Park Pool Not To Menace Trees—Congress Firm

Powerful advocacy by Mr. T. C. Edmondson (a former State President) and Mr. E. C. Townshend (a League Trustee) failed to persuade Congress to agree to a proposal from the Nedlands sub-branch for opposing the construction of an aquatic centre in King's Park.

In place of the Nedlands motion, Congress agreed to a suggestion by Dr. R. H. Greenham (a State Vice-President) that the incoming State Executive take the necessary action to ensure that the proposed centre should in no way interfere with any memorial tree in King's Park.

The seconder of the amendment argued that the League must be satisfied that the pool, by being adjacent to the memorial, would not affect the memory of the men who died, and that the memorial itself would be separated from the pool. Mr. Edmondson agreed, and the amendment was passed.

Mr. Edmondson said that King's Park had become a national park, and that the League must ensure that the park remained as a memorial to the men who fought in the war.

For The State

King's Park did not belong to Perth alone, but to the whole State, and every effort must be made to preserve it as a memorial to the men who fought in the war.

A proposed 133-yard-long road connecting the aquatic centre to May-drive would necessitate the removal of some of the trees in the honour avenue, Mr. Edmondson said, and that would be a loss to the park.

Mr. Edmondson: Of course this is a matter of sentiment. The League is built on sentiment, and when sentiment goes out of the League it is time we all go out.

Water Supply Master Plan Called For

The League is to ask the Commonwealth and State Governments to chart a water potential of Australia. On the drawing board is the City of Perth sub-branch it will press for the drawing of a master plan of the interests of posterity.

Explaining the measure, Mr. H. G. Holder said steps should be taken to prevent industrial development contaminating sources of fresh water supply, and had occurred in a number of the American States.

Park Pool Not To Menace Trees—Congress Firm

All Eyes On Helen As Congress Opens

THE PRIZE A PIG

By W.H.F.

Some time ago the South Perth sub-branch conducted a raffle in aid of its general funds, and among the prizes was to be a sucking pig donated by a well-known Pickering Brook man.

Mr. Jim Walmsey, then sub-branch president, was instrumental in getting the prize donated, but it was never collected.

Each time the Pickering Brook gentlemen lined up at the club Jim would inquire after the pig. At Congress the sub-branch secretary and the Pickering Brook delegate got together over a midday or two (it was the lunch-hour gress). In the upshot the secretary approached Jim (during a snooker game with Mr. Fred Chappel) and told him that a utility with a big sow aboard was downstairs waiting for him to take delivery.

Jim was told that there were a policeman and two R.S.P.C.A. men at the truck who should contact Mr. Cocking.
League Busy At Three Levels

During the past year the League has been busy at three levels—international, national, and within the State.

The State President, Mr. Longie, said this in his address at the opening of the 21st State Congress of the League at Amo House on July 15.

In its activities outside Australia, the League has been greatly influenced by the joint policy of the Australian Forces serving in Malaya. Mr. Lonnie said in special plenary legislation passed last year the Commonwealth Government had offered a substantial number of benefits to members serving.

While the League was not satisfied that it considered differential treatment for Australian national component in Malayan waters, the bulk of its submissions on behalf of those serving had been considered fairly and with honesty of purpose.

A wider aspect of the League’s activities would be seen early next year when the biennial conference of the Empire Service League would be opened in Canberra, he said.

Horizon Widens

At national level there had been an increase in interest in development.

The Canberra headquarters of the League was now known as the National Headquarters, the Federal President, the President, and the Federal Executive as the National Council.

The changes helped the League’s widening horizon.

Important changes to the League’s policy had reduced the membership of seven. In that process the scope of its activity had been enlarged to enable it to play a continuing part in the growth and development of a vigorous nation.

The new policy retained much of the old, including “white Australia” and the stress laid on defence and development, immigration and the use of natural resources.

The League’s new national branch had sprouted from a resolution of the W.A. Congress in 1956 on the initiative of the Kojonup sub-branch.

The League, traditionally believing that the service of the national interest for youth, reflected the great big reduction in the National Service call-up, though aware that high-level decisions of that nature were influenced by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

It was also aware that destructive criticism was insufficient and was reshaping its views in the light of the circumstances of today.

In particular, the loitering in the P.A. (Patriotic Assault) did not commend itself to the League.

Within the State the new ground had been broken in several directions, as with the first annual Festival of Remembrance and the Anzac Eve Dinner.

FAVERSHAM CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Congress Decision Has Corollary

Once again Congress has decided that the League’s war veterans’ home in Western Australia shall remain at Faversham, and that decision carries with it a corollary—an obligation on all sub-branches and members of the League.

With that decision behind them it becomes incumbent on sub-branches and members individually to raise their full weight and alert their utmost energies to work for the total contributions of the veterans—to raise the donations necessary to enable the League to give to the older members of our great brotherhood of service the enjoyment in which to spend the evening of their lives.

Last year was nearly a record in the matter of donations to Faversham. Let us make a sacred vow that we as individuals will do all in our power to work to the end that all, I say all—our veterans shall neither want for the necessities of life nor for a comfortable home in which to spend their days.

You ask, how? Well it is very simple. Each sub-branch could settle the amount at each meeting, the sub-branch and auxiliary, books; Yeading sub-branch, £5; Marble Bar sub-branch, £5/5/; M. Carter, Boyup Brook, clothing; Wundowie auxiliary, playing cards, billiard tips and books; Waroona auxiliary, £1; Brookton sub-branch, load of wood; Armadale sub-branch, books; Bar. H. Woods, York, lemon, mr. A. Hunter, Mr. P. Tom, lemon, Mr. A. Hunter, Mr. P. Tom, lemon.

For all the above, and to all those who have resolved, after reading these notes, to do their best for the League, to the veteran’s—most grateful thanks for their practical interest in and most worthy activity. May I add a personal note, in thanking all the men and women who sent cards and messages wishing me a quick recovery from my recent accident.
A "PARLIAMENT" SITS

A Redlands motion before Congress seeking the establishment without delay of a war veterans' home in the metropolitan area was defeated, on a division, by 79 votes to 67.

A feature of the debate was a question of confidence as to whether a public appeal launched about 10 years ago, and which resulted in a fund now standing at about £50,000, actually specified that the home was to be in the metropolitan area.

Messrs. T. C. Edmondson and M. Y. Anderson (both former State Presidents of the League) who pressed for the adoption of the motion were emphatic that the money was raised for, and is to be spent in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Anderson, who was one of the original speakers when the appeal was launched (1944), quoted a Press report at the time of the appeal. He said that the home was to be built in the metropolitan area.

Apology Basis

Others said the public had been asked merely to subscribe to a real truth. Their view was supported by the Immediate Past President (Mr. F. C. Chaney) who read to Congress the wording of the appeal at the time of the appeal. This referred to a home to be nearer in the city of country.

Introducing the motion Mr. D. H. W. Nobbs said that the fund was raised at £88,000, and that the sum had been allowed to accrue to the fund the present figure would have been nearer £50,000. The interest had, however, been used for other purposes.

The present home at York, he said, was situated at an inconvenience distance from the League centre, and the men at Faversham were chafing that that would be as long as the home remained where it was.

Mr. E. C. Townsend, chairman of the League's Faversham committee, said that estimates for a home in the metropolitan area for £2,000 a year had been made, but that the cost was £75,000 to about £80,000.

The League decided to build it would get a £1 for every £1 subscribed from the Commonwealth Government, said Mr. H. J. Stoddart, but unless the money for the purchase of Crown land had been allowed to accrue to the fund the present figure would have been nearer £50,000. The interest had, however, been used for other purposes.

Speaking to his motion for the adoption of war financial reports the chairman of the Finance Committee of the State Executive (Mr. H. J. Stoddart) referred to the year's deficit of over £3,000, and to the loss of about £2,000 of this from the publication of "The Listening Post." He said:

"For their subscriptions money was required, and the League was a fine club as such, its work, its effort, its money, and its membership.

"The project would put the League up for £5,000 a year, if it were possible to get them in this year. It should only be proceed ed with on an assurance from sub-branches of about £12 5/6 a week per person to run.

League Determines New Basis for Allocating Dues

Capitation payments by sub-branches to League headquarters will be raised from 12 6/15-1/6 next year.

This was decided by Congress after discussion of various ideas put forward for arresting a current drift in League finances.

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Mr. F. Stahl (Denmark) then rose with a proposal that out of the existing £1 capitation fund, a part be set aside for general publicity purposes—was put and lost. The current lease had 50 years to run. A fine building could not be built without the means of financing its running.

Mr. D. Dargle said that after making careful inquiries he was convinced that the land in the metropolitan area would cost at least £3,000 per veteran, leaving the cost of the land out of consideration.

On that basis a home for 50 veterans would require capital expenditure of £175,000-twice the amount ever of £51,000 which was raised. Mr. D. Dargle estimated that it would be necessary to refinance the capital, and above what the League could put into the project. The League would require expenditure of £51,000. At 5 per cent the interest on that amount would be about £2,500 a year, and the cost of the repayment of capital over 20 years £2,000 a year. After making provision for interest and repayment of capital over 20 years £2,000 a year, he said, cost £12 5/6 a week to run.
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THE LISTENING POST

AUGUST, 1957

League Wants Overseas Money For W.A. Land Settlement

The League is to urge the State Government to seek British Government, or International Bank, co-operation in financing land settlement in appropriate undeveloped areas of this State, and for that purpose to confer with the Commonwealth Government for the retention here of the equipment used in the War Service Land Settlement Scheme.

Its decision followed a discussion between the Land Conference section of Congress and the Minister for Lands and Agriculture (Mr. Hoat). Mr. Hoat said the War Service Land settlement Board had developed a remarkable degree of efficiency with machinery and manpower, and he thought it would be a pity to disband the fine development organisation existing at present.

Two years ago the State had approached the Commonwealth Government for financial backing for a suggested development scheme at Esperance, but the Commonwealth Government could not then see its way to assist, he said.

The State Government had the land and the know-how, but not the money. If there were to be any further development of large tracts of country in Western Australia the necessary finance would have to come from another source.

At present the Government was undertaking an accurate survey of all existing non-used land in the area, and had been assured that whether the Esperance project could be copied anywhere in the State.

Mr. Hoat said he thought it would be preferable for any such development scheme to be financed from within Australia if possible.

The present settlement scheme would close down in about two years' time, and the State Government would like to extend land development for civilian purposes. If the necessary financial backing could be found.

Up to the present, Mr. Hoat said, the Commonwealth Government had spent £75,000 through the War Service Land Settlement Board in this State covering less than 1,000 farms.

When the remaining 250 farms were allotted W.A. would have settled a greater percentage of war-service applicants than any other State in Australia.

The last year had been the most outstanding year in the W.S.L.S. for the year, he said, the improvement and kept pace with the improved knowledge and experience gained over the last 15 years.

This year 15,400 acres of land had been prepared for seeding, the largest area ever seeded by one authority in Australia in one year.

The pastures had germinated magnificently and were full of promise. As well there had been 65,000 acres of new sown, 62,600 acres of topdressing and 33,000 acres of ploughing done.

Other achievements included 158 damms sunk, 47 water-bore, 37 houses and 100 farm sheds.

"If we can only have one more year of intensive activity on a somewhat similar scale as during the last 12 months we should bring the concluding stages of activity of the Land Settlement Board," Mr. Hoat said.

If ever the history of the land-settlement scheme in general were written it would rank with any other land-development project anywhere in the world.

But the tobacco section of the scheme had been wrongfully conceived; it had never had a chance from the beginning. The settlers concerned had been placed on other farms.

Other early difficulties had been encountered in the dairy section of the scheme.

Generally speaking the heavily timbered karri country took a long time to develop.

Mr. Hoat said that on becoming Minister four years ago he had initiated a programme of regeneration work in the heavily timbered areas. Under that programme, now largely completed and which had affected 200 farms, there had been a total of 1,350 acres of new clearing and the provision of further water supplies.

Mr. Hoat said the settlement scheme had encouraged private enterprise to enter the development areas and open up the land. He felt the work had done something of real value to the State for all time.

"Successes" achieved under the scheme had been all the more pronounced because of the League's activities and its fair and friendly approach to the Government.

(Continued, Page 16)

Hon. Secretary,
City of Subiaco Sub-Branch R.S.L.
172 Heytesbury Road,
SUBIACO.

Dear Sir,
I hereby make application for ................. debentures for The Memorial Hall Building Fund.

Please find the sum of .................. enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

.............

(Name)

.............

(Address)
A Publican Stands By Sub-Branch

The Kensington sub-branch is to share in the profits from skittles galore at the Hurlingdon hotel.

The licensee of the hotel, Mr. J. E. Donald, directed the sub-branch and another local organisation a week to the lot in the profit from the machines.

The other organisations are the Jockey Club, the Football Club and the South Perth Soccer Club.

Oh the basis of the present takings of the machines these four organisations should average about £2 a year each.

The sub-branch was one of many that contributed to the Anzac Club's Wheel Appeal.

Mons Day Features

Lieut-General Sir Henry Willcox will take the salute at the Mons Day parade on Sunday, August 27. By-home C. L. Riley will give the address at the service in Anzac House.

Details of parade, Page 13.

FEW CHANGES MADE TO EXECUTIVE

The State Executive suffered little change at the hands of the 41st annual State Congress of the League last month.

The State President (Mr. W. H. Stanbury) and the two Vice-Presidents (Mr. E. O. Davids and Dr. R. L. Greenham) were re-elected.

(Messrs. C. C. Townshend, R. J. Stodart and J. Rolfe) were re-elected as National President being re-elected unopposed.

All retiring members of the State Executive who stood for re-election were returned and the places of Messrs. D. Dargle and J. F. Serisier were filled by Dr. K. H. Harris and Mr. W. H. Stanbury.

Mr. Serisier is president of the Applecross sub-branch and there were 37 candidates for the 24 seats to be filled. Members and emergents of the order of their election were:

MEMBERS
- L. Lott
- H. G. Holder
- G. Henwood
- J. H. Salmon
- G. H. Gordon
- P. W. D. Dodson
- J. B. White
- W. W. Herriot
- N. Davidson
- Miss Mary Meares
- J. J. Bartley
- A. D. Chapman
- Miss S. N. Calabrese
- L. J. Bartley
- S. A. Blandy
- Miss M. V. McPherson
- A. J. Hurley
- S. R. King
- H. A. Leslie
- W. Walters
- T. C. Cuillas
- W. J. James

EMERGENCIES
- S. Budd
- P. Pearson
- W. C. Allen
- P. J. O'Mara
- F. G. McCormick
- S. Griffiths.

COUNTRY SERVICES

William C. Bonner was appointed to announce the appointments of the Country and Regional Vice-Presidents. Mr. Bonner said it was lucky that the time was opportune for a review of the existing annual appointments.

Previously, he said, appointments were primarily a matter of past services to the League, and it had been considered it was a fitting thing to do the State Executive.

A year was not sufficient for appointments to get to know their regions, Mr. Bonner said.

The members of the committee were: Viceregent, J. B. White; Secretary, W. W. Herriot; Treasurer, N. Davidson; Assistant Treasurer, Miss Mary Meares; Members, L. J. Bartley, S. A. Blandy, Miss M. V. McPherson, A. J. Hurley, S. R. King, H. A. Leslie, W. Walters, T. C. Cuillas, W. J. James.

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Mr. C. J. O'Brien, 15 Byron Street, Campsie, N.S.W., writes:

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DEBENTURES OFFERED ON SUBIACO UNDERTAKING

To raise £2,500 for financing the big building project it has undertaken the City of Subiaco sub-branch is offering £5 debentures carrying 5 per cent interest and repayable in 1996. The project, work on the site of which is now nearing completion, comprises alteration, additions, renovations and furnishing of the sub-branch hall premises in Townshend-road, Subiaco.

The Subiaco Club premises for the sub-branch, first world war members of the division, foresaw and were able to hand over a valuable asset to the hall, complete to the cost of the war.

The hall is capable of holding 100 couples for dancing and can be used for meetings each hall area to have modern kitchen facilities. The sub-branch executive was urging its members to make more use of the hall.

The building is also provided for a large lawns with balcony.

Eligibility for Membership

A move at Congress to widen the scope of eligibility for League membership was defeated.

It was proposed to include those who had volunteered for overseas service but had been retained in Australia. Mr. E. O. Davies thought that the motion was not reasonable and Mr. T. S. Edmondson said that if the motion were accepted the League would be divided against the League.

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These crunchy, nutty-flavoured biscuits are delicious with that morning or afternoon cup of tea.
Congress Condemns Training Cuts

Congress has condemned the national Service training cuts, ridiculed the new army-intake figure and criticised the ballot-system of selecting the intake.

It has done so on the recommendation of the Minister for Defence, Mr. Chifley, and after hearing an explanation of the Commonwealth's decision by Mr. F. C. Chaney, M.H.N.

Spokesman for the sub-branch was Mr. H. J. Sykes, of Kondinin.

"With a population verging on 10,000,000 people it is a poor thing to be only able to raise recruits annually," Mr. Sykes said.

The League should call for reconsideration of the decision.

"We want a military effectiveness to meet any eventualities," he said.

A nine-months training was necessary in the first world war.

Mr. Chaney said the Government's decision had been based on the recommendations of the chiefs of staff.

Admittedly National Service training had an extra-

Geraldton's Ready Response

After a meeting of the Geraldton sub-branch of the R.S.L. had decided at its general meeting on July 8 that two guineas be given from sub-branch funds to aid in the purchase of a motorised wheelchair for a legless ex-serviceman, the amount of the donation was raised to £5.00, being given by individual members' contributions ranging from 2/- to 10/-.

The appeal is being sponsored by the committee of the Anzac Club, which has circularised all sub-branches.

The sub-branch also decided to forward a letter of congratulations to 16-year-old Marylee Smith, of the Geraldton High School, on her achievement in having the best answer in the state-wide essay competition of the subject "What means to me Anzac Day.

Marylee, the daughter of a member of the Geraldton sub-branch of the R.S.L. (the Rev. L. Broadbent) and her entry was chosen from 800 entries.

The sub-branch also decided to make an award of two guineas to Miss Broadbent. The sub-branch pre-

Road-Train Idea Put To League

The League is to make inquirers into the prospects of developing road-trains for the selection of trampers.

This was decided at Congress on the recommendation of the City of Perth sub-branch.

Introducing the subject Mr. H. G. Holder told delegates that in other parts of the world road trains were carrying up to 300 tons at a time. Means to which they were used provided employment in countries like Alaska as well as in desert regions.

A usual arrangement was to have a tractor unit coupled to big trailers. For use in the outback of this State the road trains would require very large, low-pressure balloon tyres that would not damage the roads, Mr. Holder said.

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League Flashbacks
WHAT THIS JOURNAL WAS SAYING 35 YEARS AGO

R.S.L. Annual Congress

On August 4, the Seventh Annual Conference of the R.S.L. was opened. Eight years ago the world was in turmoil resulting from the declaration of war, and although war is over the disabilities which resulted have by no means become defunct. Much scope exists for profitable co-operation amongst returned men, and every successful outcome of the delegates to conference should stimulate new interest on the part of the Digger.

The telegraphed advice from Sydney, where the conference was being held, showed that the executive had approached the Minister for Repatriation with a formal request to consider certain matters already brought to their notice. The department in charge, however, had not yet been approached by the executive of the League to consider any of the matters of concern to the returned men.

An invitation from the American Legion to send a delegate to the Fourth Annual Conference of the League in New Orleans during October. It was decided to recommend acceptance of the invitation.

It was resolved to cooperate vigorously with the Commonwealth and State Governments in the introduction of new settlers of the British race.

The delegates decided unanimously to forward a motion to the Government urging that the Government should absolutely agree to the proposed plan of the Australian manufacturers against the dumping of German manufactured goods.

Immigration was discussed at length, and a motion was forwarded to the Government urging that immigration be increased, and that the Government should give serious consideration to the needs of the Commonwealth of Australia.

An Enthusiastic Sub-branch

The Claremont-Cottesloe sub-branch has an executive which has made a great effort to expand its membership. A number of meetings have been held during the past few years, and the sub-branch is now considered to be in sound financial condition.

With the enthusiastic and welcoming atmosphere, the sub-branch is looking forward to a prosperous future.

Housing Scandal

A glimpse behind the scenes is given by Mr. V. B. Trapp, a timber expert. From his knowledge of the timber trade, he is able to verify the gross underestimation of the cost of building houses.

Mr. Trapp advises that there was an absence of co-ordinated policy, and that the muddle-headedness method has puzzled many.

For over a year the executive officers of the War Service Homes Department remained without any organised plan of operation. This, Mr. Trapp attributes, to the fact that the Minister, Senator Millen, could not "spare the time" to approve any suggestions.

The housing scandal is too much of a problem now to be held up by the machinery affecting many thousands of men; nor is it reasonable to attach the whole blame to the Minister alone.

It will ever stand to the credits of the Diamond Jubilee, and at the same time hundreds of applications remain to be finalised.

The enormous expenditure compares unfavourably to the present state of affairs, and the achievements of the State with the statement showing details of expenditure is a sufficient indication to suggest criminal extravagance and gross incompetence.

In the meantime, the soldier is without a home.

The absurdity of inaugurating a new department which could have been economically administered under the machinery already in existence under State control, can only be described in language unprintable, especially as the State concern was of years' standing and was familiar with the work.

There is very little solace for the tax-payer, for things could hardly be worse in this particular direction; but some satisfaction may be derived from the fact that the Repatriation Department, also inaugurated under the same Minister's control, has to a very large extent fulfilled its purpose admirably to date.

August, 1927

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Auxiliaries Raise Big Sums In Good Causes

During the last financial year the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary spent £1,670 on gifts to ex-service men and women in hospitals, homes and institutions, and as well subscribed over £2,000 to appeals sponsored by the League.

Among these was the Papuan Native Hut Appeal to which the auxiliaries donated a total of £350/18/6.

This was reported at the 80th Annual General Meeting of the auxiliaries by the State President (Mrs. J. C. Ames). Mrs. Ames said that during the year the auxiliaries had subscribed £798/5/0 towards the running of the Faversham War Veterans' Home.

The State Executive had visited the Home during the Christmas season and distributed parcels.

The dispensing of Christmas cheer to over 800 hospital patients had also been conducted.

Since the previous conference about 3,700 bedside visits had been made to the Royal Perth Hospital, and the visiting committee had been increased from eight to 12 members. Mrs. E. Cottrell and Mrs. L. S. T. Millard had conducted R.P.H. every Friday afternoon with cigarettes and sweets. Regular visits had also been made to the Hollywood Hospital (bi-weekly), Mrs. Lemnos (monthly), Sunset (monthly), Heathcote (fortnightly), Edward Miller Home (monthly), Glendale (fortnightly), Home of Peace, Claremont Mental Hospital (three times monthly) and various private hospitals.

Mrs. Ames reported the formation of sub-branches at Scarborough, Armadale and Three Springs during the year—bringing the total for the State to 114 (22 in the country and 32 in the metropolitan area).

More Injured On Roads Than On Battlefields

In all the wars in which Australia has been concerned during this century—inclusive of the Boer War—94,000 Australians were killed and 409,000 wounded. Road fatalities throughout Australia in the same period amounted to 44,000. As 999 Australians were injured in road accidents.

This was stated at Congress by Mr. T. S. Edmondson when introducing a motion which was carried confirming the actions of the State Executive in urging sub-branches to assist the National Safety Council of Western Australia.

Notes From Brookton

The Brookton auxiliary has had a busy and successful half-year under the capable leadership of Mrs. Marchesi with new office-bearers Mrs. Jim Coots (secretary) and Mrs. H. Algar (treasurer).

Attendance have averaged over 20 per meeting.

In March, £21 was sent to the Red Cross Appeal, being the proceeds from a Paddy's Market held for that purpose.

A card evening was held in April for the Faversham appeal, being so successful that it has become a monthly fixture.

The Anzac Day service ladies of the auxiliary served light refreshments in the R.S.L. rooms.

In April the auxiliary—in conjunction with the Car Club—sponsored for a gymkhana which proved somewhat disappointing in view of the early hour involved.

The proceeds from the May card evening were sent to the Paraplegic Appeal.

June activities helped to swell the auxiliary's own funds by almost £50.

In July Mrs. Marchesi represented us at conference.

The sub-branches have expressed their pleasure that the Secretary (Mrs. Ames) who is one of the members—has been selected to represent West Australian auxiliaries at the Victorian conference (on the invitation of Mrs. Bell, who attended the West Australian conference).

An invitation to the Nundah Auxiliary party on July 30 has been received, and also one to the Red Cross conference to be held on August 7 and 8.
The club committee wishes to express its appreciation to all who contributed to the successful appeal for the purchase of a motorised wheelchair for a legless digger—Fred Batteily, of the Home of Peace, Subiaco.

The wheelchair was presented to Fred at the opening of Congress by the Governor (Sir Charles Gairdner).

Money received in excess of the cost of the chair has provided a provisional welfare and insurance policy on the lady's night last during Congress week, was quite a success, although numbers were a little disappointing.

Members are urged to do their entertaining in the roof garden at Anzac House on Saturday evenings, when an orchestra is provided free of charge. Tables can be booked through the club manager.

Christmas Club

It is the committee's intention to have a Christmas Club commencing the week ending on Saturday, August 19. Units of 5/- each will be available weekly for the 20 weeks leading up to Christmas.

A weekly investment of 5/- over the full period will ensure the contributor of a sum of £5 at Christmas for the purchase of goods at the club—bottles of bulk beer, spirits, wines, cigarettes and confectionery.

Members may take out as many units as they wish, but the first unit must be used to purchase goods from the club. Other units may be used for the purchase through the club at reduced rates—of Christmas hams and poultry.

Subscription cards may be obtained from the club manager, and the sub-branches may arrange for their members to make their payments to the sub-branch secretary.

Billiards: The billiards and snooker teams have done well in the interclub competition conducted among leading clubs in the metropolitan area during the winter. The billiards team has completed the first half of the fixtures in second place, and could contest the final four.

- The snooker team will need some super performances (by no means beyond them) to reach the select four.

On July 31 Anzac Club defeated the Celtic Club—three games of billiards and one of snooker.

Darby: The final round of the current darts season concluded on August 1 with Anzac well down on the premiership table in all divisions.

The finals have yet to be played.

The club is confident of forming itself into a formidable opponent for the 1958 season.

It is proposed to conduct a series of club competitions within the next few weeks to decide the club champion. Bob Hall and Bill Britten playing in the doubles championship conducted by the W.A.D.A. were untried but not unbeaten, and are to be congratulated on reaching the quarter finals.

The club will conclude the season with a social evening on the roof garden for the presentation of trophies.

New Committee

The newly elected club committee is as follows:

President: W. S. Lonnie.

Vice-President: C. M. F. Dargie.

Secretary: W. S. Lonnie.

Treasurer: H. D. Dargie.


Messrs. Walmsley and Catt are co-opted floor members and were chosen for their untried efforts with club amenities.

By Doug Dargie

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Views on
Railway Closures

Congress expressed its opposition to the sus-
pension of country railway services and called for
a full Government inquiry into the management
of the railways.

Discussion of the motion was transferred from the
Country Land Conference to Congress itself on the motion
of Mr. F. Siah (Denmark).

Mr. Howe (Gnowangerup) said the closures in general
represented one of the most drastic actions taken by
any Government.

They were contrary to any
policy of decentralisation.

Many ex-service settlers were affected in the Gnow-
angerup, Jerramongup and Gairdner River areas, and
production through the land settlement schemes there
would increase five times over the next ten years.

Instead of pruning the un-
profitable lines the Government
should have done some
work out-of-the-dead
wood.

The outback lines were the
very ones that should be
kept open.
Young people could not be encouraged to
settle without satisfactory services.

Mr. H. J. Sykes (Kondinin) said that after 1911 the
lines had been to go on the land,
and had been based on a
promise of railways.

The promise had been broken.

By producing commodities for
local consumption at
cost price over the years farmers had subsidised the
community to the extent of £20,000,000. In saying "Up
with the railways" the Gov-
ernment was overlooking
that.

A Goonalling railway
Worker said that the rail-
ways themselves were con-
ducting an inquiry.

He said a senior traffic
man had made an inquiry
at Fremantle lasting a
week into conditions there
with a view to effecting
economies.

The delegate said he be-
lieved that quite few
startling things had
come
light and that the in-
quiry was to be duplicated
throughout the State.

He thought that economies
were bound to be effected.

A delegate from the
blue-Pineup area said the
line closures there would
drive farmers out of
business, and out of
white production the
double-handling involved would make growing
a hopeless proposition eco-
nomically.

A big drop in wheat pro-
duction in the district would
have a tremendous effect on
the rest of the State.

No change in
observance of Anzac Day

Another attempt to bring
about a change in the form of
observance of Anzac Day in this State
whimperingly defeated by
Congress.

Congress debated a motion
submitted by the Midlands
Junction sub-branch seek-
ing "an open holiday after
noon.

Several sub-branches were
in favour of the move.
A motion submitted by the
Bunbury sub-branch seek-
ing a referendum of all sub-
branches on the question
was also defeated.

There was no support for
a further motion requiring
metropolitan sub-branches
to hold their Anzac Day ser-
vice at dawn only to en-
able them to give their full
support to the city service in the
daylight hours.

The State President said
that attendances at sub-
branch observances of An-
zac Day had been receiving
more public patronage than
for years past.

Mr. S. Crook, retiring
regional vice-president for
the Great Southern, made a
similar observation in con-
nection with the main Esplan-
de service.
The B.E.S.L. Story
(Part 2: Achievement)

Empire headquarters maintained close touch with the various dominion organisations and was of considerable value to all units in dealing with pension cases, questions of gratuities and allowances and innumerable other matters on behalf of ex-service men who had migrated within the Empire and consequently been greatly handicapped in obtaining a settlement of their just claims.

This work has developed over the years until today Headquarters and C.S.O. has been also regarded as the recognised channel, inter alia, for all enquiries about the amount of money and tracing of lost relatives on behalf of corps and regimental associations. Some 75 associations use the service.

The B.E.S.L. is also entrusted with the administration of Army Benevolent Fund grants at its disposal for the ex-Imperialists, who served in the British Army and overseas on various occasions of the B.E.S.L. for similar purposes, for it must be remembered that the Empire Service League embraces all the fighting services and not the Army alone.

Legacy of War

One of the legacies of the 1914-18 war was the hundreds of thousands of ex-service men of all rank who had been unable to reinstate themselves in the commercial and industrial life of the nation. Increasing numbers of fit men, despairing of finding an opportunity for useful service in the United Kingdom, had been turning their eyes towards the Dominions and Colonies. To these the league and its services were of substantial benefit.

Let us now turn the pages and see where the British Empire Service League stands to-day. After the second world war Major Hamilton, the Assistant Commissioner, did not take lightly to chart the peaceful activities of his organisation.

One great change had been the raising of local troops in Africa and the B.W.I. who fought alongside us all over the world. The fund of goodwill that was built up was not to be dissipated.

Lord Milne, the Grand President, wrote to the Governors of the colonial territories asking them to do all they could to promote local interest in the formation of ex-service organisations or where they were already in existence to revive that interest. The response was remarkable, and from being to a large extent a dominion organisation the B.E.S.L. became a Commonwealth organisation on a much wider basis.

With it, inevitably, came larger responsibilities, for many of the colonial organisations were indeed tender plants. As political changes took place, the B.E.S.L. has maintained with India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon an ex-service level. To-day delegates attend the biennial conferences from members of the service in all races and creeds, who have fought for the British Crown.

Early next year the Annual Conference of the British Empire Service League will be held in London. It is reported in the "British Listening Post" here presents the concluding instalment of the story of the B.E.S.L. as prepared by one of its officials.

They are colourful gatherings, the discussions are maintained on a high level and everyone, whether he represents a large or a small association, has a right to stand up and say exactly what he likes.

In 1951, 1953 and 1955 the conferences were held in London. On each occasion the delegates were graciously received by our Royal Patrons. In 1951 His late Majesty King George VI had fully intended to act as host to his own conference in Buckingham Palace, but owing to circumstances of illness he was unable to be present. Nevertheless Her Majesty, now Queen Elizabeth, her Mother, herself Patron of the Women’s Auxiliaries who are continuously increasing in numbers, H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, the present Princess of Wales, T.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester and H.R.H. Princess Margaret, attended the conference with their presence.

Through in 1953 (Coronation Year) Her Majesty the Queen was prevented by heavy and arduous duties from receiving the delegates, the conference was greatly honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and H.R.H. Prince Charles, Duke of Gloucester at a reception held by the B.E.S.L. in Park Lane, and Princess Margaret attended a film premiere in aid of the League’s funds—a most colourful affair.

In 1955 Her Majesty the Queen, following the Royal precedent, again graciously consented to receive the delegates once more at Buckingham Palace.

It will be readily understood that this was the Royal patronage throughout the life of the B.E.S.L. and has been no mean ambition, and its importance to the organisation cannot be overestimated.

As to the future of the league, it is our duty to be thinking 20 years ahead. This must be summed up in the words of a report submitted to the 11th biennial conference in June 1957 by Dr. Lumbyon, at that time Dominion President of the Canadian Legion.

Rehabilitation

Referring to a rehabilitation programme within the Empire, he envisaged a certain number of units which would specialise in this field and give more guidance and organisation to smaller local groups. Furthermore, he said, the British Empire Service League has an important and strategic role to play in Commonwealth Rehabilitation. The Commonwealth was perhaps the most significant experiment in social organisation in the world and it would be a serious setback to the whole of the Colonial relations if through any cause this should break up. The British Empire Service League was about the only great organisation seriously devoted to maintaining the Commonwealth relationship.

These words made a very great impression on the conference, and the Empire Council took immediate action to set up a working party of experienced men to study the problems of the British Commonwealth. Since 1953 exhaustive studies have been made in Africa and the British West Indies, and it can be claimed that most rewarding results have been achieved, not only in material assistance, but in stimulating renewed and increased interest for the ex-service organisations in the Colonial territories.

A fund has been raised as a result of the Commonwealth Commemoration Fund was also created in
Place For A Memorial At Margaret River

The R.S.L. State Executive was disappointed at the lack of a war memorial in the rich Margaret River district.

The R.S.L. State President (Mr. Lonnie) said this at a formal reception given by August-Narrina-on-River Road Board chairman George Shervington and board members before the R.S.L. ball last month.

Mr. Lonnie said he thought it was not beyond the capacity of the district, by total collective efforts, to erect a war memorial which would be a credit not only to the district but to the whole South-West.

The Margaret River hall was gaily decorated with coloured streamers, ball looms, and floral decorations for the ball, and 300 people danced to the music of Frank Wake's Band, with vocal items by Mr. Joe Cunningham.

Beside the pleasant dancing, and an excellent poulard supper, the dancers were treated to a fire floor show, by such personalities as Dave Howard, Neil Shortland, Jones and Peter Pucinlin.

While in the district, Mr. Lonnie visited the R.S.L. hall at Rosa Brook—a credit to the small band of ex-servicemen who had financed and built it, he said.

In the listening party were Mr. and Mrs. Dool and Miss, Mary Meares, of the State Executive, and the Lonnie twins, Ross and Jan.

Homes Act Amendment Sought

The League is in seek an amendment to the War Service Homes Act that would under certain circumstances extend eligibility to ex-servicemen who already own homes.

This was determined at Congress last month.

Proposing the measure, the Housing Committee chairman (Mr. Stoddart) said that many ageing ex-service farmers were finding that they had to share-farm their properties or hand them over to their sons.

At present they were not eligible for war-service homes, and to become eligible they would have to sell their farms.

A man should not be debarred from the scheme because he owned a house in which—for medical or other reasons—he was more convenient for him to live. Mr. Stoddart said.

Move To Help Home-owners

Congress has asked for loans under the War Service Homes Act to be made available to eligible ex-servicemen wishing to discontinue tenancy on homes they have acquired outside the war-service scheme.

During discussion of the issue it was claimed that some applicants were being refused loans and that many eligible ex-servicemen who had put in their own money had never got into the scheme.

The chairman of the League's housing committee (Mr. Stoddart) said the proposal only reaffirmed what the League had long been striving for.

Mr. Stoddart said it had been Commonwealth Government policy for many years that whilst there were eligible applicants with no homes at all the money provided by the Commonwealth should go towards providing new homes rather than helping those already adequately housed.

The solution was for the Commonwealth Government to provide extra finance.

Katanning Remembers Sacrifices

Two projects that the Katanning sub-branch has taken in hand will honour the memory of its war-dead.

One project is to erect concrete slabs and also headstones on three graves in the local cemetery.

The other is to make a district survey of all widows of World War II who have the idea of providing them with transport to town to do their shopping, and receive their pensions.

The sub-branch also has plans for improving the lavatory block at its headquarters.

Housing Plea Renewed

Representations made by the League to the Commonwealth Government earlier this year for an increase of $1,000,000 in the allocation for war-service homes were renewed recently.

In a letter to the Federal Treasurer (Sir Arthur Fadden) the League pointed out that recent State branch conferences in the United States, including Western Australia, had unanimously carried resolutions for very substantial increases in the allocation.

It was also pointed out that although 12 years had elapsed since World War II there were still many thousands of men of that war on the waiting list for homes financed in addition to which the waiting period under the scheme was at least 15 months.

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Men Of Mons To March Again

Old Contemptibles and Imperial ex-service men and women will commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the Battle of Mons—and pay tribute to the fallen—at morning and afternoon ceremonies in Perth on Sunday, August 25.

**MORNING**

For a morning wreath-laying ceremony at the State War Memorial members and friends will assemble at the Queen Victoria statue in King's Park at 10.10 a.m., proceed to the War Memorial Shrine, where the last post will be sounded at 10.30 by the president of the Old Contemptibles' Association, the G.O.C. Western Command, and be representatives of other ex-service associations.

**AFTERNOON**

For the afternoon parade through the city, marchers will assemble in Forrest Place at 2.15 o'clock and move off at 2.30 headed by the R.S.I.I. Memorial Band, proceeding via Wellington-street, William-street and St. George's Terrace to Anzac House. A salute will be taken outside Trinity Church.

A commemorative service will be conducted at Anzac House (at 3 p.m.) by Canon G.E. Jaquet, and Bishop Riley will give the address.

Seats will be reserved for ex-service men, and a cordial invitation is extended to the general public to attend the service.

A guard of honour will be mounted at the salute base by Boy Scouts, who will also assist at Anzac House.

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**28th Battalion**

Members of the 28th Battalion A.I.P. (of the 1914-18 war) will regret to hear of the death of their association president, Mr. Harry Edwards, on June 20. The late Mr. Edwards joined the 28th Battalion as reinforcement at Lemnos on December 28, 1915, and served for a long period in France, where he was wounded.

Mr. Edwards was known to most members of the old battalion, and was well liked and respected by all who knew him.

He was an enthusiastic worker for the battalion association ever since its formation in 1919, and the members of the committee realise their great loss in the death of their president.

To his widow and family the association offers the deepest sympathy of all members of the old 28th Battalion.

**NEW PRESIDENT**

At a committee meeting of the Association the senior vice-president, Mr. T. Jackson, was unanimously elected to the office of president in place of the late Mr. Harry Edwards.

---

**44th Battalion**

Arrangements are well in hand for the annual reunion to be held in the Anzac Club ballroom on September 30 (the Monday of Show Week).

Members are specially asked to note the date for the reunion as it falls earlier this year (6th September).

It is hoped to have the parade of the Queen's Colours again, and after a very impressive ceremony of last year this should assure another big attendance of members.

Members are urged to make a point of being present to renew old friendships.

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**B.E.S.L. STORY, continued**

order to assist those organised and respected in need of help owing to either a national disaster involving economic pressure, which can be equally disastrous, among other things equally serious of our members.

Immediate assistance thus rendered has not only been of practical value, but has brought us all closer together in our troubles.

This brings us to the end of our story so far. It has been said on some occasions that we are inclined to hide our light under a bushel. In these days of pampering propaganda and publicity our technique may be considered somewhat old-fashioned.

But if something useful has been done to help our community, it is to the Commonwealth and Empire, and if we have, truly followed the original concept of our founder, the late Field Marshal Earl Haig, then without being content to rest upon our laurels we can at least take moderate pride in our past achievements. (Contributed.)
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SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION 10th King-street, Perth. 3rd Monday of each month at 8 p.m.

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South Perth Appoints
Strong Committee

At its annual general meeting recently the South Perth sub-branch appointed a strong committee of management.

The president (Mr. C. Sangster) who has devoted much time to the affairs of the sub-branch, was re-elected unopposed.

The sub-branch is sponsoring a schools sports carnival to be held at the Compton Centre grounds, Kemmanun-street, on Saturday November 22nd and is keen to make it one of the annual highlights of the municipality.

As well as various forms of entertainment there will be numerous other attractions and a number of stalls.

A number of trophies will be required for the carnival, and the sub-branch secretary (Mr. W. Kerfer) is pleased to hear from anyone person prepared to donate one.

The sub-branch reunion and smoke social this year will be held on a Saturday evening in September, and the president has promised "something out of the box" for the occasion.

At the recent games night in the Sydney Lambert Cup series— with the Manning sub-branch in the host-role of the Logan— the competition was keen from the commencement of the series in the early part of the season, with the Manning sub-branch leading the way.

There was a good attendance of members at a film evening conducted by Mr. W. Graydon, M.L.A.
Anniversary Occasion At Upper Swan

Happy associations were revived and much reminiscing indulged in at Upper Swan when one of the State's oldest sub-branches celebrated its 37th anniversary recently.

The president, Mr. Ken Robinson, after welcoming the State Executive members of the Upper Swan R.S.L. and other visitors, traced the progress of the sub-branch since its inception.

Never numerically large it had, nevertheless, always been a big influence in the district, and had been fortunate in having in its ranks men of capacity and vision who had contributed something to the League as well as to the community.

Efforts through the years had culminated last year in the erection of a memorial to the fallen and thoughts were now turned toward a new building for members.

In a tribute to the Upper Swan R.S.L., Mr. Robinson referred to the unstinting efforts of Bill Lonnie and his team who were getting things done and raising the W.A. Branch to a stronger force that the President rendered special praise to Miss Meares for her long and untiring service.

Miss Meares said that she asked for no other reward but the privilege of having been able to serve with men in war and work with them in peace was considered a great honour to belong to the League, membership of which was the highest ambition and not to be bought. She felt that while Australia had such men as she knew no call from the nation would go unheeded.

Mr. Macleod, who was a life member of the League, said the branch was a credit to the State President and State President of the League was carrying out three big jobs at once under the direction of the Secretary of the sub-branch, Mr. Lonnie, whose boyhood was spent in the district, related some interesting anecdotes. He spoke of

Busy Bert

When the State President, accompanied by Messrs. Doug Dargle and Mick Dool of the State Executive, made a surprise inspection of the York sub-branch's new building on a recent Saturday afternoon, they found a member and his wife at work on the job. The president and Mrs. Bert Harris, Mrs. Harris is president of the local women's section of the sub-branch. Mr. Harris told the State president that he was doing his bit then as he would not be able to join a bus-bye,

Essay Prizes Praised

At a recent State Executive meeting the State President (Mr. Lonnie) referred to many favourable comments made about the standard of this year's Anzac Essay competition prizes.

They had reflected credit on the League and its spirit, and as the evidence of this said that during this year eight or nine new sub-branches would have been formed. Much vital work lay ahead of the League whose voice was being considered in the affairs of the nation.

Retention of national service training, encouragement to youngsters to fit themselves for modern war and of course training were important items in the League's defence policy.

A.R.M.S. Games—position of teams at July 31

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<th>PLAYED</th>
<th>WON</th>
<th>LOST</th>
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<th>MATCH POINTS</th>
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The shooting competition will take place in the supper room at Anzac House on Tuesday, August 13, at 8 p.m.
New Officers Elected At Victoria Park

At the annual general meeting of the Victoria Park sub-branch on July 19 the following members were elected to office:


Elected to the committee in addition to those above were Messrs. E. Long, E. Morris, C. Wrench and Mr. C. Lang. Mr. C. Langnam continues as caretaker.

About 35 members attended the meeting including Mr. H. Andrew, M.H.R.

Tax Move: The Press sub-branch was successful at Congress with a motion that settlers in the North-West should be granted exemption from income tax for the first two years of occupation of their holdings.

Hills Band Concert

On Saturday, July 13, the R.S.L. Memorial Band journeyed to Mundaring to present the people of the district what has since been acknowledged as a musical treat.

The local sub-branch donated to the hall arrangements and 36 members of the band really looked the part as the first item — The March of the Herald. The conductor was Mr. J. De Blank.

The programme was well received and the audience showed its appreciation.

Mr. L. Turner (trombones) with the Groom at the piano, gave a pleasing touch to an evening of excellent rendered items.

The Mundaring sub-branch extends its thanks to the president, secretary, conductor and members of the band for a very fine effort.

WAR MEMORIAL WARDENSHIP

Chief warden of the State War Memorial for the ensuing year is Mr. W. J. Hunt, M.B.E., a former State President of the League.

This was announced at a meeting of the Congress by the State President (Mr. Longme). Mr. Hunt takes over from Sir Joseph Toddler.

Every home needs a Step Ladder

See how little you pay

Big, firm ladders in tough, straight-grain ed aloeswood. Every step double-screwed and recessed. For round the house and garden:

6ft . . . . . . . . . . . 65/-
7ft . . . . . . . . . . . 75/-
8ft . . . . . . . . . . . 86/-
9ft . . . . . . . . . . . 105/-

W.A. LAND SETTLEMENT Contd.

The Minister, and the Chairman of Commissioners of the Rural Industry Bank (Mr. G. H. Chessel), indicated to the conference their support for a re-issuance of rehabilitation loans.

The chairman of the Land Conference (Mr. E. O. Davids) said an amount of about $1,300,000 was involved.

Mr. Cheesell said he believed the rehabilitation loan was one of the most remarkable successes and that practically all of the money had been repaid. He would recommend its re-allocation.

Other Decisions

- Other matters that the Land Conference decided to press for in future:
  - Government loans for ex-service settlers outside the rehabilitation scheme
  - $750-a-year living allowances for soldier settlers.
  - Opening up for settlement of land east of Pingup.
  - Ex-service priority over Esperance land.

Move Endorsed At Pinnelly

At its first meeting after Congress, the Pinnelly sub-branch endorsed the Congress decision to raise the standard of compensation for widows in the $5-6 membership.

It was carried its endorsement further by deciding that as the decision could not take effect until the next Congress it would pay £5-6 £1 a member to headquarters and appeal to all sub-branches to do likewise.

This would raise £1,200 and help the League to meet its commitments in the meantime.

Expansion Aim In S.W.

New sub-branches of the R.S.L. may be formed at Yallingup and Dunsborough as the result of efforts being made by Busselton members.

Some have undertaken to draft three centres to help in the sub-branches' formation.

That was said at the Busselton branch meeting on July 3.

It was added that if separate branches were not opened then a combined sub-branch of Dunsborough might prove effective.

Subiaco Now Has Girl Marchers

The City of Subiaco sub-branch is fostering a Girl Guides club locally.

The girls are now training at the standard — at the Wagoroad Infant School on Monday mornings and evenings from 7 to 9 o'clock.

The sub-branch executive feels that having or knowing of any girls interested in marching to send them along.

Compensation: The North Perth sub-branch was successful in moving for re-south the compensation for the widows of volunteers unservice personnel brought into line with the Repatriation Act.