a Tribunal? How is the evidence to be considered by the Court?

In a Court of Law a Judge and Jury are assisted by men experienced in testing the truth of evidence. That is by cross-examination. This principle is not applied by Tribunals in Australia. Tribunals from those of England where it has been established for many years that evidence may be given orally or in documents, but every document must be read to each side, and each side may put questions to witnesses called on the other side. Why do the Tribunals in Australia not follow this principle as they are empowered to do in Section 73 of the Act? What is required, if the onus is laid on the other side, and the witness be called on the other side? Why? So far as medical evidence is concerned, it must be read to each side, and each side may put questions to witnesses called on the other side. Why do the Tribunals in Australia not follow this principle as they are empowered to do in Section 73 of the Act?

It is to this latter point of view, where there is a conflict of medical testimony, and stated what the attitude of the Court. A do not see why the

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Proof a Myth?

Court should not begin its investigation before hearing the medical testimony from the medical board but should first hear the evidence from the witnesses who have been examined by the commission. It is clear that the commission's findings are based on a false premise.

Presumption

Later he said, "It is a very difficult task to prove a point which has not been made. The whole of the evidence presented is unanswerable and the position of the witness remains unproved."

In this article, written for "Revelle" by an expert in the R.S.L. legal problems, the author gives his answer to the question of the utmost importance to all members of the R.S.L.

In his own words, Vincent J. Brady says he is "one of the few lawyers to get behind the iron cage of Repatriation Tribunals."

This article reveals what he discovered.

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SIR J. ECCLES TO COMMAND HOME FLEET

Vice-Admiral Sir John Eccles, who was Flag Officer commanding the Australian Fleet from October, 1949, until October, 1951, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, in the British Navy from December, 1955.

This information has been supplied by the Navy Office, Melbourne.

At present Admiral Eccles is Flag Officer Air (Home). He is 57.

Included in his service in World War II was his command of the aircraft carrier INDOMITABLE when she formed part of the British Pacific Fleet.

League Wants Tax Holiday For North

In view of the urgent necessity to populate the north of Australia, the State Congress passed a motion requesting the Commonwealth Government to declare all territory north of the 16th parallel in W.A. and the Northern Territory, with part of Queensland to be defined, tax-free for all wage earners for 20 years.

The motion also asked for all business premises in the area to have 60 per cent of their income free of tax.

The remaining 40 per cent of their income would also be tax-free if it were invested in the defined area.

The scheme would cost the Government about £2,000,000 a year in lost income tax, but it was agreed that this would not be much considering the scheme’s value in ensuring the country’s safety.

ONUS OF PROOF (Continued from Page 11)

perfectly known, the Minister cannot discharge the burden of proof. It is only when the evidence is in the positive field that they may reject the claim of the Ex-serviceeman.

If Parliament opens the proceedings of these Tribunals to the light of day, and judgments are given on principles of Onus of Proof and reasonable doubt are accepted or rejected, the Ex-serviceeman will feel happy, and any suspicions, however unfounded they may be, will be removed.

Only an amendment of the Act to provide for the right of appeal to the High Court Justice as in the English Pensions Appeal Tribunal Act, 1943, will it place beyond the realms of doubt and suspicion that the Minister, himself a disabled Ex-serviceeman, will appreciate the justice of such an amendment.
SOUTH PERTH R.S.L.
TO BUILD HALL

The South Perth R.S.L. sub-branch at its annual meeting authorised the management committee to proceed with the erection of a hall.

The block of land which has been set aside for this purpose for some years is on the corner of Angelo and Anstey streets, near the South Perth Post Office.

The secretary would be glad to hear from any member prepared to give advice or help in this venture.

The president (Mr. Jim Walmsley) was re-elected as the annual meeting to lead the sub-branch for the next twelve months.

Mr. Walmsley has held this position for a number of years and has been a stalwart worker both for the local sub-branch and the State Executive.

The secretary (Mr. W. H. Ferrier) was re-elected unopposed for another term, one of many served in this capacity.

He also holds a similar position with the newly formed Manning Park sub-branch, and he was mainly responsible for the formation of that branch.

£150 To Charity

During the past year, the meeting was told, members had contributed £150 to various charitable causes and have been instrumental in securing canteen trust-fund grants for some needy causes.

The balance sheet showed an increase of £120 over the previous year's figure, and the membership position was satisfactory, members were told. Should the secretary receive notices from those who had not yet answered their notices a record membership for the last five years would be assured.

The treasurer (Mr. Fred McKenzie) was praised for his work, and the retiring officers were thanked for their service and co-operation during the past year.

At a meeting of the sub-branch on July 28, members accompanied by their wives and friends witnessed the installation of officers.

BRANCH SEeks HELP TO
BUILD HALL

An appeal for funds to help build a memorial hall, will be launched by the Mt. Lawley-Inglewood sub-branch on Aug. 21.

The sub-branch has prepared brochures and one will be distributed in every house within the sub-branch membership. The manager, Mr. Lawley, and the staff will be pleased to answer any questions.

The hall, which is expected to cost £16,000, will be built near the corner of First Avenue and Beaufort Street, Mt. Lawley, and will be up-to-the-minute in every respect. It will also contain a large living room and kitchen.

The facilities to be provided by this project are urgently needed in the district, which is singularly lacking in "bells and whistles." The sub-branch feels sure that its members and the general public will give full support to the project.
Army Dogs Will Become Paratroopers

The Australian Army would soon have a number of dog paratroopers, which would be used on patrol duties with Australian troops, the Minister for the Army (Mr. Francis) said recently.

The dogs, and their handlers, were to begin a special course of training at the School of Land-Air Warfare, at Williamstown, New South Wales.

Fitted with special harness, the dogs would be taken into the air in Air Force planes, and, with their handlers, taught to jump and parachute to the ground.

The dogs had already been trained in patrol duties. Their advanced education in parachute-jumping would make them an invaluable aid to Australian soldiers on patrols which necessitated parachute drops.

Details for training the dogs had been planned by Au-

16th BATTALION ASSOCIATION NOTES

The annual re-union of the 16th Battalion Association and the Ballarat Clarkes, its ladies' night, will be held at the Railway Institute, Welling

who loves the 16th Battalion Association and the Ballarat Clarkes, its ladies' night, will be held at the Railway Institute, Welling

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Medical School Appeal Body Sets Target Of £400,000

The University of Western Australia Medical School Appeal Fund Committee has set itself a target of £400,000.

In addition to the £150,000 it is committed to finding as its share of the estimated £300,000 necessary to establish the school—the State Government has undertaken to provide the rest—the committee has decided to seek an additional £250,000 in order to be in a position to make funds available for research.

This is stated in the first of a series of general information bulletins the committee is issuing weekly.

The committee says, feels that the “urgent establishment” of a medical school here at the present time are set out as follows:

Those wishing to study medicine have been forced to go outside the State; one of the principal places of study outside the State would be the Adelaide University authorities say they will be unable to provide clinical training for West Australian students beyond 1956; no other medical school can help and we are thus forced, help ourselves—by 1957 at the latest.

Two other reasons given for the urgent establishment of a medical school in W.A. are the rapid growth of population and the claim that the percentage of doctors in the population is already substantially below that found in other places in the world.

The appeal committee consists of the following:

Sir Ross McDonald (chairman), Mr. S. L. Prescott and Mr. J. Griffith (honorary treasurer), Mr. R. H. Adamson, Dr. B. Buttsworth, Mr. T. O. Davies, Mr. N. Humphries, Miss M. Meares, Dr. H. R. Nash and Mr. J. Paton.

To assist the appeal committee, nine advisory committees have been set up, whose principal activities and chairmen are as follows:

Publicity, Mr. Henry Greig citizens’ committee, Mr. R. H. Ainslie; Board, Mr. F. J. Beacham; sporting activities, Mr. F. Beames; special events, Mr. H. H. Hungerford; private donations, Mr. J. P. Ainslie.

The chairmen are still seeking the aid of helpers.

Appeals have been made in all districts, both country and metropolitan, for residents to form committees, a number of which have been formed.

The Government’s approval for the establishment of the school and its promised financial support were announced by Premier (Mr. Hovse) in May.

The committee has arranged for street appeals to be conducted in the metropolitan area on October 21 and in the country on dates to be advised.

A series of radio programmes continuing throughout this month deals with various aspects of how a medical school can benefit Western Australia.

COMMISSIONS OPEN TO NEW NAVAL TRAINEES

Suitable National Service trainees among the 800 who begin their training under the Royal Australian Navy’s call-up — known as the Sturt call-up after the famous explorer—on July 11 will be given opportunities to gain commissions in the permanent Naval forces.

The Minister for the Navy (Mr. Francis) said recently that men selected as potential officers would do twelve months of their training in the United Kingdom under the Royal Navy Upper Yardmen’s scheme. In the days of sail, upper yardmen were medically fit and held the New South Wales or Victorian leaving certificates, or their equivalent would be considered for selection as officers.

They were recommended by the captains of ships in which they were serving, and would be required to present themselves to a Fleet Selection Board before their National service training ended.

Mr. Francis added that two men were selected from the £150,000 call-up training period, which ended last December, and two from the Oxley call-up, in which training terminated recently.

The Upper Yardmen’s scheme provided an unusual opportunity for keen, ambitious young men to enter upon an attractive and honourable career. Those who availed themselves of it would not only benefit themselves, but would also have the satisfaction of doing their country a valuable service, Mr. Francis said.

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New Sub-branch Has Support Of Fellows

The opening of the Manning Park sub-branch of the R.S.L. recently was marked by gestures of support from two neighbouring sub-branches.

Through its president (Mr. J. E. Davie) and vice-president (Mr. E. G. Mercer), the Manning Park sub-branch presented a cheque for £25 to the secretary (Mr. W. H. Ferrier) on behalf of the League for his good work in establishing the sub-branch, which is the fourth in the South Perth area.

Four new members were enrolled, and the sub-branch president (Mr. J. Davies) welcomed these and other members and visitors.

It was pointed out that during the canvass for members of any neighbouring sub-branch, the new sub-branch had been solicited for membership, and that the League had been keen to enrol ex-servicemen who had not joined the League.

Mr. Davie also pointed out that the sub-branch would have to enrol /many more men in order to meet the demand for members and to comply with the requirements of the League.

INTEREST IN FLOWER DAY CONTEST LAGS

To The Editor

Sir,—At a recent meeting of the association the "Colour Patch" competition held on Flower Day was discussed. The competition, which was to be held at the Queen Victoria statue in King's Park at 10.10 a.m. and fall in at 10.15 a.m. The parade will move off at 10.30 a.m. to the State War Memorial, where wreaths will be laid by the president of the Western Australian branch of the Old Contemporaries' Association (Capt. F. Mitchell, M.C., M.M.) and the G.O.C. Western Command at 10.30 a.m. followed by representatives of other ex-service organisations.

Private wreaths and floral tributes may be laid immediately following the laying of official wreaths.

Bugs will sound the Last Post and Reveille, and a Guard of Honour will be mounted by the Australian Army.

Annual Parade

The parade will assemble in Forrest-place at 2.30 p.m. and move off at 2.30 p.m. headed by the R.S.L. Band. The route will be via Wellington-street, William-street, and St. George's-terrace to Anzac House. The Old Contemporaries' Association has extended a cordial welcome to all Imperial ex-service men and women, and to all ex-members of the Australian Forces to attend the parade.

The salute will be taken outside Trinity Church in St. George's-terrace at 2.40 p.m. by the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir John Dwyer). A commendation service, which the public has been invited to attend, will be held at Anzac House at 3 p.m. The service will be conducted by the Rev. Canon E. G. Jaques. Seats will be specially reserved for ex-service men. A Guard of Honour will be mounted at the salute by Roy Scouts, who will also assist at Anzac House.

Rabbit Backed To Beat Myxomatosis

A British zoologist (Dr. Maurice Burton) has backed the rabbit to beat myxomatosis in Australia. Talking in a British Broadcasting Corporation programme on natural history, Dr. Burton said:

"It has often been claimed that the rabbit has overcome myxomatosis by the development of a virus. It has had no other virus. But is this so? The rabbit is spread by the myxomatous virus which causes a disease similar to myxomatosis."

"The rat and the rabbit are outstanding for its adaptability. It is up-to-date, and when a species is resident in this way, other animals and rabbits in that area and elsewhere will not be affected."

"It's my belief that myxomatosis will fail. An introduced species is going to be damaging in proportion as it is up-to-date, and when a disease is resident in that way, other animals and rabbits in that area and elsewhere will not be affected."

"Natural enemies, climate and other things will either eliminate or keep within bounds the average rabbit population, but the up-to-date mode of transmission will triumph over all, and the rat is the best example of this."