Big Money Involved In Veterans' Home

Plans for the new War Veterans' Home at Mt. Lawley involving a total estimated outlay of over £100,000 were adopted by the State Executive on November 4, and the architect for the project was instructed to proceed with the calling of tenders.

The plans provide for the accommodation of 64 male and 34 female veterans, and building is expected to commence early in the New Year.

To be located on 33 acres of land in a portion of the Scaddan Pine Plantation, the new home will be within four miles of Anzac House.

The land was granted by the Government earlier this year.

The buildings to be erected include two accommodation blocks for men and one for women—each with ablution facilities and an administration block incorporating offices, a dining room to seat 104 people, lounge and recreation rooms, kitchen and staff quarters, with rooms provided for occupational therapy, television and medical treatment.

There will probably be a superintendent's cottage.

Recreation

The lounge measures 40 x 30ft, and the recreational facilities include a full-size billiard table, and darts and quoits.

The plans envisage the provision of a bowling green in the future.

The buildings will be constructed in red brick with tiled roofs. Except for the main portion of the administration block the floors will be of cement throughout covered with lino-tiles.

The 'veterans' quarters comprise single bedrooms facing north and flanked by a corridor on the south side. The rooms measure 10 x 8 ft and the women's rooms 11 x 9 ft.

These will have full-height built-in wardrobes, dressing-table with mirror and light, small chest of drawers and bedside table.

All the accommodation blocks will have a sun-lounge, and the women's quarters will in addition be provided with a kitchen and small laundry.

Mr. J. A. Rolfe said that the War Nurses' Memorial Association had donated £5,000 to the building fund to cover the added amenities.

The orientation of the accommodation blocks is designed to admit winter sunlight into the bedrooms, but to exclude the summer sunshine.

The ceiling height of the administration block is to be 10ft, and that of the 'veterans' quarters 9ft.

The living quarters will be about 80 yards away from the administration block.

The estimated cost of the project excludes £11,500 as the cost of essential services.

Entrance to the new home will be from Alexander-drive, which is being extended as far as the adjacent golf links.

The sewer main will pass directly through the centre of the property.

It Is The Hat That Counts

There was nothing much about 130 Army officers at a Government House levee in Sydney recently to identify them as Australians. Mr. W. Yeo (N.S.W.) told Congress.

His motion, reiterating the League's attachment to the slouch hat was carried unanimously.

When the League sought an assurance from the Government about three years ago that the slouch hat would not be abandoned it was sold that for jungle fighting the hat was useless and the beret was the only thing.

The League has since been assured that the slouch hat will be retained for official and ceremonial occasions.

Easily the largest contribution to funds in the Miss Crowning Glory competition was the £1,000 raised on behalf of the Anzac Club candidate, Mrs. Pat Walton.

This was about one-seventh of the total amount raised.

The R.S.L. State President (Mr. W. S. Lonnie) told State Executive members at the November 4 meeting that although final figures were not then available the League and Legacy each stood to gain about £3,000 from the competition.

The League's share is to be used in connection with the new War Veterans' Home.

Numerous fund-raising functions were conducted by Mrs. Walton's campaign committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Tom Bindeman, the biggest single money-spinner being a competition conducted in the bar of the club. This raised £346.

- Pictured above at the crowning ceremony is the winner of the competition, Mrs. Jessica Barndistle of Moora, with Miss Carol Jones-Harris of Mooral Park (at left) who was placed second and Mrs. Betty Mitchell of Northampton (right) who was placed third.

(Final Judging Details, Page 7.)
Security In Changing World

"We are living in a changing world; we now measure distance in hours, not miles," the New Zealand Returned Services Association president (Mr. K. Fraser) said in his address to Congress.

Mr. Fraser attended all sessions as an observer, and before leaving the State was flown to Albany to inspect the Mount Clarens memorial which is to be recovered from Port Said.

To New Zealand, he told Congress, Australia is the main bastion of security. "We are part of Asia, whether we like it or not. It is more important every day by day to get closer together and know exactly what we are thinking." Like the R.S.L., the R.S.A. was rapidly solving its domestic problems and would take an even greater role in international affairs.

He was glad the League had provided a ready observer to the next general assembly of the World Veterans Federation.

Ex-service Link

The federation had been formed on November 27, 1950 in Paris, where veterans from six countries—France, Italy, Belgium, Holland, United States and Yugoslavia—realized that veterans' organizations could play a useful part in influencing governments, and that they could achieve more by working together and by affiliating.

The federation now comprised 8 countries and represented 8,000,000 ex-servicemen.

Its basic objects were: (1) To support policies of world peace based on freedom and independence.

(2) To support the United Nations Organisation and implementation of the Declaration of Human Rights.

(3) To strengthen the spirit of comradeship and respect among war veterans regardless of their national, economic, racial and religious differences.

(4) To advance the material and spiritual welfare of war veterans.

The whole of the work of the League, Mr. Fraser went on, was based on those four simple principles.

The organisation was a little different from the League. Its supreme authority was the general assembly, which comprised delegates from each of the member-countries. It was based on a country concept and worked like-the United Nations. The member-countries had equal voting rights.

On the administrative side there was an executive board of six members, and the assembly elected a council for each country.

Mr. Fraser said he had been appointed councillor for New Zealand.

Where there was disagreement in the council a solution was found by submitting the whole question to the full assembly.

Observations from observers in Iron Curtain countries had attended assembly meetings over the last three years.

High Standing

The standing of the federation was very high. It was one of the most important non-governmental organizations holding Category A affiliation with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and had consultative status with UNICEF.

"The United Nations could not act on veteran matters without consulting us," said Mr. Fraser.

The congress attended to the needs of settlers, housing, welfare of ex-service persons and the promotion of greater understanding amongst the peoples of the world, Mr. Fraser said.

At this year's general assembly in Rome there were 30 delegates to the Congress, Mr. Fraser said. It was hoped to get more delegates from the various countries.

He knew of no body better able to speak with one voice on ex-service matters than the federation, and he thought it would help to achieve more in human understanding than the United Nations itself.

The federation used the United Nations team of interpreters.

The work of the federation cost a lot of money and this year's budget was over 300,000 dollars. The membership subscription was not very large and the federation drew on an American fund known as the World Veterans Fund, which had been built up by a foundation headed by Mr. Alfred P. Vanderbilt, jun.

Mr. Fraser said it had taken the N.Z. R.S.A. three years to make up its mind about joining the organisation, and on that decision the League had decided to appoint an observer. Initially he believed there was only one organisation in Australia, which should be seeking representation on the federation, and that was the R.S.L.—"the practical voice on ex-service matters."

He was glad to have an opportunity of presenting the views of his organisation to the other delegates with the greetings of the Dominion R.S.A. Its affairs were varied and its membership was 95,000 out of a total population of 2,250,000.

Most of the repatriation problems had been solved and the association had secured that the repatriation and rehabilitation of veterans was dealt with in several categories of rehabilitation. It had done a little farther on land settlement, and would always keep a close watch on pensions.

Extorting the exchange of goods on the part of the League, Mr. Fraser said: "The idea is to strengthen the spirit of comradeship and understanding. The thing to get is to know much more clearly what our friends are thinking and what you are thinking."

"You can rest assured that the R.S.A. of New Zealand will march along with you into the future."

At Congress Mr. Fraser was made an Honorary Life Member of the League. He is shown below (left) receiving the League badge from the R.S.L. National President (Sir George Holland).
More Money Sought For War-service Housing

Congress was unanimous in pressing for an increased allocation of funds for the War Service Homes scheme and for a reduction in the waiting-period following application.

Introducing a motion seeking an annual allocation of at least £40,000,000 Sir. J. F. Graham (Qld.) said that the present allocation of £5,500,000 for thousands of ex-service men in all Australia would have to go on waiting for the homes they were promised years ago.

The Commonwealth was not lending the money, and for many years Ministers in charge of the scheme had expressed their appreciation of the fact that arrears in repayments were small, he said.

The motion was carried. Mr. Graham was also successful with a motion asking that the waiting-period for the building of war-service homes outside the State should be reduced from six to three months, to be under the supervision of the War Service Homes Division.

At present the waiting-period for building under outside supervision was from 12 to 15 months and under War Service Homes was six months; but he thought it was not a great deal of discontent.

Supporting the motion Mr. J. F. Graham (Qld.) said the present time-limit of the State was at least 12 months.

He said the scheme had proved a particularly good investment and that there had been practically no unproductive delay in repayments.

It had given ex-service men a stake in the country and a great deal of assistance and the money had not been wasted.

Mr. C. H. McKay (Victoria), who had been present at Congress, said that the motion was a good one and that there had been a great deal of discontent.

Advance Limit

It was also resolved to seek an increase in the maximum advance under the loan scheme from £2,000 to £7,000.

During discussion of a motion seeking an amendment of the Act to enable persons to transfer their liability under a mortgage for a second loan, Sir. J. F. Graham moved that the motion be carried.

Mr. B. B. Medbury said the present exchange might be £2,000,000.

He said that when, because of a transfer in his employments, he moved into another house for another reason, a man sold his home he was required to dispose of it for a second loan. It was, therefore, to have to make available another loan and thus deprive someone else who might never have had a house.

Mr. Graham said that transfer of a rental home was merely a matter of entry—of transferring the liability to another State or area.

West Australian motion for reduction in the rate of interest on war-service homes failed. At present the rate charged is 5 per cent on the first £2,000 and 7½ per cent on the balance of £750. The motion sought a rate of 5 per cent.

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Ideals Of Remembrance

“Our job is to commemorate the men who contributed towards victory but did not live to see its fruits,” Brigadier A. E. Brown, secretary-general of the Imperial War Graves Commission (Anzac Division) said at Congress.

Brig. Brown said he had been associated with the war for 28 years and had endeavoured to live up to two principles: that every individual was worthy of remembrance, and that any commemoration should make no distinction as to rank. The little man was just as important in war, he said.

His great interest in commemoration came from a remark of a widowed mother in 1944. Her five sons had served in the Air Force and four with the army. The man had been shot down over the Mediterranean early in the war. In 1942 another of the brothers was reported missing, believed killed, in New Guinea.

Early in 1944 two of the brothers had met during the landing at Finschaven, but neither one of them was killed.

The other brother, on his return to Australia, had given his mother an account of the passing of her third son. Next morning she had said: “I have not slept all night. I am glad my sons were men. They deserve to be remembered.” “That old lady,” said Brig. Brown, “was my mother.”

Worthwhile

To perpetuate the memory was really something worthwhile, he said. He was pleased with the war cemeteries that had come under his control, but was still far from satisfied. They had not received the recognition they deserved. Each man buried there was entitled to be remembered for all time.

“The commission feels it must create living memorials. We don’t believe we can commemorate a name merely by carving it. We must create something personal, first because the individual has earned it and secondly because we want something that will last as long as the Commonwealth and that will attract people.”

“We want to make cemeteries really beautiful gardens. Such places will attract future visitors who will form part of our history. Brig. Brown said he was continually visiting cemeteries with the idea of directing improvements to them. For instance it had been felt that the Japanese character of the beautiful Commonwealth war cemetery near Yokohama was not in keeping with its purpose, and steps were being taken through the importation of trees and shrubs from Canada, New Zealand and Australia — to give it a truly British Commonwealth character. In ten years’ time there should be a remarkable transformation there.

The only gum trees in Japan were to be found in that cemetery, and they were very well. As well as caring for war graves the commission, as agent for the Australian Government, was looking after the graves in civilian cemeteries of 56,000 men who had died in post-war years as a result of war service.

It had recently been found that the record of such deaths was not complete. About 6,000 graves that had not been receiving attention had been located, and an investigation was being made to give proper maintenance to them — in the case of two graves at the deserted mining town of Youanmi.

Brig. Brown suggested that the people buried in neglected places might be commemorated in a central position in the capital cities.

Referring to the Anzac Day pilgrimages to war cemeteries at Townsville and Canberra he said he was told: “It’s not always possible to have more pilgrimages of the kind.”

N.G. Support For W.A. Naval Base

The Papua-New Guinea delegate, Mr. R. H. Bunting, seconded a W.A. motion at Congress for a naval base on the west coast of Australia.

Introducing the motion Mr. C. E. Townshend said its intention was not selfish.

With the loss of the Bayswater, HMAS Trincomalee there was now no base west of Sydney for servicing naval vessels of any size.

The motion was carried.

W.A. Move To Encourage Prospecting Defeated

A West Australian move for an amendment to the Social Services Act to provide assistance for unemployed ex-servicemen to go prospecting without prior registration was defeated at Congress.

Mr. E. C. Townshend said it would be better to encourage unemployed men to go prospecting than to be not allowed ways possible to the cities in the Commonwealth employment officer.

Brigadier A. E. Brown
Inheritance of W.S. Land Holdings

Advice has been received from the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Nald) concerning the easing of the regulations which permit of a transfer, in the event of the death of the settler, from father to son under certain conditions.

Originally the only eligible person under the War Service Land Settlement Scheme was the lessee, and at a later stage the Commonwealth agreed to extend eligibility to the widow in cases where the soldier was deceased.

The conferment of eligibility to the widow all the privileges mentioned in the agreement and as originally granted to the soldier-lessee, including financial arrangements for any additional development loans for stock and plant, and, where necessary, working expenses.

But did not confer any rights beyond those which normally would have been received by the original lessee.

As circumstances developed, however, it appeared that the granting of eligibility to the widow was only of material benefit where the widow was capable of managing the property and either also inclined to agriculture.

In some instances the widow did not wish to remain on the property, but the same time did not wish to relinquish her rights altogether, and it was requested that arrangements should be made for the transfer of the lease, either on the death of the widow or her wish, to a son who had proved capable of managing the property.

Under normal conditions the property, upon the death of the widow, could be bequeathed to the son of any other relative or person, but, as in the case in any normal bequest, the beneficiary would be required to meet any debts attached to the estate, as well as obtain finance to operate the property.

It was felt that there was a case for enabling a suitable son with the managerial capacity, and who had already contributed in the development of the farm, to have in opportunity for having the lease transferred to him, and this was submited to and discussed with the Commonwealth Minister controlling War Service Land Settlement.

The Commonwealth Minister agreed, but was unable to concede that all the benefits which had been extended to the father, or, the property as the "eligible" persons should be extended to the son. Although the son would have the lease transferred to him and also would have the privileges of rent and the repayment of loans, as already approved, assistance would not extend to the further granting of finance either for the development of the property or for working expenses, stock or plant.

War-pensions Move On Education Grants

The League is to ask the Services Canteens Trust to leave war pensions out of the reckoning in determining its educational grants.

This was decided at Congress on the motion of the Queensland branch.

The director of the trust fund (Brigadier R. R. Gordon) told Congress that to exclude the funds available to be used to cover the greatest need means reducing the adjusted family income, was in force.

A one-child family with an income of £900 a year could come under the scheme, as could a three-child family with an income of £1,150.

It was only by cutting out grants to others that adequate assistance could be given to the needy cases.

Over the last three years there had been a reduction in the amount of the grants to enable a greater number of grants to be made.

Brig. Gordon said that to leave war pensions out of account would ignore the measuring-up of need on terms of cash into the home.

When pitting the claims of one ex-service man against those of another, he said, the whole must be taken into account.

The grants were made to ex-service men as some compensation for their service in war.

At the present time no account was taken of pensions of 50 per cent and over, on the assumption that the income-carrying capacity of the recipient had been seriously interfered with.

Mr. A. J. Lee (S.A.) said he thought Congress must stand firm on the principle that war pensions must not be regarded as income.

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BOANS Travel Service
Defect in Defences, Congress Told

Two things that had emerged from a large-scale army exercise at Mackay (Queensland) early this year were that the troops were highly efficient and that there were some serious loopholes in Australia’s defences, Mr. J. A. Sheriff told Congress.

Owing to wet weather and lack of good strategic roads about 4,000 troops had been cut off from the headquarters for about three weeks, he said.

The exercises had been known as Operation Grand Slam, but had since been referred to as Operation Grand Slam.

There were no railway trucks in Queensland capable of transporting 50-ton Centurions, Mr. Sheriff said, and he doubted whether there was any vessel on the Australian coast capable of lifting a 50-ton load.

Mr. R. C. H. McIay (Victoria) said there were suitable ships for the job but not the loading equipment. Congress resolved to request the Commonwealth Government to make an allocation of shipping as a measure for the improvement of rail and road systems in strategic areas of Australia.

North Open

Speaking to a motion for the permanent stationing of defence forces in northern Australia and New Guinea and for the provision of speedy reinforcements in time of hostilities, Mr. Sheriff said that since the last Congress R.A.A.F. had moved out completely from the islands and had sold up everything, including jet fuel. The Minister for Defence had said that every week reinforcements should be looked after by SEATO.

The motion was carried.

A New South Wales motion to give the permanent stationing of defence forces in New Guinea and New Britain and for the provision of speedy reinforcements in time of hostilities had been supported by Mr. J. A. McFly (New Guinea) and Mr. R. F. Bellinger (Papua). Members felt that the club was really fulfilling its objective with high calibre in evidence. All members join to wishing the club good fortune in the future, he said.

The Secretary, Mr. D. O. Bellinger, reported that the opening meetings of the club had been very successful. The members had been told that the club was really fulfilling its objective with high calibre in evidence. All members join to wishing the club good fortune in the future, he said.

Victoria Park Activities

The annual smoke social to be held at the Victoria Park sub-branch will take place on Friday, December 18—the night for meeting old and new members (admission 10/-).

Notice of Motion will be submitted at the next general meeting on Thursday, November 19, for changing the club meeting night to the second week of every month.

The Miss Crowningshield (now Miss Boucher) who is the club’s secretary, will be on hand to meet the members.

The His Majesty’s Theatre tour will be held on the Friday of the month at the Victoria Park sub-branch. The programme will be announced at the meeting.

That Flag Is Still There

A letter from the Boulder sub-branch secretary expresses his interest in the Boulder sub-branch’s activities. He suggests that the Boulder sub-branch might consider holding a meeting of its own to discuss the issues of the day. He also mentions that the Boulder sub-branch has recently received a award for its contribution to the war effort.

Bellevue Club Proceedings

The Bellevue R.S.L. clubrooms were taxed to capacity on October 18 when members gathered to say farewell to Mr. Tom Robinson (a past-president of the sub-branch) and his family. Owning to ill-health they have been forced to move nearer the coast.

Dances were held in particular high gear and the orchestra received little rest.

At the beginning of the sub-branch’s esteem sub-branch president Roy McInnes was presented with a token of the guest-of-honour’s unfailing courtesy, enthusiasm and sportsmanship, particularly in the formations of the band.

Mr. Robinson referred first to a conversation with whom he had enlisted but who had failed to report for service. Members felt that the club was really fulfilling its objective with high calibre in evidence. All mem-

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Contest Ends In Blaze Of Glory

The Miss Crowning Glory competition, conducted throughout the State by the League and Legacy branches of the R.S.L., was determined by the finest head of hair—blonde, brunette or redhead—introduced in a blaze of glory at the concert and crowning ceremony in His Majesty's Theatre, Perth on the night of Sunday, October 25.

The contest was won by Mrs. Jessica Earnshaw—of Moora—who, aptly enough, was sponsored by the Moora R.S.L. and Legacy branch.

The remaining place-getters, with the sponsoring bodies shown in parentheses, were:

Miss Carol Jones-Harris of Mosman Park (Mosman Park Ladies' Hockey Club); 2: Mrs. Betty Mitchell of Northampton (Northampton R.S.L.); 3: Mrs. Jessie Earnshaw (R.S.L., North Cottesloe); 4: Miss Pamela B. Bailey of Shackleton (Shackleton R.S.L.); 5: Mrs. Marjorie Parsons of Kondinin (Kondinin R.S.L.); 6: Mrs. Wendy Cross of North Cottesloe (North Cottesloe R.S.L.); 7: Miss Margaret Dimmitt of Mt. Lawley (Nedlands R.S.L.); 8. An interesting feature of the competition was the fact that five of the eight place-getters came from country areas.

The special League prize of £20 was easily won by Mrs. Pat Walton (sponsored by the Anzac Club) who turned in the staggering sum of £1,000.

This was a stupendous effort and worthy of the highest commendation.

Second in that section of the competition was Miss Valmai Fawson (sponsored by the Narrogin sub-branch and other Narrogin organisations) who raised £314/6/9.

Third place was Mrs. John Ambulance and for deciding the winner of the competition, being the most successful, the heap of raised by the Bellevue sub-branch who raised £207/0/9.

Of the returns in this section were over £200, 15 per cent of the total amount raised from country areas.

The concert and crowning ceremony was very well attended and, notwithstanding the comparatively high expenses involved in staging the show added £90 to the total amount raised.

This competition, for a first effort of its kind, can be classed as most successful, one of the pleasing features of its organisation being the close and strong co-operation between the R.S.L. and Legacy.

Everybody worked as a team with one common end, and this feeling no doubt went a long way towards making the event such a success.

A Stalwart Passes

It was with sorrow, and a deep sense of shock, that the people of Manjimup, and particularly members of the R.S.L. sub-branch, heard of the death of Lou (Lou) Thompson following a collision on South-West highway, North Dardanup, on October 30.

Born in Yorkshire (England) 65 years ago, Lou served in the Grenadier Guards in the 1914-18 war. In 1924 with his wife, infant son, mother, sister and two brothers he came out to Western Australia.

The family came straight to Manjimup where, in December 1924, Lou and his brother Fred opened the town's first garage. Later they moved away from the partnership.

A staunch member of the R.S.L. Lou was for some years president of the sub-branch. He was also president of the R.S.L. Band.

Elected to Manjimup Road Board in April 1948, Lou became its chairman the following year, and held this office until April 1954.

He was a prime mover in the formation of the Manjimup sub-centre of the St. John Ambulance and for about 19 years up to his death was its president.

He left a widow, one son and one daughter.
Nuclear Attack On Australia

In the event of a global war, and that a global war itself is unlikely.

The Commonwealth Government's defence advisers say there is little danger of a nuclear attack on Australia even in the event of a global war. The Minister for the Interior (Mr. Freeth) said this in an address he gave at Congress during the debate on defence and civil defence issues.

You don't take a sledgehammer to crack a nut, Mr. Freeth said. Australia had no nuclear weapons. With the States still a collective of the enemy, presumably, it would be knock out the countries that did possess them.

With that aim achieved there would not be much point in a continuing war against those who did not have such weapons. The gap would have been won already.

Mr. Freeth said the use of the term Civil Defence was unfortunate as it suggested people to the view it was a matter for the Commonwealth Government to legislate in that field. This was not so; the Commonwealth Government must not legislate on matters of civil defence, which was the responsibility of the States.

"The Government is right with you on the desirability of having some community in which to live, but it is not possible at present," Mr. Freeth said. "We must operate by agreement with the separate States."

It was not yet since the Commonwealth had endeavoured to get a meeting on the problem, and when the responsible Governments had met no agreement seemed possible.

Meeting Sought

The Commonwealth was again asking for a meeting with the States to see what could be done.

Some States had displayed a complete lack of interest in civil defence matters, but there was quite a lively organisation in New South Wales and a similar one was also being done in Western Australia.

"We can't get on," Mr. Freeth went on, "with the State Governments advising the strategic position of the position. In the absence of a relative proportion of our total resources that can be estimated, that can be estimated by the States and 'Commonwealth together."

With an agreement of that kind the Commonwealth Government could disseminate information through the States on the kind of training that should be undertaken and the kind of organisation needed. That bit at least the Commonwealth had anticipated.

It would also entail that the dovetailing of all sorts of activities would have to remain the responsibility of the local community. There were considerable constitutional difficulties involved. There was no organisation under the National Service Act and the Commonwealth was not having control over the training of young people in civil defence forces. Mr. Freeth continued.

It was true that the Government of National Service was not having control over the training of young people in civil defence forces, that the Commonwealth had not had the same.
Top Posts Decided

Sir George Holland, who has been National President of the R.S.L. since February, 1958, was re-elected to office at the National Congress in Perth last month.

A Victorian, he served with the 7th Battalion D.F.L.F. and as 2nd Lieutenant was Victorian State President.

He was opposed for the national presidency by the Queensland State President, Sir Raymond Huish.

The West Australian State President, Mr. W. S. Lonnie defeated Mr. A. J. Lee—the South Australian State President—in the ballot for the office of National President; Mr. Lee had held office since the previous Congress.

Air Vice-Marshl F. M. Bladin was re-elected unopposed to the office of Honorary Treasurer, and Mr. R. G. Bailey to that of Honorary Solicitor.

N.G. Land Schemes Are Operating

"Since the inauguration of the Commonwealth-sponsored land-settlement credit scheme for Australian ex-servicemen in Papua-New Guinea, about a year ago the credit board has granted assistance totalling about $300,000 to 47 applicants.

The money is on long-term loan to encourage the development of primary industry in the Territories, and assistance applies in part on a five-year residential qualification.

So far, the scheme can apply for up to £25,000, and the number of offers is increasing weekly.

This was said at Congress by the Papua-New Guinea delegate, Mr. B. F. Bunting, himself a planter.

Mr. Bunting had said there were some borderline cases—one applicant had missed out by three days on the residential qualification, but following representations from the ninth annual League Conference, the Government had agreed to step in and allow the ex-servicemen already on the land.

Mr. Bunting said he greatly appreciated that concession, and that ex-servicemen who stayed in the Territory were not regarded as "casualties," but as "returning veterans." He had been impressed by the number of course, but he saw many cases where the Government's effort to provide a settlement scheme for ex-servicemen on the land.

Many of the men engaged in both coffee and cocoa production had been in dire need, and Mr. Bunting had been concerned to see their needs met.

At Congress: Pictured here are the National and State branch presidents of the League and the New Zealand R.S.A. president. From left they are: Mr. C. H. McKay (Victoria), Mr. O. G. Geard (Tasmania), Mr. W. W. Ye (New South Wales), Mr. W. S. Lonnie (Western Australia), Mr. K. Fraser (New Zealand R.S.A.), Sir George Holland (R.S.L. National President), Sir Raymond Huish (Queensland), Mr. A. J. Lee (South Australia), Mr. R. F. Bunting, M.L.C. (New Guinea), and Mr. D. W. Elliman (Canberra).

Russians Trained In Civil Defence

According to an American statement quoted at Congress by Mr. Lonnie (W.A.) the entire adult population of Russia is required to undergo realistic training in civil defence.

The statement indicated that 110,000,000 Russians up to the age of 60 had passed civil defence examinations and that two-hour classes were held once or twice a week.

Mr. Lonnie said there were 18,000 instructors and that 2,500,000 civilians were undergoing training.

He was reporting as chairman of the League's National Defence Committee on matters of national and civil defence.

He said the League had made submissions to the Minister for Defence (Mr. Towsley) and his predecessor for restoring the National Service training call-up from 12,000 to 36,000 annually and having those not required for ordinary training given instruction in civil defence.

There had also been a request for the incorporation of civil defence instruction in National Service training.

The League had renewed its submissions for a naval base on the west coast of Australia, and was awaiting results.

On other aspects there had been encouraging replies from the Minister. Service was being made more attractive, but the League was returning to the attack on the question of taxation remission, for earnings on C.F.M.F. duty. Young men should be given every encouragement to join the forces.

The League had renewed its submissions for a naval base on the west coast of Australia, and was awaiting results.

Ministerial replies on questions concerning West New Guinea had been reassuring.

The report was adopted.
ANZAC DAY CLOSING OF POST OFFICES?

A resolution at Congress seeks the closing of some 4,000 Post Offices throughout Australia on Anzac Day each year, the delivery of telegrams.

ANZAC CLUB JOTTINGS

We are pleased to be able to advise our readers that the Anzac Club is gradually improving and more members are taking advantage of the Club's facilities.

We ask you to tell your friends of the spacious lounge bar, in which you can sit in comfort and enjoy the refreshments obtainable—at the same prices, as other establishments—along with a dainty dish of cold meat and salad for 1/6 between 12 and 2 p.m.

The billiard room is being used more often. Carpet bowls is exceptionally popular, darts is still played by a large section of members.

A Sub-Branch Insists

Reluctance to accept the honor of life membership of the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. was expressed by Mr. Alf Smith at the October meeting.

Mr. Smith, who recently resigned from the position of junior vice-president, has been a stalwart of the sub-branch for many years. He claimed that there were others whose services were deserving of recognition than his.

The meeting was unanimous in favour of the proposed members of the sub-branch which had been recommended by the committee.

The President is the Acting president of the Geraldton auxiliary.

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Move For Convalescent Home Supported

A West Australian motion seeking the establishment by the Repatriation Department, on a contributory basis, of convalescent homes for aged T.P.I. and full-pension ex-servicemen received the support of Congress.

Introducing the motion Mr. E. G. Townshend said it was virtually impossible for many aged pensioners on discharge from repatriation hospitals to obtain suitable convalescent care. Consequently some of them spent more time in hospitals than out of it.

He would say that the average cost of maintaining a patient in a repatriation hospital was about £10 a week.

Convalescent homes of the kind envisaged would reduce the need for hospitalisation and in the event of the patient's death and medical treatment for ex-servicemen and women of over 65 years of age and over.

A Queensland move for all ex-servicemen patients in general hospitals to be made wards of the Commonwealth Government was also agreed to. In the debate on the question Mr. Kea (N.S.W.) said there were about 1,500 such patients in his State.
Signs Of Confusion Still On Hospital Visiting

Some confusion still seems to exist regarding hospital visiting. At the last State Congress it was decided to form a Hospital Visiting Corps and to ask sub-branches to donate $5 a year.

This sum can be paid out of amelioration funds and will, help to defray incidental expenses of corps members, and assist sub-branches which have for years visited C.M.H. and Hospital land.

The committee has not been idle, as a Hospital Visiting Corps of some 26 members has been formed from volunteers.

Sub-Branches Active For Dick May

The committee of the combined Kenwick-Maddington sub-branch and auxiliaries have arranged a further fixture for November in their drive for funds for the Dick May medical fund appeal.

Dick (ex-R.N.) underwent the first stage of brain surgery for Parkinson's Disease in September, and the operation has already brought great relief and enjoyment of living to him.

It is to meet the medical expenses of this operation that the appeal is being held. Gosnells sub-branch is assisting.

The committee was granted the afternoon tea right for the occasion of the official opening of the new pavilion at Gosnells oval.

Through the courtesy of Trans-Australia Airlines, a full flight of 737, departing at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, November 20, in the Kenwick Memorial Hall, at 8 p.m. Admission is by silver coin.

A variety concert will be given by the Myer's State Revue company in the Maddington Hall on Saturday, November 28.

MISSING FRIENDS

STEERE

Should anyone knowing the whereabouts of W. B. STEERE, whose last known address was 28 Oakville-st, Mt. Hawthorne, get in touch with him to contact Anzac House.

SALMOND

Another ex-serviceman that Anzac House is anxious to contact is R. Salmon who lived at 10, nett-st, Perth until 1958, and who was on the Goldfields.

Current Schedule For Visits


PEACE: Messrs. J. Johnson and D. White.

FREMANTLE: Messrs. W. H. Gummery and F. Welch.


C.M.H. (Sub-branch visits): Cottesloe, Fremantle, Mt. Hawthorn and Women's Auxiliary.


ST. JOHN OF GOD (Sub-locus): Messrs. Hornby, Tide, M. Dunne, Johnson and Miss Doyle.

ST. JOHN OF GOD (Belmont): Messrs. Cairns and Pink.


SUNSET: Nedlands sub-branch.

OTHER HOSPITALS: As requested.

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Mt. Hawthorn "Hot" For Games Shield

With only a few remaining games in this year's A.R.M.S. games competition it appears that Mt. Hawthorn will finish the competition with an untroubled leader, but second place is providing a keen struggle between Gloucester Park and Darling Range.

Fourth place at the moment is held by a keen Nollamara side—this being their first season in the games and they are certain making their presence felt.

Worthy also of a note of mention is the rapidity and keenness of the boys from Claremont— whose team is due to face Darling Range and Wembley West Leederville, Floreat Park this round finishing with a late run, both in the game mentioned and also Gloucester Park Against Gl. Park at Montmorenci, the home team looked like winning 10G at one stage, but by winning the last two games of table tennis 30 and the last two games of darts Wembley W.L.F.P made the result a draw, and the grand final was only lost by one point.

The semi-finals were also played on Nov. 10 and 11. The final is now Nov. 23 (Wed.) and grand final Nov. 30 (Mon.).

Yellow Cab Cup Shooting

The result of the rifle shoot for the Yellow Cab Cup was—

Mt. Hawthorn, 145.5; Gloucester Park, 145; Darling Range, 145.

A.R.M.S. Competition Progress Report

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Darling Range and Gloucester Park credited with 8/2 wins in forfeited games against (Nollamara and Cottesloe respectively) pending completion of rounds for accurate assessment of points.

EX-SERVICE WOMEN KEPT BUSY

Five carloads of members of the Ex-Servicemen's sub-branch visited Faversham for the day on September 20 and served an excellent afternoon tea to the inmates.

Visitors were told that the trip sent a variety of cakes and scones, etc.

On October 16 a most successful disposal bazaar and jumble sale was held on behalf of Mrs. Walpole in the Miss Crownings Glory contest. The Rtd. Sisters sub-branch and others assisted the Rtd. Ex-Servicewomen.

The tea and scones served by the Riverina auxiliary were also very welcome.

The sale yielded over £170 and Mrs. Walpole—in the final analysis—won the prize for the contestant raising the largest sum of money.

U.K. Sailors Due At Christmas

H.M.S. Mount's Bay will be at Fremantle for the period December 24 to 26. We are confident that this State's reputation for hospitality will be maintained.

Offers to entertain our visitors are being reviewed. The request should be addressed to the R.S.L. State Secretary, Anzac House, Perth, as soon as possible.

Athletics Aided At Geraldton

The Geraldton sub-branch of the R.S.L. is assisting the Geraldton Amateur Athletic Club in conducting its fortnightly sports meetings. At the October meeting several members indicated they were willing to make their services available as officials.

Compensation For Injury On Service

The League is to press for speedier payment of compensation to C.M.F. personnel injured on duty.

This was decided at Congress on the motion of the Dalgety Convenor.

Sir Raymond Huish said he had taken the authorities over two years to get them to realize that the compensation application from a New South Wales man injured in April, 1956, in another instance a man injured in 1955 had had to wait until late the following year for compensation, Sir Raymond said.

Sports Day At Coolgardie

As September 17 was the anniversary of the finding of gold in Coolgardie, and was celebrated as Coolgardie Day, the local R.S.L. auxiliary held a sports day and garden fete on the following Saturday. The money for the children's prizes and the free drinks they received were donated by local organisations. The Garden Fete was the main feature of the day, the prizes in this competition being, it was announced, to be made up by the local organisations. The Garden Fete was the main event of the day, the prizes to be made up by the local organisations.

Employment For The Maimed

The League is to explore the possibility of establishing an establishment for the employment of disabled ex-servicemen and civilians.

This was decided at Congress. Delegates were told that a factory of the kind in New Zealand was subsidized by patriotic funds.
Back To The Start

Delegates at Congress last month were unexpectedly reminded of the very beginnings of the Australia-wide movement they serve so well today.

This was on the second weekend of Congress-week when the W.A. State President (Mr. Lonnie Cree), who was the official representative to the presence—as a spectator—of a World War I Digger, Mr. J. F. Eade, of West Perth. Mr. Eade, a one-armed T.P.I. man, was on the platform shaking hands with Sir George Holland as quickly as he could get to them.

He told delegates he had attended the conference of the Returned Servicemen's Association in Sydney, in September, 1916, at which the R.S.L. was formed.

He was the time resident in New South Wales and Western Australia and had no representative at the conference.

In 1920 he had been delegate to the Perth convention while Sir Gilbert Dyett had been in the chair for the 1st time.

Mr. Eade was a member of the original 3rd Battalion, and was invalided back to Australia in 1918 on a gallipot arm on one of his proud possessions is his membership badge of the R.S.A.—fore-runner of the R.S.L.

ASSOCIATION OF EX-SERVICEMEN

RATES: $2/2/ per annum

FEDERATED T.B. SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN'S ASSOCIATION—President, Mr. T. B. Smith, 159 Ham-street, Perth. 2nd Monday, President, Mr. J. Sumner, Secretary, 4A Beckenham, East Perth.

SOUTH AFRICAN AND IMPERIAL VETERANS' ASSOCIATION—President, Mr. T. B. Smith, 159 Ham-street, Perth. 2nd Monday, President, Mr. J. Sumner, Secretary, 4A Beckenham, East Perth.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF W.A.—meets 3rd Wednesday, at Railway Institute, President, Mr. W. A. T. Pym, Secretary, Mr. W. A. T. Pym, 126th Avenue, East Perth, 2nd Wednesday, at 8.45 p.m., President, Mr. T. B. Smith, Secretary, 4A Beckenham, East Perth.

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION—meets every first Tuesday, at Railway Institute, President, Mr. W. A. T. Pym, Secretary, Mr. W. A. T. Pym, 126th Avenue, East Perth, 2nd Wednesday, at 8.45 p.m., President, Mr. T. B. Smith, Secretary, 4A Beckenham, East Perth.

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Move To Liberalise Welfare Grants

A New South Wales motion for liberalising welfare grants under the Services Canteens Trust Fund was defeated at Congress after an explanation of current policy by the director of the fund (Brigadier R. R. Gordon).

The motion proposed that the present 40-year life of the fund be reduced to enable the grants to be increased. Brig. Gordon said that the 40-year life had been decided on because at the inauguration of the scheme after World War II 75 per cent of ex-servicemen were young people, and 500,000 of them were in the 40s today. Their need would come later.

The trustees had had a very close look at the needs of old people throughout Australia, he said. His own view was that the 40-year life was a minimum term. In New Zealand the compensated life of the equivalent fund was 50 years.

It had been suggested that the welfare fund was not being used up quickly enough. Actually the trustees could spend £1,000,000 a year on the welfare side of their work, but in each of the last six years an expert's report had not been incurred. On that basis the fund would not last for the full period.

Mr. Lonne (W. A.) said he thought the League should fasten on the point that there were 1,000,000 ex-servicemen throughout Australia.

The effective rate of the pension was no higher now than it was ten years ago. Supporting the motion Mr. C. H. McKay (Victoria) said the League had only good come from the appointment of a commission to review the scheme and make recommendations for its future. He thought the League, in approaching the Government, should use the point that there were 1,000,000 ex-servicemen in Australia.

Pension Rises Paltry, Delegate Says

The recent war and service pension increases were paltry and a smack in the eye to the League, according to Mr. W. Yeo, president of the New South Wales branch of the League.

Moving at Congress that representations be made for the appointment of a commission to review the pensions Mr. Yeo said he could not understand how an organisation could sit down and accept the increases given to veterans.

He thought the League, in approaching the Government, should use the point that there were 1,000,000 ex-servicemen throughout Australia.

MIGRATION POLICY CHANGE OPPOSED

Any attempt to change the basic immigration policy of Australia will be resisted by the League. This was decided at Congress when a motion from the Papua-New Guinea branch strongly opposing the immigration, on a quota basis, of non-Europeans was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. Yeo (N.S.W.) said that throughout Australia today certain small groups were trying under underground methods to break down the present policy.

They were attempting to frustrate the demands of Christianity and friendship, and the League should be vigilant.

To permit Asians to settle in Australia would provide no solution to the problems in their own countries, and the demand for them was a challenge to the League.

Mr. W. S. Lonne (W. A.) said Mr. Yeo's motion was not a new policy. A quota system would create great problems. Mr. Yeo's motion seemed to overlook the fact that there were no nations more exclusive than some Asian countries.

The question was one on which the League must leave no doubt as to where it stood. It was sometimes said that the Australian attitude was at variance with the United Nations, and the League had frequently worked for a closer screening of would-be migrants.

A closer screening of would-be migrants.

* A smaller group of applications for Australian citizenship.

* A new set-up for persons living in Asian countries on the nomination of closely-related naturalised Australians.

Can You Help This Man?

Can somebody help an old soldier?—T.P.I. First war Digger W. W. Lover of 85, 83 Beaumont St., Wembley (phone 87 2759).

He has a valued tunic with the buttons, and would like some similar to those he was issued with at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, a long time ago—carrying the words Commonwealth of Australia, a representation of Australia on the face.

Requirement: six 7-8in., and nine 5-6in. buttons (flat on back).

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THE_Listening Post

NOVEMBER, 1959
UNIT ASSOCIATION NOTES

10th Light Horse, A.I.F.

There was a good attendance of members at the 10th Light Horse Association's 38th annual reunion at Anzac House on October 7. After the formal proceedings were over, the party broke up into various groups and changed small groups as old comrades greeted each other and passed on news of mates they had seen, and discussed old times together.

The usual toasts were proposed, the speakers being brief and to the point. Bugler Syd Court sounded the Last Post and Revellie to warn of falling comrades.

The retiring president (Mr. Geoff Gardiner) reported on the activities of the association. This showed that the association had been well supported, and that the financial position was good, so that the affairs of the association had run smoothly owing to the keen interest of members. In spite of the loss of many comrades, the association had 370 copies of the News Bulletin, which had been posted in September. He paid a special tribute to the secretary (Mr. E. Andrews).

Lieut.-Col. K. Howard, for many years C.O. of the 10th Light Horse Regt. C.M.F., installed the new president (Mr. E. Bain).

Among the guests were General de Lisle, G.O.C. Western Command, Mr. W. S. Lonnie, R.S.L. President; Lieut.-Col. T. Edmonson with his adjutant and other representatives of the Royal Australian Army and various other unit associations.

The association is very much impressed with the reports on the removal of the L. H. Memorial from Perth to Fremantle and the 10th Light Horse Regiment entertained members of the association at a demonstration of the work of their armoured vehicles at receipts like chemauna last month. Association representatives reiterated to the tradition held at the tent-pegging, but he puts the blame on his mates.

Thanks, 10th, for a very interesting afternoon.

16th Battalion

Reporting on the annual reunion at the October commit-tee meeting of the association, Mr. W. Newick (secretary) said that the attendance and financial result were much the same as in previous years.

Members were unanimous in their vote of success, though several members said it was essential that the association be continued, and that the system be continued for future occasions.

The association were represented at the 44th, 29th, 1st and 11th, 2nd 16th, 51st and 10th Light Horse regiments.

Mr. Dave Smith (visiting from Victoria), is still enjoying his stay in the West, as is his old battalion friend.

Mr. W. Waterman reported having attended the committee meeting for the proposed Blackboy Hill commemoration site. He asked all members to attend the ceremony by the Governor, on Sunday, November 15. Arrangements have been made for a capacity to go up.

The members were repented at the 44th, 29th, 1st and 11th, 2nd 16th, 51st and 10th Light Horse regiments.

16th Battalion

On October 5—just 42 years after one of its major engagements at Sommebe Ridge during World War I—members of the 16th Battalion, under the leadership of Mr. Jack Inchi, and Alf Guy were also there. "Rocky" Dick Cornish, Bill Higgs, Ben Bryant, were among a few of the old officers of the 16th Battalion.

The annual Remembrance Day service of the 16th Battalion Association was conducted in the R.S.L. Hall at Fremantle on November 10. The Governor (Sir Charles C. Gilchrist) was present, as were representatives of the Royal Australian Army, the British Ex-Services Association, and the Lord Mayor of Fremantle (Mr. E. H. Howard) the colours of the association were wreathed by the president, the flags being carried by the late Jimmy Duff as C.O. and Horne Brown as adjutant.

A file party included A. E. Hart, Jack Homewood, T. Y. Inyarrington, Dick White and the great job on refreshments.

Good efforts were made in the conduct of the service, and many old comrades were present, several coming down to Fremantle for the occasion.

The annual Reunion of the 16th Battalion Association was held on the 28th Btn. C.M.F. drill hall in Lord-street, on October 6, with an attendance of over 80 members of the old battalion.

Since the previous reunion some 31 members of the unit had passed away.

51st Battalion, A.I.F.

The annual Remembrance Day service of the 51st Battalion Association was conducted in the R.S.L. Hall at Fremantle, on November 8. The Governor (Sir Charles C. Gilchrist) was present, as were representatives of the Royal Australian Army, the British Ex-Services Association, and the Lord Mayor of Fremantle (Mr. E. H. Howard).

The colours of the association were presented with wreaths laid by the president and the flags being carried by the late Jimmy Duff as C.O. and Horne Brown as adjutant.

28th Battalion

The annual reunion of the association was held on the 28th Btn. C.M.F. drill hall in Lord-street, on October 6, with an attendance of over 80 members of the old battalion.

Since the previous reunion some 31 members of the unit had passed away.

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League Seeking Aid For Appeal On Preference Decision

An approach to the Commonwealth Government for support in an appeal to the Privy Council against the High Court decision ruling the preference provisions of the Re-establishment and Employment Act invalid was resolved on by Congress.

Moving to this effect Mr. W. Yeo (N.S.W.) said: "Without this motion most members throughout Australia will be thrown to the wolves."

The opinion of the High Court had been that the preference clauses of the Act could not apply, and the New South Wales Government had said that it did not intend to extend the preference clauses in the State Act beyond 1960, Mr. Yeo said.

It would be necessary to have Commonwealth financial backing for an appeal.

Mr. C. H. McKay (Victoria) said that except for the Commonwealth Public Service the Victorian Act was better than the Federal Act. He thought the question of preference could be left to the States.

The National President (Sir George Holland) said there was no question that the States had authority to legislate on preference.

Mr. A. J. Lee (South Australia) said that State legislation in New South Wales gave preference to unionists.

It was also resolved to conduct a vigorous campaign to exert increased pressure on all employers and the Commonwealth and State public services and instrumentalities to return to the service of the Commonwealth and State public employment, promotion and retenchment.

Guiding Hand Kept Busy At Subiaco

As is usual at this time of the year the business of Poppy-Day and the annual "smoko" has kept City of Subiaco committee members busy.

On that occasion the position was complicated by a "summit meeting" with the chairman of the sub-branch on the morning of the committee meeting. A good time was had by all, and members were much impressed by the excellent supper provided.

In consequence of these functions all business had to be transacted at the monthly general meeting, a circumstance which sat lightly on the shoulders of members as they cleaned up all problems, with minutes to spare, by 9 p.m.

The annual "smoko" is on Friday, November 27.

Last year, with a regrettable shortage of harmony, we had one of the most enjoyable evenings of that type yet. This year we have a reasonable amount of first-class talent. All members are asked to attend. They will not be disappointed.

Project Put In Train, Now It's Up To You

By the time members receive this issue the Governor, (Sir Charles Gardner) will have paid his tribute to the Blackboy Camp commemoration project, and Chaplain-General Bishop Riley will have dedicated this historical site.

Yes! It commemorates the birthplace of the A.I.F. in Western Australia, and we are the first State of the Commonwealth to take such steps.

The memorial will represent the first and second A.I.F. and the troops of Korea and Malaya with their foundations in the soil of Blackboy.

It is now up to YOU to participate actively in this project. Your donations—in addition to any official receipt—will be acknowledged in the columns of the West Australian.

Among the donations already received is one from P. Harden, of Barham, N.S.W. (1st A.I.F.) and sent with a copy of the coupon below.

Don't let the Eastern States beat you to it!

Blackboy Hill Camp Commemoration to Honour the Birthplace of the A.I.F.

of

enclose my donation of ____________________________

# Cut out this coupon and post to State Secretary, R.S.L.
State Secretary, R.S.L.

Anzac House, Perth

Printed for the R.S.A.L.L.A. (W.A. Branch) by David Henry Mabull McCulloch, at the West Australian Office, Newspaper House, St. George's Terrace, Perth, and published by the Periodicals Division of West Australian Newspapers Limited.