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THE LISTENING POST

Official Organ of the W.A. Branch of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia.

Editors: E. S. Watt, L. Gibbons.
Subscription: 3/- per annum, payable in advance.
Advertisements: Only reliable firms are allowed to advertise in our journal. Rates will be supplied upon application.

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

This journal is published monthly on the third Friday, and all advertisements and matter for inclusion must reach our office not later than the second Friday.

February 20th, 1925.

TO HONOUR THE FALLEN

The movement which is afoot for the perpetuation of the memory of our gallant dead comes at a time when the country should be ready and willing to contribute freely. Over a decade has passed since those gallant Anzac braves breathed the waves and gaining the narrow beach rushed the steep slopes which resembled the walls of Dante's Inferno.

Now, do we feel that those who were slain in that perilous undertaking, and those other serious engagements which followed, are less often in our minds than they were a few years back: and that unless we mark their passing in a suitable way our posterity will never be able to appreciate the sacrifice; nor will they be so anxious to defend the land we have fought for unless some tangible mark is left to impress them.

Funds.

To raise funds it is necessary to find people ready to help. It is necessary also that a State Memorial should be subscribed to by every community in the State. "We have our memorial." This is said by all the smaller centres. It is thought that Perth has been lax in the matter and that it should have a decent monument of its own, and that as it is to boast a State memorial it has neglected its own obligations.

Paus and consider whether Perth City has any great number of residents, whether any of the people who till in its midst do not belong to one or other of the suburbs from West Perth to Fremantle, or from East Perth to Midland Junction, each suburb in the district being the possessor of a fine tribute to the fallen. All these people must contribute in duty to a State War Memorial, although everyone has subscribed to their district memorial. Similarly, the country districts must, and we have no doubt will subscribe towards State recognition to the soldiers. It is only right that the local memorials should be completed first to ensure the perpetuation of the memories of those so dear to the community concerned; but now the time is ripe to take the national viewpoint and to assemble in one huge co-operative memorial which shall be worthy of a State which sacrificed so much as it had in the way of patriotism. If in all other States the progress has been in the same sequence, because it is inevitable: so let us, therefore, unite in our duty, not only to our honoured dead, but also to posterity.

Let us become citizens of one vast State and sink community jealousies and prejudices in the prospect of achievement.

Type of Memorial.

Before deciding how to commemorate a deed or happening it is necessary to familiarise oneself with that deed or happening. Having our present purpose in mind, we are unanimous in the opinion that the stupendous sacrifice in the momentous stage of our nation's career which was made by our men, is worthy of perpetuation. If then the memory of the achievements is to be perpetuated the memento must be permanent. We are agreed, if we have what one speaker termed the "soul" of the question, that nothing can be worthy of the occasion, nothing can portray the respect and esteem in which those men are held. Such being the case, it follows that if the memorial took a utilitarian formation it would be serving some mundane purpose, and that its identity would never exist, and that the shadow of its identity would soon fade into oblivion.

Support.

It is gratifying to see so many representative attended the re-opening of the question and that although it was necessary for the soldiers themselves to move for the preservation of their fellows' memories, it is commendable in the League to have set the ball re-rolling. There were certain of those present at the first meeting who were disappointed over the decision to have a memorial which did not provide for any purpose save that for which it was to be created. Soldiers all have their views on the matter and it is safe to say that no matter how pressing any requirement is, it would be preferable to take the legitimate course to be followed than for the exigent utilities to be provided for: 'on the backs of the fallen soldiers!' Now we want those who were disappointed to join in with us as enthusiastically as they would have had their objective been won. We want them to exercise the same vision and big-soul qualities as they did when the lads were still in the trenches.

Come! It is up to W.A. to recapture her pride of place for loyalty and generosity!

To Diggers in Business.

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STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

14/1/25.

Present—Messrs. Freedman, Isaac, Collett, Morrell, Philip, McDonald, Pady, Colvin, Wedd, Bateson, Watt, McCarthy, Egan, Cooke, Butler, Tyler, Bader.

An apology was received from Mr. H. A. Bolton.

Leave of Absence—Mr. Cornell made application for leave of absence until the end of January. This was granted.

Finance Committee.—Mr. Watt, Chairman of the Finance Committee, intimated that his committee had decided to continue to act.

State Secretary.—The President welcomed Mr. Benson, the new State Secretary.

Condonation.—Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Pady, that the sympathy of the Executive be extended to Mr. Bolton in his recent sad bereavement. Carried.

Invitation.—An invitation from the Collie Sub-Branch for a representative to attend the Annual Meeting to be held on the 19th January, was received. The President signified his intention of being present.

Moved by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Philip, that another delegate be deputed to accompany the President. Lost.

Federal Executive.—H. C. Schorer: A communication was received from the Federal Executive showing that the War Service Homes Commission had decided to assist this man.

Resolutions 23 and 24. Federal Congress: Correspondence was received from the Federal Executive in connection with these resolutions, dealing particularly with the letters of Mr. Colin Campbell and Mrs. West.

Moved by Mr. Isaac, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that both these cases be referred back to the Federal Executive for finalisation, and that they be requested to report at the resolutions 23 and 24 of the 9th Annual Congress be carried into effect. Carried.

Resolution 39. War Service Homes.—Further correspondence was received from the Federal Executive in connection with this resolution. Moved by Mr. Isaac, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, that the attention of the Federal Executive be drawn to Resolution 39 of the Federal Congress, with a view to obtaining the object set out therein. Carried.

Resolution 59. Medical Benefits.—A letter from the Federal Executive dealing with this resolution was received.

Retrenchment, Railway Workshops.—The Secretary explained the position in connection with the dismissal of four returned soldier employees of the Railway Workshops. Representatives of the Branch attended, and Mr. Connolly was afforded an opportunity of speaking on the question.

Moved by Mr. Isaac, seconded by Mr. Watt, that a Committee of five be appointed, consisting of the President and Past President of the Railway Workshops, Branch, the State Secretary, and Messrs. Morrell and Isaac, to see the matter of retrenchment of returned soldiers at the Railway Workshops finalised. Carried.

Case of Gladstone, Wagin.—Correspondence was read from Mr. Gladstone of Wagin, in connection with a motion picture show business. Mr. Gladding expressed the hope that Mr. Gladstone's case would be taken advantage of that section of the Municipal Act dealing with public meetings of ratepayers. His action was endorsed.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that a Special Committee be formed with power to act, consisting of the State President, Colonel Collett and Mr. Watt, to consider this case, and to report at the next Executive Meeting. Carried.

Amelioration Funds.—Correspondence was read from the State Executive Office to the Chairman of the R.S. Amelioration Fund in connection with an amount of £80 8s. 7d. allotted by the Executive for amelioration purposes and which was incorrectly placed to the credit of the Motor Trust Fund.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. McCarthy, that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the R.S. Amelioration Fund informing him that the resolution carried at the meeting on the 16th December, was initially intended that the money in question was to be used to augment the Amelioration Fund, and not the Motor Trust Fund. Carried.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Colvin, seconded by Mr. Wedd, that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the R.S. Amelioration Fund, informing him that the money was voted for amelioration purposes, but that the Executive leaves it to the Trustees to use their discretion as to its allocation. Lost.

Ancestral Day.—The State Secretary's report, contained a suggestion in connection with Anzac Day, and it was resolved that the appointment of a Committee be left over until next meeting.

Social Functions.—Moved by Colonel Collett, seconded by Mr. Colvin, that the Executive official representatives at social functions be the President, or the President and State Secretary and Mr. Watt. Carried.

Employment Bureau.—The State Secretary recommended that the Employment Bureau should be advertised, and it was resolved that this matter be referred to the Finance Committee for their recommendation.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. Colvin gave notice of his intention to move at the next Executive Meeting that the resolution carried at the Executive meeting held on the 16th December be rescinded, and that if read that the money be divided between the R.S. Immediate Relief Fund and Motor Trust Fund, controlled by the Trustees of the R.S. Amelioration Fund.

Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch.—A letter from the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch embodying a resolution carried at their last meeting, in connection with the money in the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch, was received.

Moved by Colonel Collett, seconded by Mr. Zeffert, that the letter he referred to the Federal Executive, and that they be requested to supply information as to the present position. Carried.

Reports.—The report of the Employment Bureau for the various States, and also that of this State, for the past month was laid on the table for the information of members.

State Secretary.—The State Secretary read a report dealing with his activities since his appointment; and embodied certain recommendations. The report was received.

Moved by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Colvin, that a letter be addressed to the Premier conveying the good wishes of this League, and—him bo-ho-voyage, and success in his undertakings while in England. Carried.

Ancestral Day.—The State Secretary's report contained a suggestion in connection with Anzac Day, and it was resolved that the appointment of a Committee be left over until next meeting.

Social Functions.—Moved by Colonel Collett, seconded by Mr. Colvin, that the Executive official representatives at social functions be the President, or the President and State Secretary and Mr. Watt. Carried.

Employment Bureau.—The State Secretary recommended that the Employment Bureau should be advertised, and it was resolved that this matter be referred to the Finance Committee for their recommendation.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. Colvin gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting, that the report of the Employment Bureau should be placed amongst the first business on the agenda.

28/1/25.

Present—Messrs. Freedman, Isaac, Collett, Morrell, Philip, McDonald, Humphrey, Pady, Colvin, Wedd, Zeffert, McCarthy.
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Apologies were received from Messrs Collet and Bate son.

R.S.L. Amelioration Fund.—Mr. Isaac’s notice of motion lapsed for want of a second.

A letter from Mr. Priestly, the Acting Chairman of the Motor Trust Fund was then read and it was moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that the letter be received, and that no further action be taken as far as the letter is concerned.—Carried.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Colvin, seconded by Mr. Watt, that it be left to the President to give to the Press a reply to the letter which appeared in the “Sunday Times” of the 25th instant, and that the terms of such letter be left to his discretion.—Lost.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Cooke, that the amount of £80 8s. 7d. which had been returned by the Motor Trust Fund be handed to the R.S.L. Immediate Relief Fund.—Carried.

Case of W. W. Waring.—Rev. E. H. O. Nye attended the Executive Meeting in order to address the members in connection with this case, particularly dealing with compensation for Waring.

It was moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that in view of the further evidence placed before this Executive, and also before the Magistrate who conducted the enquiry into Waring’s case, that a Committee consisting of the President, Secretary, Mr. Nye and Mr. Humphrey wait upon the Minister with the object of obtaining back pay due to Mr. Waring.—Carried.

A vote of thanks was then tendered to Mr. Nye for his efforts in connection with this case.

State Secretary’s Report.—Mr. Colvin moved the following motion, notice of which had been given at the previous meeting: “That in future the State Secretary’s Report be taken immediately after the Minutes.” Seconded by Mr. Bader and Carried.

The State Secretary’s Report was then taken.

Anzac Day.—It was moved by Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Tyler, that a Committee of three be appointed to make arrangements for Anzac Day. The Committee to consist of Messrs. McCarthy, Collet and Bader.—Carried.

Membership Renewals.—Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. L. McCarthy, that the Report be endorsed and that it be referred to the Finance Committee for action.—Lost.

Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Morrell that a Committee be arranged to go into the State secretary’s recommendation in connection with Membership renewals and any dealings in connection with finance be referred to the Finance Committee.—Carried.

Messrs. Colvin, Wedd, and Humphrey were appointed.

The State Secretary’s Report was then adopted.

Soldiers Settlers Conference.—A letter was received from the Balingup Sub-branch requesting a ruling as to whether Rule 14 (3) of the Constitution in connection with the number of delegates to attend the Conference, would apply in this case.

The President ruled that the Constitution does not apply to the Soldier Settlers Conference, and that the number of delegates be not restricted.

Invitation.—An invitation was received from the Returned Soldiers at Harvey, who are endeavouring to re-form the Sub-branch for a delegate from the Executive to attend the meeting on the 30th inst. Mr. A. E. Pady was appointed as representative.

Federal Correspondence.—A letter was read from the Federal President in connection with the waterside trouble. Moved by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Butler that the letter be laid on the table for one month.—Carried.

R.S.L. Band.—A letter was received from the R.S.L. Memorial Band requesting information as to the Executive’s representative on the Band Committee for the ensuing year, and also the Trustees for the Band Instruments.

It was decided that the State President act as representative, and the question of Trustees be deferred until the next meeting.

F. W. Wood, Collie.—The Collie sub-branch wrote in connection with this case requesting assistance to the extent of £5 to enable Mr. Wood to come to Perth and be examined by several doctors.

Moved by Mr. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that an amount of £5 be granted as assistance, and that friendly advice
be given to Mr. Wood on his arrival in Perth.—Carried.

Royal Commission War Aggravation.—
Moved by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, that the State Secretary be instructed to write to Melbourne and obtain the result of the Royal Commission which sat on aggravation pre-war disabilities.—Carried.

No. 11 Ward, P. P. H.—A letter was received from Mr. H. S. Humphrey pointing out that T. B. Cases are at present inmates of No. 11 Ward, and suggesting that representations be made to re-open the Soldiers Portion at the Woorooloo Sanatorium, as he was of the opinion that this had been closed too early.

Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Philip, that a Committee be appointed to establish the facts as set out in the letter referred to, and that the necessary representations be made to the Repatriation Department.

The President. Messrs. Humphrey and McDonald were appointed.

Kalgoorlie Branch: Influx of Aliens.—
A letter was read and received from the Kalgoorlie Sub-branch in connection with this matter, and it was moved by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Butler that a copy of the letter be sent to the Federal Executive and the following recommendation from this Executive be attached:

That steps be taken by the Federal Authorities to cease immigration of Southern Europeans until such times as arrangements have been made with the Imperial Government for the resumption of immigration of Britisbers.”—Lost.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Zeffert, that owing to certain action being taken by the Commonwealth Government, the matter be deferred.—Carried.

Reports.—The State President’s report on his visit to the Sub-branch was deferred until the next meeting.

House Committee.—A report in connection with the operations of the House Committee was received.

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee was read and it was moved by Mr. Colvin, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that consideration of this report be deferred until next meeting, and that it be placed on the Agenda Paper immediately after correspondence.—Carried.

R.S.P.C.A.—Mr. H. S. Humphrey read a report in connection with the R.S.P.C.A. controversy. The report was received and adopted.

Augmenting Amelioration Funds.—The State Secretary reported that the Committee appointed to consider this matter recommended that another Art Union be run. Moved by Mr. Butler, seconded by Mr. Cooke, that the matter be adjourned until the next meeting.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Zeffert, seconded by Mr. Watt, that the present Committee be a nucleus of an Art Union Committee, and that they may be given power to act in a preliminary arrangements of an Art Union.—Carried.

11/2/25.

Present.—Messrs. Freedman, Isaac, Collett, Morrell, Philip, McDonald, Humphrey, Cornell, Pady, Colvin, Bate­
son, Zeffert, McCarthy, Egan, Bolton, Watt, Cooke, Bader, and Butler.

An apology was received from Mr. R. E. Tyler.

Case of W. W. Waring.—The Secretary reported that efforts had been made to get in touch with Mr. Munsie, but that gentleman was not yet available, and it was thought advisable that the matter be left over until Mr. Munsie is free to deal with it. The report was received.

Pensions.—The letter from Mr. Gregory, M.H.R., in connection with pensions, dealing particularly with Section 23 of the Australian Soldiers’ Repatriation Act was read and received.

It was resolved that the thanks of the Executive be tendered to Mr. Gregory for his action in the matter. It was moved by Mr. Cornwell, seconded by Mr. Philip, that this Executive be in accord with the objects stated by Mr. Gregory, and suggests that the Federal Executive, in this effort, and that this Executive inform the Federal President accordingly.—Carried.

Biennial Conference, B.E.S.L.—A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive dealing with the 2nd Biennial Conference of the British Empire Service League, to be held in Ottawa, Canada, and requesting that this Executive forward two names to be included with nominations of other State Branches for the selection of delegates.

Moved by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that the names of Capt. G. J. C. Dyett and Mr. J. C. Cornell be forwarded.—Carried.

Employment.—A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive in connection with Resolution 83 of the 9th Annual Congress, dealing with employment.

Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. McDonald, that the matter be left in the hands of the President, with power to act, and that he be requested to report at the next Executive meeting.—Carried.

No. 3 Art Union.—The Secretary read a report in connection with the preliminary arrangements of the No. 3 Art Union, which was received and adopted.

Moved by Mr. Bolton, seconded by Mr. Isaac, that a committee of five be appointed to conduct the art union.—Carried.

Messrs. Humphrey, McDonald, Isaac, McCarthy, and Cooke were appointed.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Cornwell, that the committee be given power to act, and that they submit a report fortnightly to Executive meetings.—Carried.

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee, which was deferred from last meeting, was then read: —
A Cabinet.—Mr. Watt reported that quotations had been received for this cabinet, and recommended that Julien Bros. quote be accepted. It was decided that the committee be empowered to purchase the cabinet.

Employment Bureau.—The recommendation in connection with the Employment Bureau was then considered.

Moved by Mr. Cornwell, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, that the committee be asked to report in this connection in six weeks’ time.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Morrell, that in view of the numbers unemployed in this State, the Federal Executive be requested to approach the Federal Government to reconsider their decision to discontinue employment allowances.—Carried.

Marketing Report.—The report of the Finance Committee in this connection was adopted.

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Moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Colvin, that the report of the Finance Committee as amended be now adopted—Carried.

Organisation.—Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Cornell, that the Finance Committee co-operate with Messrs. Collett and McDonald with a view to realising matters re organisation.—Carried.

State President’s Visit to Collie.—The State President reported on his visit to Collie, and it was decided that the report lay on the table for the information of members.

Retrenchment Railways Workers.—The Secretary reported that an interview had taken place with the Works Manager; Mr. Kane and Mr. Connolly were also present, and both men, who were now out of employment, were being offered every vacancy as it occurred. The report was received.

Staff, Edward Millen Home.—The State Secretary reported in connection with action taken concerning the welfare of patients at the Edward Millen Home. The report was received.

“Listening Post.”—The Secretary reported that an agreement had now been arrived at between the parties concerned on the lines as suggested at the last Annual Congress. It was decided that the agreement as submitted be adopted.

R.S.L. Band.—It was reported that no trustees had been appointed for the band instruments, and it was resolved that the League’s Trustees, Messrs. Morrell, McDonald and Philip act in that capacity.

Reports.—Anzac Day.—The Secretary reported on the meeting of the Anzac Day Committee held on February 5th. The report was adopted.

Visits to Harvey.—Mr. Pady reported on his visit to Harvey, which was received and adopted, and a vote of thanks was tendered him.

Soldier Settlers’ Conference.—The Secretary reported in connection with the Soldier Settlers’ Conference. The report was received. Mr. J. Cornell was appointed on Agenda Committee.

Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. McCarthy that invitations to Conference be sent to the Minister for Lands, the Under Secretary for Lands, the Managing Trustee of the Agricultural Bank, and the Soldiers representative on the Soldier Settlement Board, and Mr. McCay, Under Secretary for Group Settlement.

The State President advised that arrangements had been made to entertain delegates to the S.S. Conference and that his welcome will take the form of a launch picnic. He extended an invitation to as many members of the Executive and their wives who would be able to attend.

No. II Ward, Perth Hospital.—The Secretary tendered a satisfactory report in connection with this matter, stating that there were now no T.B. patients in Ward No. II. The report was received.

House Committee.—The Secretary submitted a report in connection with the House Committee meeting held on the 11th instant, stating that there was an improvement in the diningroom, although a loss was shown for the month of January. The report was received.

War Memorial.—The President reported in connection with the meeting of citizens which took place at the Soldiers’ Institute on the afternoon of the 11th, stating that a committee had been appointed to raise funds and that it had been decided that the memorial take the form of a monument. The report was received.

MILITARY OFFICERS OF THE UNATTACHED RESERVE AND RETIRED LISTS.

All Military Officers on the above-mentioned lists are reminded that they should report their addresses, in writing, to Military Headquarters, Francis Street, Perth, during the months of January or February. Military Regulations provide that those failing to so report their addresses are liable to have their names removed from the list, and although this regulation has not been enforced since 1919, it has been decided to put it into operation after 28th February next.

The Somme has been visited by the Y.A.L. boys. The tourists will have a chance of learning something of the country we fought in and will see some of the wonderful feats of architecture which abound in the regions behind the old lines. They will be able to marvel at the possibility of the Alberta they see to-day ever having looked as it did in those old war pictures.
FREE Extra Trousers

with every one of these Seven Tailored-to-Measure Suit Specials

Having just got in some new indents of Fox's Materials, we are including these in the list of Special Offers, making a variety of Seven Fabrics, one of which should appeal to you. As there is a very brisk response by men of W.A., to avail themselves of this special offer, we urge you not to delay in securing patterns, so as to be "in" before our stocks are exhausted.

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Good Quality Medium Weight FOX'S SERGES—a line that will do well for summer and into the late autumn. Suit to Measure, with Extra Trousers Free £5 5 0

A Fine Quality FOX'S TWILL, has a beautiful finish and is very dressy. Suit to Measure, with Extra Trousers Free £6 0 0

Special Line of FOX'S SERGES just arrived with the above, every yard branded, proving it to be the genuine Fox's, very nice weight and splendid quality. Looks smart and is an excellent wearer £7 7 0

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'Phone A1964
STATE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO COLLIE

President Rabbi Freedman visited Collie last month and the following is a portion of his report submitted to the State Executive:

"I have to report that on the 19th and 20th instant I visited the Collie Sub-Branch and attended its annual meeting. The branch, which last year won the Newdegate Cup, I was glad to see, is maintaining its high standard of activity. The record of the work done during the past year as detailed by the Secretary (Mr. H. May) was a clear proof that both the officers and the members are fully seized of the wide objects of the League, and have been very earnest in carrying them out."

RETURNED SOLDIERS' MONUMENTAL WORKS.

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...many ways the branch has been of great service not only to its own members, but all returned soldiers applying to it for help. Collie, too, like the League everywhere, has had the experience of a large number of returned men who, though they do not recognise their own obligation to the League, freely come to it for help in time of trouble. Assistance has been extended to them there and elsewhere, quite freely, but it is earnestly hoped that as soon as they are in a position to fulfil their duty to the League they will do so. They must surely recognise how unfair it is to expect just a few to carry the burden of the whole.

"The activities of the Branch in obtaining benefits for the Returned Soldiers and their dependants extended to the fields of War Gratuity, Soldier Settlement, Pensions, War Service Homes, and in many other directions.

"It is noteworthy that on the death of certain returned soldiers, though they were not members of the League, the Branch willingly came forward to help their dependants.

"The Collie Branch, I was grateful to note, has kept up the good name of the Returned Soldiers' League, and enjoys the respect, the support, and the goodwill of the people of the district. To all concerned, to Mr. A. F. Anderson, the new President, Mr. T. Shannon, the past President, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Harry May, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. S. Simpson, and to all the members, as well as to the Ladies' Auxiliary, we must offer our warmest congratulations on the splendid results the Branch has achieved, and our best wishes for their continued progress.

"I wish to take this opportunity of expressing much thanks for the many marks of kindness shown to me during my visit by a number of individual members of the branch."

SOLDIER SETTLERS' CONFERENCE

On Wednesday last the first conference of Soldier Settlers in this State commenced their deliberations at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, thus marking an epoch in the history of the League. Although many of the settlers are doing well, thanks to the series of good seasons, the millstone of debt hanging around their necks, due to the over-capitalisation of their properties, is too heavy to carry, and has already driven manyworthy diggers off their settlements. The Soldier Settlers' Enquiry Committee certainly relieved the pressure slightly in many cases, but its scope was too limited. The writing down of soldiers' properties would not only directly benefit the owners, but being a sound financial and economical proposition, it would eventually prove of greater benefit to the State. The responsible powers may consider it politic to grant to the settlers certain temporary forms of relief, but this will not only be greater in their wisdom if facts were fairly and squarely faced. The only permanent solution of the problem is as stated—the writing down of the debt to a just and workable figure.

The reply to objections that many of the over-capitalized properties were bought because the soldiers were so insistent should now be dropped. As in other phases of repatriation, the soldier in all cases should have been protected against himself by the experts of the Lands Department, and where they failed to do this the soldier himself should not suffer. The tendency in the other States is towards writing over-capitalized properties down, but where this is done it is hardly fair that the States should carry the whole burden and the Commonwealth Government get off scot-free.

The Conference agenda is long and its scope varied, and much good it is earnestly hoped will eventually accrue as a result of its deliberations.

WAR SERVICE HOMES.

As a result of an interview by the State Secretary with Mr. Lucas (a senior officer of the Commission, who recently visited this State), the Workers' Homes board, which is acting for the Commission in this State, will in future administer more liberally the clause requiring a certain deposit as security, in respect of applicants under the large purchase section of the Act. In the past the large deposits demanded has excluded many diggers with limited means from enjoying the benefits under the Act. The League is continuing to press for soldier representation on the Workers' Homes Board when War Service Homes matters are being considered. This is a mild and reasonable request, and it seems strange that it should meet with such opposition.

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Commonwealth Bank Boxes are Popular.

The issue of money boxes by the Commonwealth Bank is a comparatively recent institution, but the following figures indicate how popular this branch of the Bank's service has already become.

During the year ended June, 1924, the Bank sold 119,694 boxes throughout Australia, and these returned full the contents averaged £2.3s. 10d. a box, a new box being given free in each case.

The money boxes are attractive replicas of the Bank's head office in Sydney, and are proving a fine incentive to youngsters to cultivate the thrift habit.
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PERSONALITIES

Holidaying-at Rottnest is Oliver Newmarch who helped to make the Australian Mobile Artillery famous.

Good news of Alf. Guy (Katanning, has filtered through from the East. His serious operation which was necessary on account of his war injuries has been successfully performed and Alf. may be expected back in W.A. soon.

Stan. O'Grady who lost his arm with the Glorious Twenty-Eight and who was for some years the able and enthusiastic Secretary of the Winges and Stumps of this State, has been appointed to the position of Secretary to the Limeliss Men's Association in South Australia. Of course we are sorry to lose Stan. from this State, but we are glad to feel that his service will prove to our Sister State that Groopers are worth while.

The Rev. G. H. O. Nye of Claremont is the type of padre which appeals to the digger. When Mr. Waring was dismissed from the Old Men's Home, Mr. Nye knew that an injustice was done and he fought "tooth and nail" to get Mr. Waring reinstated his efforts eventually being successful. Most people would be then content to rest on their laurels, but not so Mr. Nye; he has a bull dog grip on this case and won't let go until the injustice done is fully righted and Mr. Waring receives pay for the period of his enforced idleness. Good on you Padre!

Mr. J. Kane, the new President of the Railway Workshops sub-branch, will make good in his responsible position. He served abroad with the lst Australian Mining Battalion. was taken prisoner early in 1917, and had some strange experiences in Hun-land, where he was kept until after the Armistice. He is a champion of the League, and speaks in scorching terms of the "digger who, whilst accepting all the benefits accruing from the activities of his League friends, remains outside the fold. We forecast a useful year for the Workshops sub-branch.

Mr. T. Hammant, who is President of the Claremont branch, is about again, having quite recovered from his recent operation.

Digger E. S. Whiteley, who scraped with the 40th Battalion in Froggylandr, has launched himself into business as an accountant and insurance specialist, etc. Mr. Whiteley is a director of the R.S.L. Co-op. and is an enthusiastic worker in the League, having been for a period President of the Perth sub-branch. We wish him luck in his new venture.

The Rev. Bray of Victoria Park, is a constant visitor to the Edward Millen Home. He recently gave a very interesting lantern lecture on London to the inmates, which was greatly appreciated. He was assisted by Councillor Harvey and his son.

Mr. Jim Mann, who is Beverley's delegate to the Soldier Settler Conference, was one of Colonel Todd's boys in the Fighting Tenth. Jim is an able speaker and at the last general elections stood as a candidate for the Beverley seat, as a supporter of the then Ministerial Country Party. He ran a good second after a great struggle, being beaten only by fourteen votes by Charlie Wansbrough who had the advantage of having sat as the representative of Beverley in a former Parliament. Jim is a strong supporter of the League.

At a meeting of the Railway Workshop's Sub-Branch held this month, Mr. Connolly was presented by the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) with a past-president's certificate. Mr. Connolly has done yeoman service for his branch, and has always been assisted by his good wife, and as a token of esteem for which Mrs. Connolly is held, and for her many kindly acts performed for League members, Mr. J. Connolly was asked to accept, on behalf of his wife, a cake dish and biscuit barrel, the Works Manager, Mr. Johnson, making the presentation.

Mr. A. N. McDonald having recovered from his recent illness, is again to the forefront of League activities. After a spell of two years he has again been elected as president of the Mt. Lawley—North Perth Sub-branch. Mac is the secretary and driving power of the newly-formed Liberty League, which opposes prohibition on the ground that it would too greatly interfere with our hard-earned liberties.

Mr. A. E. Anderson, the new president of the Collie Sub-branch, is a journalist, and for years has been a corner stone of this progressive branch.

A number of diggers passed out since our last publication, of whom we speak with our minds on their "Last Post."

Jim Coffey, who was really A. F. Coffey, but known to all and sundry as "Jim," passed away in the soldiers' Ward, Perth Hospital on 1st February. Jim had a wide circle of friends all of whom regret the passing of so staunch a pillar of the League.

At Perth Hospital, E. Hansen who will be remembered by 16th Battalionites, was relieved of his earthly cares.

Anzac Hostel, also had its victims; Jas. P. Punch died there on 12/2/25 after having been a patient for the past nine months. He saw service with the 11th Battalion.

Arthur Norman Haines ex 4 M.G.B., who had been a patient at Anzac Hostel for 5 months and who was 41 years of age, was found floating in the river near Keen's Point on Friday, 13th February, and although artificial respiration was tried, these efforts were quite unavailing and life was pronounced extinct.

At Edward Millen Sanatorium an ex-member of the 11th Battalion passed away. This death occurred on 25th January, 1925, and Ed. Stacey was the digger's name. Also, on the previous day, Arthur Vernon Hale died at this Institution. He was an old 8th F.A.B. man.

Yet another digger at Edward Millen answered the roll call. This was Felix A. J. Bryce, 11th Battalion, who had been continuously under treatment since his return in 1919.
VARIA.
Hey.—What about our new State Secretary? Look, I'm getting somewhat used to monotony, being an old civil servant, and I take exception to the manner in which Mr. Benson monopolises the press. I can't pick up a solitary page of a paper on weekdays or Sundays where Mr. Benson has failed to provide by his actions some copy for hungry journalists. Give me the quiet life—why, I never worried about the League, in fact, I kind of thought it was defunct—but I'm thinking differently now, and it's a shame to make a civil servant think!

R.S.L.—Your correspondent "Badger," whose nom-de-plume is somewhat of a bad pun on his theme, is quite right about the absence of the badge on diggers' coats. Of course, I don't know what else Badger could expect in a prosperous State like this, where everyone has two or more coats—you know the badge is always in the other coat. If the badge has a sensible clip on the back instead of the stupid army numeral clasp there, he has less excuse. Every one knows the way the button-hole flower bottles are held to the coat, and it is such a simple clasp, I have one soldered on my badge, and so I always leave mine in my other coat!

Camel—"R.S.L." evidently can't understand my dislike of the "Gyppo," and wants to know what he did to me. I have yet to meet the Lighthorseman or Camelero who does not share my aversion to the "traitorous smell scum." From the lowest dirtiest fellaheen to the effendi of higher caste, they are all lacking in, for want of a better word, I call guts. They are brave when in packs, and cubs when the odd one out does not join in their favour; they would all rob a blind cat of her mouse, and are devoid of all honour and finer feelings. They did me no personal harm, Mr. R.S.L., but one day after the Armistice they took upon two isolated inoffensive pales of mine and cruelly murdered them, clubbing their bodies into a shapeless pulp. Perhaps "R.S.L." was not in Egypt to get a whiff from a mob of Gyoppos; the aroma from my camel was as fragrant for the gods in comparison.

No. 286, Corporal Joezac.—At the "stoush up" we had many replies as to what was the height of impudence, but I reckon that the Perth Hospital authorities in trying to capitalise the sacrifices of our fallen to build a needed casualty block beats them all. As a result of the war they already have a new wing built by the Repatriation Commission, and recently they have been given the use of the Kalamunda Home by the Red Cross Society, the funds for which were the result of war subscriptions. It is the function of the Government to care for the sick poor.

Spot.—In reading through the pennant fixtures arranged by the W.A. Lawn Tennis Association I find that matches are scheduled to be played on Anzac Day, which this year falls on a Saturday. The Association's secretary (Mr. Warren) is a returned soldier, as are a majority of the pennant players, and I feel sure that the fixture is the result of an oversight, and will be accordingly amended.

Camel—The League now has a grip on the State War Memorial, and I hope that it won't let go until the ideal becomes a reality. It will please all who have given the matter deep consideration and who have no axe to grind, to learn that at the large and very representative assembly called by the League to forward the memorial project, the voting was shown ten to one in favour of a memorial of an entirely altruistic character.

IN NO MAN'S LAND.
In No Man's Land where every tree Is tortured from its gracious guise, In start and twisted boughs to see Three phantom crosses rise:
One is the cross of children slain, And one the cross where heroes died, And one the royal throne of pain Of Christ the Crucified.

In No Man's Land, where now no more To earth's sacred fields the grasses cling,
Three thorn boughs lie across that door That shuts us from the spring;
And one is blossoming pure and white As children's breasts; and one drips down With blood of heroes in the fight;
And one is Christ's own crown.
In No Man's Land, where threatening night Is kinder than the dreadful day, Three roses yet shall bloom in light Along the desolate way;
All white and red the twain shall spring.
Of innocence and courage born:
The third Lord Christ Himself shall bring
On Resurrection Morn.

R.S.L. AMELIORATION ART UNION.

It is hoped that diggers in particular who love a flutter will subscribe generously to the League's latest art union, and thus help to augment its nearly depleted distress funds. The cause is a worthy one, the prize list is generous, and an honest and fair run for the money is assured. Let the slogan "A ticket a week" be revived.

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SUB-BRANCH NOTES.

MERREDIN SUB-BRANCH.

The above Branch at present has a membership of 54, and every prospect of increasing by numbers in the near future. It is the intention of this Branch when sufficient funds are available to build a memorial hall, including a rest home. The business people of Merredin have promised the branch their utmost support. Thomas Duff, Esq., ex-M.L.C., has promised the amount of £25 for a start. The branch has for its officers the following—President, Mr. L. S. Walder; vice-president, Dr. Colling; auditors, Messrs. G. Marden and Sewell; secretary, Mr. Jas. Strapp; assistant secretary, Mr. A. Wolfenden.

COLLIE SUB-BRANCH.

The annual meeting of this progressive branch was held on 19th January. The State President, Rabbi Freedman, attended and created a splendid impression among the large gathering of diggers present. Mr. A. E. Anderson was elected as president, Mr. Alex. Wilson, caretaker of the Soldiers' Hall and assistant secretary, whilst the popular and capable Harry May was again elected as honorary secretary.

Mr. May's report on the activities of the past year is to hand, and is a chronicle of achievements, of which Collie must be rightly proud. Lack of space prevents us from publishing it, but after perusing it one readily understands why the branch is the proud possessor of the Newdegate Cup. Mr. May's concluding paragraph sums up the position of the branch. It reads—

"Generally speaking, the branch has made much progress during the past year. The principle factors for this success is due to the untiring efforts of members of the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, who have worked very hard for the branch. Further, individual members of the branch have displayed much greater interest in the welfare of the branch by regularly attending meetings, assisting to organise social functions, and undertaking their share of the work connected with the property of the branch. The membership of the branch increased 75 per cent. over the previous year, and it is pleasing to note that there are but few returned men residing in Collie who are not now members of the League. The activities of the branch have so increased in every avenue that you will be asked to give serious consideration to the appointment of a full-time caretaker for the Hall. The work has become far too heavy to be carried out voluntarily, as will be readily seen by the amount of revenue the branch realized during the past year."

"In conclusion, I wish to thank all those members, including the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, for their valuable help during the past year. I have received generous assistance from your president, Mr. T. Shannon. Your vice-president, Mr. A. E. Anderson, has done much during the year to lessen the volume of work. He also acted as secretary in my stead during my absence at the State conference. I also wish to place on record my appreciation of your treasurer, Mr. S. Simpson. The branch is indeed fortunate in having the services of such a capable officer. To him, lies the credit of the preparation and completion of the balance sheet now before you. I sincerely hope and trust that the branch will continue to prosper under the management of the new officers who are yet to be appointed for the ensuing year."

The balance sheet discloses that the finances of the branch are in a healthy state. The receipts for the year totalled £505; and the net surplus £199. The assets are considerable, amounting to £1,347 2s. 2d.

LEEDERVILLE SUB-BRANCH.

The annual meeting of this sub-branch took place at the Leederville Town Hall on the 16th January, when Captain Jose was elected president over a well attended meeting of the local diggers.

The election of the 1925 officer-bearers resulted as follows:—President, Captain J. H. Jose; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. C. Leeman and W. Haines; hon. secretary and treasurer, C. W. R. Beechy; committee, Messrs. Wills, Chapple, Epis, Hatch, Shackleton, Kinsman, and Tonkinson; investigation officer in connection with the Relief Fund, Rev. A. J. C. Muriel, M.C.

Amongst the visitors were the State Secretary and Trustee, A. N. McDonald, and their speeches on the activities of the League were well received by the members present. The toast list was well honoured, and the various songs, accompanied by Mr. Shackleton at the piano, helped to pass a harmonious evening, which was enjoyed by all present.

MT. MARSHALL SUB-BRANCH.

The third annual meeting was held at Bencubbin on Sunday, December 21st, 1924. The President, Mr. R. F. Breakell, presided over a fair attendance of members.

Some features of the Secretary's report were:

"There was an amount of £42 4s. 9d. standing to the credit of the General Account while the Amelioration Fund showed a credit balance of £11 10s. 8d."

"Considerable assistance had been given to local affairs. Donations included the following: Christmas Tree, 1923—£2; Mt. Marshall Nursing Home, £2 6s.; also the special night in aid of...

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Entrance: Opp Govt. Savings Bank
the Mt. Marshall Nursing Home, a nett
profit of £19 6s. 1d. was realised.

The Branch membership had in-
creased during the year from 21 to 39.
Nineteen new members had enrolled
while four previous members had failed
to renew. However, three members
who had been unfinancial during 1923
had rejoined.

"There were ten meetings during the
year, the attendance at these meetings
averaging 38 per cent. of the financial
membership. This was not considered
satisfactory, as an average attendance
of 50 per cent. had been recorded for
the year previous."

"Besides the usual arrangements re-
garding Anzac Day, the branch has in-
augurated an Essay Competition for each
of the schools in the district. This
competition had proved a great success
and would be conducted annually."

"The series of lectures given by mem-
ers on various subjects at the close of
each meeting had proved a great success
and of much educational value."

The election of officers resulted as
follows—
President: Mr. R. F. Breakell.
Vice-Presidents: Messrs. T. Fleming,
H. Shemeld and S. N. McKenzie.
Secretary: Mr. F. F. LeCras.
Treasurer: Mr. S. N. McKenzie.
Trustees and Inspectors: Messrs.
Auditors: Messrs. H. Shemeld and
Reg Walters.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, Mr. Reg
Walters addressed the meeting. His
subject, "Christmas Reflections," was
quite in keeping with the season and
the lecture was very greatly appreciated by
all members present.

CLAIREMONT-COTESLOE
SUB-BRANCH.

"Stick to it" writes:

At the last general meeting of the
above branch we were honoured by a
visit from the State Secretary, Mr. Ben-
son and Mr. McDonald, President of
Mount Lawley-North Perth Branch.

A pleasant meeting resulted and much
information given us by the State Sec-
tary. These visits should do a lot
of good to these sub-branches who, like
ourselves, are just emerging from the
slough of despond."

It is both encouraging and helpful, be-
sides keeping us in touch with the Ex-
ecutive and letting us know the amount
of labour they are putting in for the bene-
efit of all Diggers. This branch has had
a long struggle and at last has emerged
from the slough, their feet once more
being on firm ground. This is due mostly
to our energetic Hon. Sec., who puts
in good work and does not mind how
hard it is. Of course, he is backed up
by the committee, all of them good
workers and eager to share the labour
of making the branch a success."

On Boxing Day this branch held its
annual picnic, at which all soldiers'
widows and orphans were invited. Pre-

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give members a chance to ventilate any grievances they have had against the various Boards and Government departments concerned with soldier settlement. Evidently the Beverley settlers are pretty well satisfied with their lot, as only five turned up, and only one had any definite grievances. Several matters were discussed, and three motions were proposed for inclusion on the agenda paper for the Settlers' Conference to consider.

Mr. G. L. Weaver presided over the meeting, which, though small in numbers, had plenty to say.

WEST PERTH SUB-BRANCH.

Secretary Morrell recently submitted the following report to his committee:

"Since our last meeting I regret to have to report that another of our comrades has passed away in the person of Mr. V. Hale, of the Titles Office. Your branch was represented at the funeral by your President and myself, Mr. Humphrey acting as pall-bearer. The usual notice appeared in the press. A wreath was sent, and a suitable letter of condolence with the widow has been sent.

"I have been able to find employment for three adult clerks during the past two weeks and also a position of typist for the daughter of one of our members.

"Membership is keeping up and in fact about seven new members have been obtained during the period. I have had many interviews with the State P.S.C. and have always been able to place the case of the Digger sufficiently prominent to enable me to obtain nearly all that is asked; I am now watching the case of a soldier who is likely to be retrenched and have made representations to the Commissioner for the principal matters relating to my interviews concerned in salaries, obtaining permanent positions and various other small matters too numerous to mention, but at the same time of great importance to our fellow comrades.

"Since our last meeting and acting on your instructions an article of special interest to both members and non-members was written by Mr. Egan and appeared in the last issue of the 'Listening Post' and 300 copies of same were posted to non-members of the Postal Department throughout the country, the addresses being supplied by Mr. Robertson, who personally delivered a large number, and we are hopeful that our efforts will bear fruit, the cost being only 8/-.

"In September last I took up the case of a member at Gin Gin, whose pension had been reduced, by placing this man's position before the Department in the form of an appeal. We not only got the pension reinstated to the original amount, but obtained an increase of approximately 5/- per fortnight, the officer concerned being very pleased with the result of our efforts.

"To-day at the instance of Mr. Robertson I visited the C.P.S.I. with reference to moving Mr. Brooks from the mail room to more congenial work, and I backed up my request by a medical certificate, supplied by Mr. Robertson on behalf of the officer, and I am sure action will be taken in the direction we desire. I impressed upon the C.P.S.I. that this man had had twenty operations on his shoulder during the last few years.

"War Service Homes.—We had recently a case of an officer being refused a loan because the Department stated it was above what the Board would consider. However, as there was ample security, I took the matter to the State Secretary, who was sympathetic and within two days, the business was finalised by Mr. Benson and he has now advised me that the applicant can apply for his original loan and that same will be approved. While on this subject I would like to say that in Mr. Benson this branch and the League generally are lucky in getting an officer whose knowledge in War Service Homes matters is of such a wide range and must be of great benefit to all diggers.

The West Perth Sub-Branch wishes to acknowledge with many thanks from Mr. Hewson the Land Titles Office, a full series of "Graphic" war pictures, and these will be given to the diggers in the various institutions. We wish others interested in our sick cobbers would emulate the kindly example—and forethought of Mr. Hewson.
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SOLDIERS' HOSPITAL TO-DAY.
(By L.G.)

A review of hospital routine for war injuries at the present time may not be interesting to those of our readers who are anxious to foster the League's Wardship of Repatriation measures. I will take you, if you care, through the routine of to-day. The Repatriation formalities are necessary, as that Department has to foot the bill—we are not concerned with the expense—so we will kick off at four-thirty on Tuesday or Friday in Dr. Alex. Juett's surgery at the Perth Hospital. Your disability—I am speaking of surgical cases—is the subject of a brief consultation and if necessary your admission and perhaps operation is arranged. Dr. Juett is the kindliest of professionals and has won the esteem of all diggers whose misfortunes have the recurring property.

A surgical case being admitted reports to No. X Ward. Sister Ward is in charge. She has a lengthy term of service in the field to her credit, and spent much of her time within range of the heavies and air bombs. The smile of welcome is encouraging, as it is at once sympathetic and cheering. A bed is allotted and one is prepared for the op. Whereas in the war we were rushed into theatres and had hasty dissection done to wounds already septic; the scheme to-day is to prepare and operate in the most antiseptic manner possible and to leave nature to do the work of healing undisturbed. This was not possible during those war days, as a few hours often saw the comparatively healthy looking wound develop poisoning.

When the operation is over and the patient is regaining an appetite he is treated with the utmost consideration and no fantastic food fancy seems beyond gratification. The nurses in their patient and busy profession are worthy of the "lady with the lamp"; indeed, it would gratify Florence Nightingale, I am sure, if she could view the unselfish demeanour of the nurses at that institution.

I remember when quite a youth—before we went away—a friend of ours went to enrol herself as a nurse, and from my knowledge of the lady, I wrote the following lines in her autograph book on the eve of her departure:

Thy changed vocation will I ween,
Ope' forth a path whence may be seen
Thy vestal grace, shining with light,
E'en emulating Phoebus bright.
Optimist thou wilt ever be,
All tones sounding canorous
To thee—at whose approaching sound
The fevered patient's heart will bound,
And cause the patient's self to bless
Thy purity and gentleness.

Although these lines are not without the extravagance of youth, and although other things may be said, too, there are few who can fail to realise that I expected great things in our friend's career. From my war experience, and from my post-war admission to hospital, I can boldly assert that few nurses are unworthy of such a tribute. You may wonder why I say all this—you will see very soon now.

In the army we knew malingerers, we knew them to be ever dissatisfied and fly in the amber; but they are the exception rather than the rule. Similarly there is a Lester which permeates the life of modern day hospital patients. In the constant changes of patients with the progress of time, there comes the old disgruntled one. To him the food—which is always of the best and superior to the civilian menu by reason of the Red X gifts—to him the food is not what it should be. He grumbles about the treatment he receives and generally makes the other patients feel like dumping him. He talks outside the hospital, and a wrong impression often obtains. I want now to let the returned men know that the treatment in every respect is not only beyond reproach, but that it is excellent in every way.

There are constant visitors to the wards and many of them are unobtrusive workers. We often see the valiant army of Red Cross workers supplying necessities and other things. Our indefatigable Mary Mears is often to be seen issuing cheerfulness more easily than any Q.M. ever issued rations. Then various church representatives come round, and different societies, too, bringing reading matter, fruit or smokes.

From my personal experience as a patient I must say that a Repatriation Ward case has the best of everything—the best of physicians and of surgeons, the best of nursing staffs and ample accommodation, and yet satisfaction is not universal.
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(late 11th Batt.) (late 11th Batt.)

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