Twice Daily, 2.30 and 8 PRINCE OF WALES Theatre de Luxe
THE BIGGEST SHOW IN TOWN Australia's most luxurious theatre THE DIGGER'S RENDEZVOUS
Selected Musgrove Celebrity Vaudeville and the pick of Motion Pictures

THE LISTENING POST

The policy of the R.S.L. is the policy of this paper.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 3/6 POST FREE
Writen, printed & published by returned soldiers for returned soldiers.

Vol. 5, No. 1 Under the Patronage of the R.S.L. January 22, 1926
Registered at the G.P.O., Perth, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

“MULGAPHONE” Wireless Receivers

“Mulgaphone” Wireless Receivers have been in use now for 18 months, and the policy initiated by our expert advisers of providing only the best and most simple apparatus is being daily supported by the unsolicited praise of satisfied users.

There are many models for local and Eastern reception. PRICES RANGE FROM 10/6 to £60.

Wireless has become a big factor in the general advancement of the Community. The earlier you install the sooner will you profit by and enjoy its privileges.

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THE WESTRALIAN FARMERS LIMITED
569 WELLINGTON ST., PERTH G.P.O. Box F378. Phones A3101, A6143
Separators

Efficiency and Economy are the two most important factors to consider when buying a Separator. The "DAHLIA" and "SYLVIA" are unrivalled for efficiency, and combined with their present low cost cannot be beaten.

THE LISTENING POST.
22nd January, 1926

CASH PRICE LIST.

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Terms can be arranged if desired at slightly higher rates, but cream suppliers will be considered cash buyers and may purchase on terms at above rates.

Remember the DAHLIA and SYLVIA are proved machines.—They have stood the test of time, and for all-round excellence cannot be surpassed.

Cream Cans, Milk Cans, Coolers, Churns, and all Dairying Requisites stocked. Write for full price lists and all particulars to—

MACFARLANE & CO. LTD., 48 Murray Street, Perth
BUTTER FACTORY. PROPRIETORS AND DAIRY PRODUCE MERCHANTS.

GUNN & PHALANGAS
Wholesale and Retail FISH MERCHANTS

Late N. BLACK & CO.
Manager, J. GUNN (of 28th Batt.), late Returned Soldiers' Fish Supply

Remember, this is run by Returned Soldiers

481 Wellington St., Perth
PHONE A1172
Head Office, Perth City Markets

We deliver Fish to any part of the State
Country orders promptly attended to

Fresh Fish Twice Daily
CATERERS TO ALL THE LEADING CLUBS AND HOTELS IN-PERTH

Whittaker Bros.
SUBIACO

TIMBER and HARDWARE MERCHANTS—COACHBUILDERS and WHEELRIGHTS.

We supply Everything in Connection with the Building Trade.

SETTLERS' COTTAGES, 3, 5, and 4 Rooms, c/w out ready for erection.
Builders of General Hardware of best manufacture.
Imported. Local Timbers of all Kinds in Stock.
Fencing Cases, Fencing Drovers.

FARM WAGGONS and CARTS of all Descriptions.
Motor Bodies, Sulkies, Lorries, etc.
Vehicles of all Kinds built to order.
Repairs and Wheelwrighting executed.
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.
EDUCATION ANOMALIES.

The Australian State Teachers' Federation, which met in Hobart recently, was criticised for the presidential address. Perhaps it would be more correct to say the expressions of opinion regarding the control of education by the Federal Government, on the part of Mr. F. Allinson, met with disapproval from certain sections of the press. In Mr. Allinson's view, the existing system retarded the development of a truly national Australian spirit, and a Commonwealth system would promote the educational progress of sparsely populated States, and efficiency in dealing with sub-normal children. Other shortcomings would be met by the uniform administration.

The chief objection of critics is that the present administration does not tend towards the retarding of the truly national Australian spirit. The argument taken is that "a man may be no less a good citizen of the Commonwealth because he is a good citizen of the State." Certainly a man must be a good citizen to his State before he can claim the distinction of being a good citizen at all, be it to Commonwealth or Empire; but that we feel sure is not Mr. Allinson's point at all. In several states the Governments are so unpatriotic, so anti-retired soldier, and so ashamed (?) of the part they played in the war in the cause of civilisation, that they would (aye, and have done so, too) eliminate as much as they could all trace of Australia's glorious participation in the Great War. History cannot be taught with reservations and still be of value to the student, nor yet to the community as a whole. The teaching of authentic records of encounters of armies is surely not glorifying war. The repetition of an account of the follies of creed hatred can be, amounting to an ever present warning: yet we have State Governments so narrow-minded as to falsify, by omissions, the important early history of this nation-in-the-making. Nor does their perverted perspective limit their interference to the written annals; but far more vigorously have they sped along their irrational course, by, in some cases, opposing the erection of edifices to the memory of those men who laid down their lives for country's sake, whilst those so-called pacifists were at war with their country's constitution. Again instances have not been wanting in other directions indicative of the unpatriotic trend of our State Government in the matter of Anzac Day Addresses by Eminent Soldiers.

Federal control of education could not, however, be considered an assurance of permanent adherence to those features of the curriculum conducive to patriotic and true citizenship, although it brooks no argument that the present Commonwealth Government would not be wanting on that score. To-morrow is beyond the veil, yet would Federation of Education accomplish fact and were the controlling destinies those ultra-anti-militaristic stay-at-home, your citizen of to-morrow, would indeed have had his birthright sold for a mess of potage. There appears one remedy and that is by the moral force of a strong union of Returned Soldiers in the community. Ever must those ideals we held dear before we sought to win our spurs overseas, and which were ennobled and glorified deeper into our beings by the experience gained, meet with respect, whilst our league is an organisation of weight. Let the R.S.I. succumb, or even seriously weaken and much, perhaps all, of the achievements of sacrifice will surely sink in the face of the efforts of that section of the community which has ever sought to thwart traditional patriotism.

GERMAN ASCENDENCY.

A NAVAL QUESTION.

During the war the German Fleet was for the most part bottled up in the Kiel Canal, and the only experience of single combat, which was near to us in Australia, known to the writer was the Croydon affair, and the British effort was crowned with certain success. The German Admiral Tirpitz now opens up and criticises the British Fleet for its lack of success in the whole course of the hostilities his fleet was only game to "sneak" from cover on isolated occasions. Sir Cecil F. Lambert, K.C.B., who holds the rank of Vice-Admiral, San Diego, asserts that the Tirpitz never opened fire. He applauds the efficiency of the German Fleet, the range and accuracy of the guns and torpedoes, and condemns the Fleet which was responsible for the German inactivity as our obsolete and insufficient equipment. We have yet to learn why the Navy, which maintained supremacy of the seas and which controlled the transport of produce, as well as of troops, could be considered inferior to the Fleet which was not courageous enough to "come out and fight in the open light."

Admiral Lambert goes on to deprecate the management of naval affairs by quoting the cost of the fleet and the credit of the country. He points out that five cruisers could at present be sent to sea. As Vice-Admiral Lambert has been Fourth Sea Lord and Director of the Personnel of the last war, it would be unwise to appear not unlikely that he is in some measure responsible for the mal-administration of which he complains.

In further cables we receive the report that the cruiser Easton is ready for service, and will join the fleet. But we learn on his high and estimable authority that our supreme navy has maintained the utmost efficiency. We are told how the conditions rendered a chase impossible owing to fading light. We are pleased that Admiral Bacon has shown the pessimists up and to learn what we already believed to be true was actually the case, and that is that Admiral Jellicoe did the only sane and correct thing. The German Fleet could not have been superior in any desirable way; we say desirable, or it could have made a better showing during the war.

Public Library of W.A.

The State Secretary, Mr. D. M. Benson, is now making preliminary arrangements for the continuance of the Halifax, in the North Sea, during winter time. Mr. Benson has yet recollections of the time spent South of Manimup last year, when he was just able to get to Northcliffe and back before the heaviest rains began. They are sending their men southwards to Manimup, and Pemberton. Referring to this occasion, the State Secretary has been frequently heard in appreciation of the unselfish action of Mr. Honey, of the Kirup R.S.I., in placing a car at his disposal to carry the Kirup members to the next meeting of the programme, the fulfilment of which would have been impossible without Mr. Honey's kind assistance.

Bring a New Member for 1926.
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

Present.—Messrs. Collett, Riley, Isaac, McDonald, Philip, McAdam, Freedman, Cornell, Shaw; Mye, Yeates, Logie, Wedd, Bate son, Fitzgerald, Pady, Bader and Cohen.

Christmas Greetings.—Christmas greetings were read from kindred organisations, Government Department, etc.

Resignation.—A letter was read from Mr. H. S. Homan, thanking the Executive for granting him leave of absence, but regretting that he found it necessary to resign, and asking the Executive to accept his resignation.

It was decided that the resignation be accepted with regret.

War Service Homes.—A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive showing copy of one from the Minister for Works and Railways in connection with the administration of the War Service Homes.

moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Wedd, that the matter of representation on the Workers Homes Board be taken under advisement with Senate.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Pady that the matter remain in abeyance until a vacancy occurs on the Board.—Lost.

Kalamba Foreclosure Case.—A letter was read and received from the Darling Range Sub-Branch showing copy of a resolution passed by the branch at their recent meeting, recommending the State Executive to take action in the case of one of the members, whose property under the S.S.S. was threatened to be foreclosed and taken action.

Mr. Hewson, a member of the Sub-Branch, attended the Executive meeting to explain the facts of the case.

moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Wedd, that a Committee of three be appointed to go into the case, with power to act.—Carried.

Messrs. Wedd, Yeates and Pady were appointed.

Postage Circulars.—The Secretary explained that letters were prepared to be sent to returned soldiers throughout the State, explaining the aims and objects of the League, and endeavouring to secure members. A facsimile signature had been used, and the postal authorities demanded full postal rates.

Efforts were made through the Federal Executive to have the regulation waived in this instance, and a letter from the General Secretary was read and received, stating that the matter had received favourable consideration and an arrangement had been entered into whereby circular rates would be paid.

Immigration.—A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive, showing copy of a resolution passed at the 10th Annual Congress outlining a scheme for League propaganda amongst ex-Imperial Soldier Migrants to Australia.

A further letter was read and received from the Federal Executive showing copy of a resolution carried at the 10th Annual Congress in connection with farm lads from Overseas employed in the country. Both schemes as outlined were endorsed.

Mental Home, Subiaco.—A communication was received from the Federal Executive showing copy of one from the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission in connection with the Mental Hospital at West Subiaco.

War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux.—The letter was laid on the table in connection with the War Memorial at Villers Bretonneux, dealing with the rules for the competition for the design.

Delegates' Report, 10th Annual Congress.—Rabbi Freedman reported on behalf of the two delegates who attended the 10th Annual Congress, outlining what had been done.

The report was received and it was moved by Rev. Riley, seconded by Mr. Isaac, that the thanks of this Executive be extended to Rabbi Freedman and Colonel Collett for the manner in which they had upheld Western Australia's desires at Congress.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

Endowment Cot.—The Secretary presented further letters received from Sub-Branches in connection with the endowment of a cot at the Children's Hospital.

moved by Mr. Bate son, seconded by Mr. McDonald, that all Sub-Branches be asked to subscribe to the endowment of a cot at the Children's Hospital on the following basis.—Mr. Brand, with a membership of over 100, £2 2s.; under 100, £1 1s. 6d. and under 25, 10s. 6d.—Lost.

moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Nye, that a committee of three be appointed to formulate a scheme for the endowment of a cot at the Children's Hospital, and to report to the Executive.—Carried.

Messrs. Riley, Shaw and Watt were appointed.

on the Swinging and Threshing Machine.—The Secretary read a communication from the General Manager of the Agricultural Bank, showing a reply received to a resolution carried at the Annual State Congress, suggesting that a travelling threshing and winnowing machine be supplied by the Government in each Agricultural area where required.

The reply, stated that the request could not be granted, but the Government would hire a winnowing machine to groups of clover growers where required.

It was decided that a copy of the letter be sent to the Branches concerned.

Harvey Irrigation.—The State Secretary reported that he had visited Harvey on Friday, 11th instant, in order to attend a meeting held there in connection with irrigation. He stated that water had now been provided for settlers and arrangements had been entered into with the Government for the payment of rates, etc.

The report was received.

R.S.L. Band.—Mr. Cornell reported that the R.S.L. Co-op. had been overlooked by the R.S.L. Band, when purchasing their uniforms and helmets.

moved by Mr. Bate son, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that the Secretary of the Band be asked for an explanation.—Lost.

moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. McDonald, that the facts as stated be forwarded to the R.S.L. Band, and that the Executive express surprise and regret.—Carried.

moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bate son, that the League's representative on the R.S.L. Band Committee investigate the matter and report to the Executive, also that he be asked to enquire into the matter of Band instruments.—Carried.

State Secretary's Report.—The State Secretary reported on the operations of the Executive Office for the preceding fortnight. The report was received.

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 9th December was read and received.

Unit Association.—The State President submitted suggestions for the formation of Unit Associations for social purposes and as League Auxiliaries.

moved by Mr. Isaac, seconded by Mr. Bader, that the following suggestions be adopted:
THE ELECTRO-HYDROTHERAPEUTIC INSTITUTE
(MASSAGE ELECTRICITY HYDROTHERAPY DIETING, ETC.)
Ladies' Masseuse, Nurse E. Morris
We Can Help You Gentlemen's Masseur, Mr. G. V. Palmateer
FOR FULL PARTICULARS write or interview the NURSE IN CHARGE
Address: The Manager, Sanitarium Health Food Co., 757 Hay Street, Perth

(1) That the Executive approve of the principle of the Scheme as outlined.
(2) That it be given publicity.
(3) That communications be invited from those interested and willing to assist in the formation of Associations.
(4) That inaugural meetings be convened.
(5) That the necessary accommodation be provided for Committees.

Ex-Imperial Men and Land Settlement.
Endorsement was obtained for the forwarding of a communication to Mr. Banks Ailey, Imperial Government Representative in Melbourne in connection with the settlement of ex-Imperial men on the land.

Viscount Allenby.—A letter was read and received from the Secretary of the 10th Light Horse Association, requesting the League's co-operation in inducing the business people of Perth to fly the usual bunting on the 5th January, on the occasion of the visit of Viscount Allenby.

It was decided that the League co-operate in this matter.

Letter of Condolence.—Moved by Mr. Philp, seconded by Mr. Watt, that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of the late Tho. Marshal, who had been employed at the Repatriation Department, and who died recently.—Carried.

Ballidu Sub-Branch.—Mr. Logie reported that there was every prospect of reforming the Ballidu Sub-Branch.

Interim Receipt Book.—The necessary authority for the issue of an interim receipt book for subscription was granted to Dr. Yule, President of the Darling Range Sub-Branch.

State War Memorial.—Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bateon, that the R.S.L. strongly and earnestly urges the citizens of Western Australia to subscribe to the movement to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, and to give their utmost without delay to the State War Memorial Fund, and that the President be requested to publish an appeal on behalf of the League for support.—Carried.

Accommodation, Executive Meetings.—Moved by Mr. Isaac, seconded by Mr. Bateon, that it be recommended to the House Committee that extra accommodation be arranged for Executive meetings.—Carried.

1/1/26.


Apologies were received from Messrs. Yeates and Watt.

Appreciation.—Letters of appreciation and greetings were received from the following:—Federal President, Archbishop Henry, State Secretary, Tasmania; President Bricklayers' Union, Namur Sub-Branch, R.S.L., J. Mulqueeny, Lake Brown.

Federal Correspondence.—Letters containing information on the following subjects were read and received from the Federal Executive:—Resolution 71 (10th Annual Congress), 36 do.; 58, 30 do.; Minutes of the United Service Fund Trustees.

Salvage Orders.—The Secretary read a published statement by the Conservator of Forests in connection with the issue of sandalwood orders.

Moved by Mr. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Bateon, that a copy of the published report be forwarded to the Laverton and Mukinbudin Sub-Branches.—Carried.

Lost Property Office.—A letter was read from Mr. A. Hope, of Redcliffe Park, suggesting that the League initiate an R.S.L. Lost Property Office.

Moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Isaac, that the letter be received.—Carried.

Kalamunda Foreclosure Case.—The Committee consisting of Messrs. Wedd, Pady and Yeates, reported in connection with this case, and, inter alia, recommended that no good purpose would be served by delaying the threatened foreclosure action.

On the motion of Mr. Zeffert, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the report was adopted.

A letter was also read from Mr. L. Moncrieff, Barrister and Solicitor, in connection with the case. The letter was received.

R.S.L. Band.—A letter was read from the Secretary of the R.S.L. Band explaining the position of the Band Committee in placing certain orders for the purchase of uniforms.

A Sub-Committee from the Band was present to further state the case if desired by the Committee.

Moved by Mr. Zeffert, seconded by Mr. Bateon, the Band Committee be heard.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Isaac, that the letter be received.

Further explanation being unnecessary, the amendment was carried.

Soldier Settlement.—The Secretary read a short report of the present position in connection with Soldier Settlement, stating that the Officials of the Agricultural Bank had met in Conference several soldier settlers from the Swan Valley, which action on the part of the settlers concerned is considered unwise, as the Department should first make their proposals known before entering into negotiations with the soldier settlers.

After the adoption of the report it was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. McDonald, that Sub-Branches in the Swan Valley be notified of the non-wisdom of meeting in conference officials of the Agricultural Bank and that if requests for such meetings are submitted to soldier settlers, that the State Executive be notified of any overtures made by the Department, or any contemplated meeting.—Carried.

An amendment moved by Mr. Cornell that this matter be left in the hands of the Sub-Committee for any necessary action, was made.

State Secretary's Report.—The State Secretary read a report in connection with the operations of the League Office for the preceding fortnight.

After the reception of the report, the matter of the Glenoran Art Union was discussed, owing to the necessity of its postponement.

It was ultimately resolved on the motion of Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Pady, that the matter of inquiry into the present position of this Art Union and its satisfactory winding up be left in the hands of the State Secretary and Mr. Bradshaw, and if necessary the State Secretary visit Glenorah to assist the Local Committee in connection with the Art Union now under postponement.—Carried.

House Committee.—A report was submitted by the House Committee, showing a considerable increase in business for the last fortnight of 1925, in comparison with 1924, and containing appreciative references to the Managers and Staff for services rendered.

Employment Bureau Report.—A report was submitted by the Employment Officer showing 103 men out of work at the end of December.

M. J. DEVINE
Late 26th Batt. A.I.F. Member R.M. & L.M.A.
Wicker Manufacturer
134 ROKEBY ROAD SUBIACO
Manufacturer of Latest Novelties in Prams Go-Carts and Sea Grass Furniture Cheapest and Best Stock of Dolls' Prams.
Our Motto: Quality and Workmanship
"MENTAL."
(By D. M. Benson.)

B.—was known to me before the war as a fairly steady lad with an indulgent mother. After school he took up engineering and served his cadetship with the Railway Department. Perhaps this accounts for his having Engineering colours on his shirt when met with after the Gallipoli landing. He was one who suffered the anxiety of the first few days of our precarious hold on that grim beach, and dodging Jacko's "issue" until just before the snow came, when the little bit of iron collected had "home" written on it, and soon he was back amongst the civvy population honourably "returned."

Vicissitudes of life were meet with—continued failing health—until recently I heard that B.—was "mental," and under observation in No. 12 Ward at the Perth Hospital. Perhaps your readers are not all acquainted with No. 12 Ward. This is the last ward after passing the main door, and doubts as to its locality are removed when the gate closes behind you, and lounging figures of all shades indiscriminately clothed disclose something which harshly grates on the tranquil outlook left behind. You are unerringly escorted to the object of the visit, found behind a double-locked door and reclining on a raised mattress in a cell-like room no more than 7ft. across and 8ft. long—and on the day of my visit the thermometer was pushing the century. The vacant upward stare has nothing within the room to arrest it unless, of course, some glimmer of reason may take note that the high up window facing east and north is heavily barred. No sound comes that way, but from around and without there are incessant cries and murmurings that constantly remind the visitor that the object of his visit is not the sole inhabitant of these quarters. In fact, the large hall leading to the barred recess appears unusually crowded. The old-digger is ill, very ill. Apparent indeed are—

"The shocks and ills that nature's vessel has sustained on life's uncertain voyage."

There is a fleeting thought that sailing "West" might be a happy release from this temporary turbulent harbour of supposed refuge.

We come away with the sorrow that this should be the best offering for those of us who served, any one of whom might some day have that thin partition dividing reason and decease broken. Surely it is not beyond accomplishment that something other than the present conditions are possible for men whose mental balance was rudely shattered by the shock of war. Cannot the hospital authorities notify the Repatriation Department of the admission of a suller mental, whose medical staff could expeditiously carry out the "observation" process and promptly evacuate the subject to cooler and more congenial surroundings?

We are told that cases like some we know of are not war caused, but we ask in conclusion: "Is there any man who really was up against the mental strain of nights of waiting for the coming onslaught who can say that such experiences did not and do not sometimes affect his nervous system? Probably none such exists. Where, then, is there a medical authority which will presume to deny or question such reply? It follows then that all soldiers who actually experienced the horrors of war should, when mental sickening overtakes them, be the care and the charge of a grateful country, and be given the best offering.

MILITARY OFFICERS of the Unattached, Reserve & Retired Lists and Ex-Nurses of the A.I.F. and Home Service.

All personnel as above 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.

The advantages to be gained by officers keeping their names on the Roll are very considerable, especially in the event of mobilization.

WINNOWING MACHINES FOR GROUP SETTLERS.

The General Manager of the Agricultural Bank (Mr. E. A. McLarty) recently forwarded the following communication to the State Secretary:

"I am in receipt of yours, conveying a resolution carried at the Annual Congress, requesting that a travelling threshing and winnowing machine be supplied by the Government in each agricultural area where required.

"The intention of the Group Settlement Department is to purchase clean burr, and to secure this the settlers will require to use a winnowing machine. We propose to thresh the burr ourselves, and for this purpose arrangements have been made with the State Implements Works to construct a machine. It would not be possible to supply settlers with threshing machines, but we will be prepared to hire winnowing machines to groups of clover growers where required.

"Settlers desiring the machine should make application and advise the number of settlers involved and the quantity of burr to be treated."

Diggers' Call on us when in town

A "Fair Go" assured Advice Free

EXCELSIOR GARAGE Phone 2491
Fair Wear
Free Repairs

Agents: OMEGA Motor Cycles
from £ 45/– to £ 100

C. H. ILES
Late 6th F.A.B.

FOR ALL SPORTING REQUISITES

Gemmell & McDougall Ltd.

101 WILLIAM STREET, PERTH— (Queens Hall Buildings)

Tennis, Cricket, Croquet, Bowls, Polo

Tennis Repairs a Speciality
We have secured the services of an expert repairer
from London, who bears excellent references from
Davis Cup players of the British Isles

OUR SERVICE DEPT. GUARANTEES ALL REPAIRS

WINNOWING MACHINES FOR GROUP SETTLERS.
PERSONALITIES

Recently in the Capital was Allan Betts, the capable Secretary of the flourishing Northcliffe Sub-Branch.

His many friends will regret to learn that Jim Butler is "in dock" at St. Omer's Hospital, Perth, where he is having a hard battle with the "grim reaper." We wish Jim a speedy recovery to health and activity.

Dear old Theo. Marshall, who recently passed beyond the veil was an extremely likeable fellow, who will be sadly missed by a host of digger pals. He was one of the whitest, living his life in the service of others. Theo. saw service in the 28th Battalion and was a prominent member of his battalion association, and the Mt. Lawley Branch of the League. To the lonely widow and his three brilliant children (all doing remarkably well at the W.A. University) we offer sincere sympathy.

Condolences to Harold Colvin on the severe loss he recently sustained when his dear old mother passed away. Harold is a life-long member of the Mt. Lawley Sub-Branch and has been a delegate to the old No. 2 District Council, the State Executive and for years was the W.A. State Branch Auditor.

Holidaying during the month at Mandurah were Assistant State Secretary Carl Ferguson, and Secretary A. Cummings, of the Carnamah Sub-Branch. Many, hugh fish were hooked, including the proverbial monster "that long." In fact, we regret to announce that both the worthy Leagueites are suffering severely with "waltokia hypermetropia." For the sake of their many trusting friends we wish them a speedy recovery.

Brigadier-General Alfred Muller, commanding the Fourth Division of the Reichswehr, was recently watching some army manoeuvres near Berlin with about 70 other staff officers, when a stray bullet hit the General in the abdomen. He died within two minutes.

Disappointment was keen in League circles at having to abandon the reception to General Allenby. The boat on which the distinguished soldier was travelling berthed at Fremantle during the evening, and departed early the next morning.

Dick Roberts, the energetic R.S.I. Secretary at Waroona, has occupied that office for upwards of seven years, and has proved just as loyal to his digger comrades in peace times as he did when a member of the 28th, with which battalion he lost a leg at Lagnicourt.

The pianist at the Waroona "Smoko" was Fred Johnstone, late of the Motor Boat Patrol, an adjunct of the Royal Navy.

An interesting personality met with at Waroona was George Seagar, late of the Capetown Mounted Battery, with which unit he did duty on the West Coast of Africa. George proved a good raconteur of war time stories and humorous incidents in connection with the campaign in South Africa.

Bob Cochrane, Regimental No. 15, "A" Company, 11th Battalion, was present at the Waroona Smoke Social. Bob was a soldier settler, but is now assisting George Walsley in a local business venture.

Jack Dodds, late 16th Battalion, contributed to the evening enjoyment at the Waroona Smoke Social by warbling about the Country North of the Clyde. Jack is a hard worker, but very difficult to convince. He admitted, however, when proposing a vote of thanks to the State Secretary, that he was at last convinced that the R.S.I. was out in the interests of the Boys.

General regret was expressed in League circles at the resignation of Mr. H. S. Humphrey, from the State Executive Council. Mr. Humphrey found it impossible to attend meetings, owing to his new duties clashing. Although no superman, H.S. proved to be a capable, efficient and level-headed leader, who, with super-energy, lifted the League from a slough of despond and placed it on the path of progress.

McTavish: "I've just been o'er tae see an auld frien' at the hospital, and took this wee bottle o' whiskey." The Laird: "But, mon, ye might have kent they wadna allow ye tae gie a sick mon whisky!"

"I kent it weel enough—but it wis a kind-thought, onyway."

Don't overlook our Advertisers.
Imperial Printing Coy. Ltd.
"All Diggers."

Duff's Liqueur Whisky

-Mild and Mellow-
SUB-BRANCH NOTES.
KALGOORLIE SUB-BRANCH.

The Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch recently held their monthly meeting and Xmas Reunion. Despite the terrific storm which was raging over the goldfields, there was a good attendance. Dr. V. O. Stacy presided over sixty members and endowment members. The hall was gaily-beflagged and the tables presented a pleasing appearance.

The following were amongst those present: The Mayor of Kalgoorlie, W. H. Davidson, J.P. (Aust. Red Cross Society), Councillor Moore (Veterans), A. Leslie Caledonians, H. A. Kingsbury (Senior Vice-President), J. Reid (Boulder Branch), Drs. Blayden and Goyen, E. Laycock, and others. A splendid musical programme was provided and things went merrily onward till eleven o'clock. The following artists contributed towards the evening's entertainment: Miss P. Black, McDiarmid, Crofts, Leslie and Dr. Blayden. Mr. Geo. Sharpe made a most able accompanist. The evening concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Mr. J. C. Hutchinson took his departure from the goldfields recently. The genial Charlie will be sadly missed.

Mr. Jack Williams is at present at the coast, for the benefit of his health. Jack, who is one of the officers for the purpose of the goldfields, has been in indifferent health, and all hope that the trip will be beneficial to him.

Another member who is tripping to the coast to recuperate is Captain Burrows.

The Sweep on the Perth Cup was drawn at the Soldiers' Institute by Councillor Gus Wall, before a large audience. The consultation closed with 6,500 subscribers. Considering there were four other sweeps running at the same time, this was a very creditable effort, and the branch should show a profit in the vicinity of one hundred and fifty pounds. The principal prizes were won by Mr. White Hope, £57 10s; 2nd Horse, Wright & Jones, 140 Edward Street, East Perth, £39 7s 6d; 3rd Horse, F. Billie, Norseman, £21 12s 6d.

KATANNING SUB-BRANCH.

Great enthusiasm was evinced on the occasion of the Katanning Sub-Branch Annual meeting for the purpose of the re-election of officers for the forthcoming year, held in the presence of a highly representative gathering, including a sprinkling of visitors. On December 17th, 1925, Universal was passed on all sides when it became known that Dr. Burns, the esteemed President, had decided not to accept re-election, owing to the exigency of attention to his profession, precluding him from regular attendance meetings regularly.

The following members were elected to the various offices: President, Mr. Spencer Squirrel; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Mow, Fildes and Thomas; Auditors, Messrs. White Hope and Messrs. F. Billie and F. L. S. Thomson. Dr. B. T. Tower was re-elected Secretary, unopposed with great gusto; the balance sheet presented by him showing that despite the fact that ex-comrades during the past year have not responded as freely as might be desired, everything in connection with the Sub-Branch is on a good sound financial basis, thanks to its energetic Secretary, who is indefatigable in his endeavours to re-awaken the same unity and comradship at home as was established "over there." A motion was put and carried unanimously that he be granted an honorarium of £5, as a mark of practical appreciation. To further evidence its appreciation of loyal devotion to the cause, a suggestion was put and carried that Mrs. Higman, described as the benefactor, be made a Xmas present to the amount of £3 3s, selection of same and presentation to be left in the hands of President and Secretary. (This was duly accomplished, much to the deserving lady's gratification.)

In order to facilitate matters for comrades wishing to attend, meetings were altered from fortnightly to monthly, the last Thursday evening in each month being deemed most suitable, to begin January, 1926.

Owing to Euclayupalup Lake being unfit for the purpose, it having almost dried up, through shortage of rainfall, it was resolved to abandon the annual New Year's Day picnic excursion. A suggestion from the Tambellup Boating Club to run a special train to its Aquatic Carnival on the above date, was negatived as unequitable. As a result of representations, two new members were enrolled.

CLAREMONT-COTESLOE SUB-BRANCH.

In a recent issue you stated that one reason why diggers would not join up was because they were never approached and asked for their "sub." That statement does not apply to this Sub-Branch, as the Secretary well knows. To ensure that the digger will be home, Secretary Brown starts his round, say about 5 p.m., and in most cases meets the digger. But such excuses are made as tends to give one to despair of ever getting a sufficient number of sub's, to keep the branch alive financially. Promises to pay up are numerous, but actual payments are few and far between. I trust that Claremont-Cottesloe diggers will read this, and make up their mind to enrol and take an active part in their own welfare.

The usual distribution of toys to soldiers' orphans on Xmas eve was carried out by this Branch, and no doubt many a young heart was gladdened thereby. On Saturday, 2nd January, the annual picnic for widows and orphans was undertaken, the place chosen being Pt. Walter. Everything went off satisfactorily, and a most enjoyable day was brought to a close when a series of races were competed for, ending in a race for the committee, which was won by Mr. F. L. S. Thomson. The committee worked hard to ensure a good day's outing, and there is no doubt that success awarded their efforts. It is doubtful whether another Sub-Branch lays itself out to cater for the widows and orphans as does Claremont-Cottesloe.

When in town
Secure your fruit supply from
A "Jack" Michael
[Late 11th Bn.]
Barrow
In front of east end Boans Ltd.
Wellington Street
Perth

At the Zoo, a small boy noticed that a bear had lost some of its hair.
"Oh look, the bear's moth-eaten!" he cried.
"Silly!" said his smaller sister, contemptuously, "Moths don't eat bears."
Mt. BARKER, SUB-BRANCH.

Recently the Sub-Branch met for their usual meeting, when a good attendance was recorded. The parcel of books to start the library for branch members, was opened, and passed by members as a very good lot. The books have been placed in a very nice cabinet in the club room, and when war pictures are placed on the wall, will make a very nice asset to the Branch. Correspondence in connection with league matters was extensive and well discussed, members generally, seeing the advantage the returned soldier has by being financial. Accounts amounting to £9 were passed for payment, when, on the financial position of the Branch being made known, it was decided to place another order for books with the firm that supplied those now on hand. The question of throwing the library open to Memorial Club members was also discussed and decided on. Particulars can be obtained from Mr. W. Millons, of the club, re the terms suggested. It is the wish of the members, if possible, to keep the books up-to-date, and give further encouragement to join the Branch, and so enjoy the benefits. Some time ago the members launched out in a picture plant. Bad luck seemed to come our way, but after battling for about three years and only finding out latterly what films, best suited our patrons, the plant is now about on a “divvy basis.” Several members who speculated their three “John Bradburys” three years ago intimated to the Secretary to sell their shares. But on second thoughts they thought it best to place them in the old “war chest,” and their shares have now repaid a £1 divvy, and by the look of things, more to follow. Good luck to those who speculated, also to those R.S.I. members who did not, but probably could buy in now, if they felt disposed. Any communications will be acknowledged by the Branch Secretary.

WAROONA SUB-BRANCH.

A very successful re-union of Diggers took place at Waroona on January 9th, when Sam Weller, the President, presided over a good attendance. The visitors included the State Secretary of the R.S.I. (Mr. D. M. Benson). The evening’s programme went with a swing till about midnight, when several motor cars, kindly placed at the disposal of the branch by several members, conveyed various parties to their homes. It must not be thought that motor cars were a necessity, as the “brew” was good and all the diggers stood well up to their issue. Sam Weller, the President at this centre, looks after Whittaker’s interests and is not only a prominent member of the Agricultural Board, but also Secretary of the Agricultural Society. It was Mr. Weller, by the way, who persuaded the Government ex-perts to visit Waroona in connection with the discovery of the Rutherford Bug, which was playing havoc with the potato crop.

The Perth Sub-Branch meeting, which was held on Tuesday, January 12th, was said to be the most successful meeting ever conducted by the Sub-Branch. The gathering of 50 diggers enjoyed a social function after the termination of the night’s branch business, and so appreciative were all members that it was decided to conduct something of this sort every quarter.

The Collie Sub-Branch meet on Sunday, January 24th, at 10 o’clock forenoon. Harry May expects to see all the inhabitants of surrounding districts on wheels that day, with the chauffeur’s or drivers heads directed towards Collie. It is understood that the State Secretary will represent the Executive at Collie’s Annual Sub-branch meeting.

Mr. Benson will, on the previous Saturday afternoon, the 23rd inst., be in attendance at Brunswick Junction, to assist local diggers in the re-formation of the Brunswick Sub-branch of the R.S.I.

Spot.—Who was the last-digger to leave Gallipoli at the evacuation? Perhaps some of your readers will satisfy my curiosity.

THE OPTIMIST.

“Be an optimist,” says a soldier.

“Don’t worry over what’s going to happen when you are drafted, because the things we worry most over usually never happen.” A notice posted in one of our camps gives one a few points. It goes something like this:

“If you are of military age, either you are called to arms or not; if not, you need not worry.” If called, you are either sent to the front or left in camp; if left behind, you need not worry. If sent to the front, you are either in the firing line or behind it; if behind it, you need not worry. If in the firing line you are either exposed to danger or not; if not, you need not worry.”

TELEPHONE A 1354

The
Bardwell-Clarke Studios
FOR
HIGH CLASS PORTRAITURE
Children’s Photographs
AND
Colored Work
SPECIALTY
Artistic Enlargements
FROM ANY PHOTOGRAPH
Over
BON MARCHE, Hay St., Perth
Entrance: Opp. Govt. Savings Bank

If exposed to danger, you are either wounded or not; if not, you need not worry. If wounded, you are either seriously or slightly wounded. If seriously wounded, you need not worry. If slightly wounded, you either recover or die; if you recover, you need not worry. If you die, you can’t worry. Cheer up!”

Let little Daniel be your guide—

DANIEL CRAWFORD’S RED STAR WHISKY and you can’t go wrong!
AXES, Kelly.
ACID, Boracic, 1/- lb. tin, 6d.
ACID, Citric, 1/- lb. 3d. oz. pkt.
ACID, Tartaric, 2/- lb. 2d. oz. pkt.
ALMONDS, Ground, 4/- lb.
ALMONDS, Kernels, 2/- lb.
ALUM, Lump, 6d. lb. Powdered 6d.
AMMONIA, Cloudy or large bottle 3d.
BIRRIT, 1/2 lb. 1/8 lb.
ANCHOVIES, in oil, Mac's 2/3 bob.
ANT EXTERMINATOR, 9d.
ANTIPHOSPHITE, No. 1 3/-. No. 2 4/- No. 3 1/-
ARROWROOT, Queensland 8d. lb. 10d. pkt.
ASPARAGUS, Libby's large 2/11 small 1/6. 5d. pkt. A.M.C. 1/2
ASPEROS, 9d. 1/3.
AXLE OIL, 1/8.
APRICOTS, Dried - 1/6. Tinned 1/1.
APPLES, 1/2 lb.
BARLEY, Pearl, 3d. lb. 2/3 doz.
BARLEY, Robinson's Patented 5/6 tin; local 1/6 by side; choice cuts, 1/2 lb.
BAKING POWDER, 1lb. tins. B. & Co. 1/4; Excelsior 1'6 1/8 3/9 1/4 3/9 9d. tin.
BARLEY, Pearl, 3d. lb. 2/3 doz.
BARLEY, Robinson's Patented 5/6 tin; local 1/6 by side; choice cuts, 1/2 lb.
BASIL, 1/6 lb.
BEEF BLOOD, Holbrook's, 5d. each.
BAY, 6d. and 1/6 - bottle.
BEANS, Haricot, 1d. lb.
BEANS, Tinned, 1d. and 1/6.
BEESWAX, 2/1 lb.
BENZINE, 8d. bottle. Shell and Plume Motor Motor Oil 1/8 - case.

**CONFECTIONERY:**
- Scotch Mixture, 1/-
- Sugar Mixture, 1/-
- Confectionary Mixtures, 1/4 lb. 1/8 lb.
- Liquorice Allsorts, 1/3
- Caramel Mixtures, 1/2 lb. Milk and Buttermilk, 1/4 lb.
- Mixed Juices, 1/2 lb. Large Roller Mixtures, 1/4 lb.
- Violet Milled Chocolates, 1/6 lb.
- Chocolate Roughs, 1/2 lb. Honeycomb, 1/3 lb.
- CLOTHES PEGS, 3d. doz. 3/- gross.
- CLOTHES LINES, Rope 6d. Wires 5/6's, 3/9 each.
- CLOVES, 3d. oz. 2/6 lb. Whole Ground, 3/9.
- COCOA: Pure, Bulk Cocoa 7d. lb.
- Bournville, 1s 9d. 9d. 1/8 lb. Fry's Home, 10d.
- Bournville, 1s 6d. 6d. 1/8 lb.
- COCONUT OIL, 8d. lb. 7d. 6d.
- COCONUT, Desiccated, 1/- 5/-
- Black Coffee, 1/- 2d.
- Croff, Fresh Ground Coffee, mixed 1/-
- Whole Roast, 1/- 2d.
- Zouave, 1/6 tin.
- Pasha, 1/-
- CORKS, Taper 4d. doz. 2/6 gross.
- CORKS, Taper, Medium, 1d. 3/-
- CORKS, Taper, Large, 1d. 3/-
- CORKS, Taper, Extra Large, 1d. 3/-
- COFFEE, Cream, Nestle's, 16oz. 8d. 11d. 1oz. 1/8 1/2 oz.
- CREAM TARTAR, loose, 1/4 oz. 1d. 1/-
- CURRY POWDER, 1/- 1d.
- CURRY POWDER, 1/10 lb. bulk 1/-
- INDIA CURRY, 1/- 1d.
- INDIAN CURRY, 1/- 1d.
- CUSTARD POWDER, Bird's, small 3d.
- 1d. pkt. 1/2 lb. Foster Clarke's small tins 1/-
- Custard Powder, Birds, threshed the best 1lb. tins. 1/6 tins 1/- 6d.
- Custard Powder, Foster Clarke's small tins 1/-
- Newlands, 1/-
- Custard Powder, White Crow, 1/-
- DATES, Season's, 4/- lb.
- DISINFECTANT, Disodorant, 6d.
- DRY COLOUR, Red Ochre, 6d.
- DYES, Dyoa, 8d. Pinek.
- EGGS, market rates.
- EMBOBIE, No. 1 Albion's Royal Universal 2/- 6d. bottle.
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THE LISTENING POST.
22nd January, 1926

COMMUNION PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD.

"A cardinal feature of the Public Service Act, 1922-1924, is, that in the making of permanent appointments to the service, preference shall be given to returned soldiers who have successfully passed the prescribed examination," says the report of the Public Service Board of Commissioners for the Commonwealth. "As regards appointments of a non-clerical nature, while returned soldiers who have qualified for appointment by examination are to be given first preference, those who have been continuously employed for at least two years in a temporary capacity, and whose duties have been satisfactorily performed, are to be regarded as eligible for permanent appointment without passing a prescribed examination for admission to the service.

In addition, returned soldiers who are competent for the work, to be considered must be considered for temporary employment in priority to any person who is not a returned soldier. Under regulations made by the board, the order of preference is laid down as follows:—(1) Returned soldiers who are married, (2) returned soldiers who are unmarried, (3) relatives of deceased soldiers, such as widows, unmarried daughters, widowed mothers and unmarried sisters. Concessions are prescribed by regulation, granting returned soldier temporary employees more favourable conditions than non-soldiers in the matter of sick leave. No limitation is fixed as to the duration of temporary employment of returned soldiers, subject, of course, to the work being clearly of a temporary nature, and not warranting permanent appointment to the service.

During the year under review, appointments of returned soldiers to the permanent service numbered 352, of which 44 were made to the third division and 308 to the fourth division. The number of returned soldiers permanently appointed to the Commonwealth Service from the commencement of the system of preferential treatment of soldiers up to June 30, 1925, is 2,877. The number of returned soldiers in the permanent service on June 30, 1925, was 4,883.

The policy of preference to soldiers, both as to permanent and temporary employment, established by the Federal Parliament in enacting the Public Service Act, has been given full effect by the board in the administration of the Act. The board is exercised to guard against any infringement of this policy. In every position where returned soldier applicants are available and able to discharge the duties, the provision as to preference is rigidly enforced.

CANTEEN FUND DISBURSEMENTS.

"That this Congress urges that the Trustees of the A.I.F. Canteens Funds obtained from State Branches opinions on applications for assistance under this Fund." The following reply has been received from the Chairman of the A.I.F. Canteens Funds Trust, to the foregoing resolution passed at the recent Federal Congress held in Perth:

"This proposal was dealt with by the Trustees at their meeting on the 15th instant. There are practical difficulties which preclude the Trustees from giving effect to the resolution.

Up to 30th November last, the Trustees made 45,000 grants to seriously disabled soldiers and dependents of deceased soldiers in need of assistance, involving a total amount of £27,810. Grants were refused in respect of over 11,000 applicants. The greatest care has been taken so that assistance might only reach those in necessitous circumstances and although in rare instances the Trustees may have been deceived by false recommendations, such cases are undoubtedly inappreciable in number.

"So long as money is available for distribution it is necessary that the assistance should be promptly afforded and this has been the case throughout. In no case has any assessment been made unless the circumstances of the application have received the personal attention of at least one of the Trustees.

"To refer each application to the State Branch of the League, in addition to obtaining the local information and support of a Justice of the Peace, Clergyman, or Senior Officer of Police, as has been insisted upon under the Act, would obviously delay and it is questionable whether the State Branch would be in possession of useful information as to the circumstances of a large number of the applicants.

"But apart from the above features, our Funds will unfortunately be wholly exhausted in five or six months, and it is considered-inadvisable to alter the practice which has worked well and, so far as the Trustees can ascertain, has promptly as well as efficiently attained a fair and equitable distribution.

"For the above reasons, the Trustees regret being unable to give effect to the proposal expressed in the resolution referred to."

ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN.

UNIT ORGANISATIONS.

It is well known that one of the objects of the Returned Soldiers' League is to endeavour to perpetuate the close and kindly ties of friendship created by mutual service in the great war and the recollections associated with that experience. Recently the State Executive of the League was approached and asked to do something to bring together the officers and men of the different services and arms with a view to arranging social gatherings and inaugurating associations of a permanent nature that would be of benefit to all who might link up with them.

Several such associations already exist, but it is realised that, in the metropolitan area, there are large numbers of ex-service men who, throughout the year, have little or no opportunity of joining with their old comrades in a convivial glass and talking over the incidents of the days at sea.

Wash silk stockings the LUX way

Whisk a tablespoonful of Lux into a thick lather in half a bowlful of very hot water. Add cold water until lukewarm. Dip the stockings up and down, pressing the Lux suds through and through them. Rinse in three lukewarm waters. Squeeze water out—do not wring. Hang to dry. Never dry over a radiator.

LUX
LEVER BROTHERS LIMITED
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Get good value for your money in Wreaths, Bouquets, etc.

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Mrs. Chas. Sebo
Floral Artiste
Delta Gardens, 17 Lapsley Road Claromont

See the DIGGER'S FLORIST about it

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We DELIVER
Proprietor:
Chas. Sebo (Late 11th Batt., A.I.F.)
or in the forward areas. Particularly is this the case with those discharged from the two Royal Navies, the Imperial Army, Flying Corps, Cavalry, Artillery, Engineers, Signallers, Pioneers, Railway Units, Tunnellers and Miners, Machine Gunners, Army Service Corps, and Army Medical Corps.

The Executive has decided to foster the idea and proposes the formation of an association in each of the groups before-mentioned. With regard to the infantry of the five Australian Divisions, the members of which are not already affiliated with existing associations, it has been suggested that the different brigades or divisions, representatives of whom live in or near Perth, should each form an organisation of their own. That is quite feasible and desirable.

These several bodies would not be actively connected with the R.S.L., nor subject to its control, but entirely independent and exist merely for purposes of social intercourse and mutual assistance.

Colonel Collett, the President of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.L., has stated that if any person interested in the scheme will communicate with the State Secretary at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, steps will be taken to convene inaugural meetings and arrange for the formation of provisional units committees.

28th BATTALION.

On February 23rd, a moonlight river trip will be enjoyed by old Battalionites. The S.S. Zephyr has been chartered, and with the 28th Battalion band in attendance, a delightful excursion is assured.

The 28th Battalion history is the most desirable production of its kind, and is an asset to the archives of our State. It is indeed a wonderful memorial to those men who laid down their lives whilst fighting the Battalion's way to a pride of place in the A.I.F. So far, however, the first volume only has been published, whilst the second and final volume is held up pending the sales of the first volume to create a further working fund. It behoves all Battalioners and other interested people to come right in and purchase a copy of volume 1 of the history to ensure the early production of volume 2, which will be of boundless interest to all; far more, even, than was the first volume, by reason of the numerous members who participated the France Campaign, and of the happier association generally. Copies of volume 1 may be obtained by application to the manager of the "Listening Post."

The Association's Committee held its first meeting for the new year on January 11th, and in view of the "new blood" enrolled in its ranks, it is safe to anticipate that Collett's unit will live again, and that its efforts will eclipse all earlier efforts.

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**THE LISTENING POST.**

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**BAIRDS**

Paramount Choice in Durable Attire for Men

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BAIRDS Ready-to-Wears are Reliable

The Sale Reductions—Decisive

Fugl Silk Fashion SHIRTS, reinforced neck, double cuff, two collars to match, in plain or stripes, excellent quality. Usually 21/-, Baird's Sale 14/6.

Elastic Web BRACES in fancy colored stripes, leather ends, full sizes. Usually 1/6, Baird's Sale 10/4d.

French BRACES in light or dark patterns, good full sizes. Usually 2/11, Baird's Sale 1/11.

Ball-bearing BRACES in fancy stripes, cord ends, strong quality. Usually 2/6, Baird's Sale 1/6.

Fashion SHIRTS in Striped Gingham, reinforced neck, double cuff, two collars to match, sizes 14 to 17. Usually 8/6, Baird's Sale 5/11.

White Mercerised Tennis SHIRTS, collar and pocket, double sewn throughout, sizes 14 to 17. Usually 6/11, Baird's Sale 4/11.

Sports SHIRTS in Poplin, Luxe or Fugl Silk, double sewn throughout, best quality, sizes 14 to 17. Usually 16/6, Baird's Sale 12/6.

Black Mercerised SHIRTS, collar and pocket, fast dye, double sewn, all sizes, 14 to 19. Usually 5/11, Baird's Sale 3/11.


Boys' Khaki Fisher HATS in all sizes, green lining, good cash hat. Usually 1 11/1, Baird's Sale 1 6/6.

HANDKERCHIEFS in White Lawn, Khaki or Colored Borders, full sizes. Usually 6d., Baird's Sale 3 for 1.

Fawn Poplin Cricketing HATS, wide leaf, stitched throughout, full sizes. Usually 3/6, Baird's Sale 1/11.

General Providers in Home, Farm and Station Supplies

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**ADVERTISEMENTS AT FIRST GLANCE.**

**Agricultural Papers.**

New Sports Costume—Bookie's Bag.
Flat Paint—Interior decorations.
Mouth Gag—Political device.

Molar Cutters—Babes.
Separators—Divorce courts.
Swan Bitter—Would have expected the Swan to have a better one.
Stump-jump Harrows—Leap-frog tires.
Zephyr Frocks—More zephyr than frock.
Mining, "Brilliant Company."—G COPY.
VARIA.

Dud.—The recent visit of the American Tourists, with its contingent of sight-seeing Americans, impresses the onlooker with remarks appearing in print concerning the happy relations existing between American Dudes and Australian Diggers.

That these relations were not always quite as harmonious could easily be proved; but the absence of friction was certainly the rule, and that was largely accounted for by the infrequency of our encounters with the Dudes.

R.S.I.—During this month we have had two warships in our Fremantle harbour, the Japanese cruiser "Iwate" and H.M.S. “Delhi.” The sailors from both vessels were allowed considerable freedom and there are a number of people who wonder how the unpaid Japanese cadet can afford to play expensive cameras and can snap all he chooses (irrespective of expense) with no other object than idle curiosity.

Railways.—Mr. Travers, who accompanied the Royal Visit on behalf of the New Zealand and New South Wales Governments, as the Secretary, is possessed of unusual insight in Railway matters and can boast of life-long experience of a practical nature in business railways. He says with no hesitation that the railways here are so seriously hampered by political interference that their successful conduct is impossible. He instances the introduction of domestic matters when expenditure was budgeted for Parliamentary consideration where such domestic matters cloud the main issue. Experts would advise that certain proposed lines should never be built as they could never recover the initial cost, yet forceful members in the constituency concerned would carry off their project in the face of the expert advice, and the Department has had to carry the baby. Then lately the Government here flouts the Arbitration Award of 48 hours to certain employees, and approves of general working 48 hours, with the result that the efficiency of the service may be jeopardised, and perhaps serious loss is incurred.

Digger.—I remember some of our drill instructors in bull-rings and similar places of safety were often disposed to talk in blood-thirsty terms of bayonet-fighting devices; but all that was greatly improved when it came to the real thing—what price then Feung Yu-Hsiang the Chinese? This Christian general is as ferocious a warrior as ever emerged from the wallet of Kai Lung (says the "West Australian"). He is a huge scowling man of about 6 ft. 4 in., a picture of muscular development and strength. One of his real orders ran—"Shoot the enemy at long range until your ammunition is exhausted; then use your bayonet; till it breaks; after that, hammer them over the head with the butt of your rifle. When that splits, split their ears off!"

Inventions. Is there such a thing as an invention? If there ever anything discovered that cannot be duplicated later on by some discovery in bygone ages. Glass was invented, we learned at school, to replace the skin and horn attempts at transparency in use in early history in Britain. Looking back it was found to have been long before invented in China. Next came old “King Tut’s” removal from the place where he had lain inviolate so long and in the innermost shrine was found beautiful stained glass. It is claimed that the magic carpet of the East is but the traditional record of the early day flights through space by mechanical devices. The pyramids still have us baffled.

3121 writes from Peak Hill.—I have read and re-read Mr. F. Johnson’s essay in L.P., 20/11/25. Every citizen and every ex-service man throughout the British Empire should remember this article for future reference. Regarding conscription: There is one phase I would like to be permitted to criticise, that is the proper use of men’s national qualification in the army. During the war we were allowed to choose the arm of the service we would serve in. This should not have been allowed. It meant a great waste of technical skill. The first thought of many of us volunteers was that we must be in the infantry we wanted to be where the fighting was. Consequently our front fighting ranks were composed of men of every calling, from a bootblack to a member of Parliament. (What a dizzy height!—Ed.) Sheer idiotic waste! There were many aged men who would have given excellent service as sappers, sappers, miners, post or telegraph or clerical officers, or even light horsemen, who were well and truly cut out of their early hat and eye men. Many men learnt this fact before they completed the British course of training, and wisely secur ed a transfer to more suitable corps. But others held doggedly on, often to return to their homes saddler and not afraid of being mistaken for a “dud.” In future wars I humbly submit that the capacities of every volunteer should be exhaustively recorded and the volunteer should have to accept that arm of service his superior officers think he is best fitted for. It is national waste of ability to let the recruit choose his own corps. In all re-inforcements were many men who could ill be spared for front line work. Fancy a nation allowing mine managers, dentists, blacksmiths, and so on to join the front ranks of fighting men as fighters only. A sheer deliberate waste of skill and brains.

Colonel Collett writes.—"Red Diamond," (Dec. L.P.) postulates that in pre-war days the task of training the citizen soldiers must have been a harder job than the present, with its distinguished active service leaders and unit traditions. He is right so far as one can compare the conveniences and facilities the Governments of those days afforded the enthusiastic militia and volunteer officer. Making bricks without straw was a fine art known, unfortunately, but a few. The result was a lack of uniformity in the methods used and a consequential absence of cohesion between units. The material, however, was excellent (as the war proved) and not afraid of hard work, long hours, and long marches, boiled mutton, potatoes cooked in their jackets, and beer. Drills were held every week and camp lasted for ten days. Discipline, measured by the standards of the time, was good, and many of us remember with a certain amount of pleasure and pride the associations of the days of our apprenticeship. To sum up, the auxiliaries received a hundred fold in return for the money they provided. Nowadays the spirit is the same, although the trainee is younger (much younger on the average) and his attendance is compelled by law. He is a credit to his father and has a great in-

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Camels.—Colonel Co11ett's eloquent appeal on behalf of the League for citizens of this State to subscribe to the State War Memorial Fund, was not followed by a flood of coins from our wealthy purschound magnates. Good God! have the people so soon forgotten? Must they be inspired only by war-time hysteria and excitement? What more noble and more eloquent appeal could be made than the call to build a worthy tribute to the men who gave their all for their country. "The tumult and the shouting dies," and with it appreciation of the silent and peaceful heroes who lie sleeping in foreign soil. I left loved ones "over there," Mr. Editor, and my heart is sick and sore.

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BY NUMBERS.

Tho' we joined for a scrap with old Jacko and Fritz,
We were never so dinkum scared out of our wits,
As when each Sergeant-Major would roar
Us unduly—
So we thought; when unconsciously dense or unruly.

Upset were our theories, our plans and obsessions,
We forced to adopt "campish" high-toned expressions
By our wise lord instructor, supreme and oracular.
What was "pigeon" to us was to him the vernacular.

To the "tune" of our "Overlord's" strident exhortations,
We were roared through a medley of clown-like contortions:
Twas called Swedish drill; and our ape-like gyrations
Brought scathing indictments and gesticulations.

We all did our best; He "vouchedsafed" it was rotten,
And avowed that he marvelled how soon
we'd forgotten:
But to add to our chagrin—what haunted our slumber
Was the fact that we learned ev'ry movement "by numbers!"

Such as: Right Turn, by Numbers! 11 21
Keep your formation there! Hi, there, you!
Wot's up with yer legs? wot they bend?
are you "handy"?

On them number 11's, you're nothin' too handy;
Of awkward squad thickheads I've turned out a few—
Right turn by Numbers! Again! 11 21

Forn Fours by Numbers! 11 1-21
Watch me intently, and see what I do.
Don't look at me there! attend to your work!
Any bally excuse to malingering shirk!
Ere you learn to be soldiers, the moon'll turn blue.
Forn Fours by Numbers! 11 1-21

We were issued in turn with equipment
and rifles,
Plus bayonets, plus small supplementary trifles;
Once more were the numbers in stern requisition—
Again must we tender a droll exposition.

Of Sloping Arms by Numbers! 1, 2, 31
Look what your up to, and don't watch me!
See how I do it now! Just watch me!
Sloping Arms by Numbers! 1, 2, 31

We had bayonet fighting in theory the same,
Between times they told us we must play the game:
Our reward would be handsome: some enemy lead,
With the sky for a canopy, right overhead!
E. St. IVES BILSTON,
Katanning, Jan. 1926.
EMIGRATION.

The Federal Minister for Markets and Migration recently sent the following response to a letter forwarding a resolution passed at the recent Federal Congress:

"I desire to inform you for the information of your League that this Department is doing everything possible to carry out the work of introducing to the Commonwealth people of British stock. As probably you are aware, the Government is now engaged upon entering into Agreements with the several States following upon that already signed between the Secretary of State and the Commonwealth Government, under which it is hoped that during the next ten years the flow of British migrants to this country will be considerably increased.

The following communication was received from the Minister for Home and Territories:

"The Minister for Markets and Migration has forwarded to me a copy of the resolution passed at the League's Annual Congress held in Perth recently, relative to Southern European immigration into Australia, and urging that action be taken to see that this country is peopled with British stock.

"Steps have been taken to stimulate a greatly increased flow of British migrants.

"With regard to Southern Europeans, it may be pointed out that the imposition of landing money requirements and certain other checks imposed with a view to limiting the influx of alien migrants into Australia, has resulted in a marked decrease in Southern European alien immigration into this country during this year as compared, with last year. For example, the total number of Italians, Greeks, and Jugo-Slavs who arrived in Australia during the quarter ended 30th September, 1924, was 16,104, whereas the number for the corresponding period this year was only 292, a decrease of over 98 per cent.

"It should be realised that as Australia is a comparatively empty Continent, it would be difficult to justify a policy of almost totally excluding immigration into the Commonwealth of the nationals of friendly European countries. Such a policy would undoubtedly provoke keen resentment and justifiably call for an expression of deep regret on the part of His Majesty's Government. It would also probably give rise to questions which might have a serious effect on the maintenance of the "White Australia" policy.

"The Government is therefore watching the whole position as regards alien immigration into Australia, and if any serious influx takes place in the future, it will be possible under the amended Immigration Act to take prompt steps to place any further restrictions which the Government may deem necessary to impose in the light of all the circumstances which have to be considered in connection with the matter.

THE LISTENING POST.

22nd January, 1926

THE DRUSES AND THEIR COUNTRY.

(By "Anglo-Indian" in "The Duck-board").

It is somewhat amazing how little generally is known concerning the Druses. Possibly before last month, when the grave news from Damascus arrived, few Australians asked questions about this account of the Druses and their country, which would have been able to do so. They are a people for whom little sympathy need be expended as the result of the punishment the French have been compelled to administer. For only too long have they been responsible for the massacre of thousands of Maronite Christians, accompanied with those atrocities which Oriental cruelty revels in; the result of those outbursts of fanatical fury which have but too often stained with blood the mountains and plains of Syria. I do not propose to dilate upon the horrors of these frightful slaughters, or the terrible retribution visited on the Druses by General Sarrail, but to give some account of the tribes of the Lebanon, especially the Druses. Lebanon or Libanus—signifying whites from its snow (the Arabs call milk and curds leban to this day)—is the most elevated mountain chain in Syria, celebrated in all ages for its cedars, which furnished wood for Solomon's temple. The cedars have now failed nearly from the land, but the fir tree is yet a refuge for the flocks. Lebanon is the nucleus of all the mountain ranges which from the north, south and east converge towards this point, and it overtops them all. The appearance presented is that of a clouded ridge from north to south as far as the eye can reach, the central summits of which are capped with clouds or tipped with snow. No country in the world—not ever excepting Switzerland—is more rich in the sublime and the picturesque than the Lebanon. As the traveller mounts higher and higher, the scene opens out new and magnificent prospects. Ever and anon Druse families or Maronites are seen travelling downwards towards the Beyrouth mountain. Here and there also are Druse women, with the preposterous horn on their heads, worn sideways, reminding one of the horn of the rhinoceros.

Origin of the Druses.

The Druses are said to have derived their name from Drusi, who was possibly a tailor, or a trowee, as they are now called. This personage lived in the eleventh century, and preached the divinity of Hakim, a Caliph, whose reign was longer and more glorious, but who is adored as a god by the Druses, and looked to as their future deliverer. Like the Jews, they are expecting a Messiah, who is to be this said Hakim the Second, and whose advent will be from China through India, Beloochistan, Persia, and over Central Asia. They also worship a calf, in remembrance both of the Egyptian god, Apis, and of the golden calf worshipped by the Israelites, but, they conceal the rites of their religion.

The Druses, very powerful in the eighteenth century, were decimated about 120 years ago by the celebrated Emir Bechar, a great prince among the Maronites, but an un-Christian man. The bitterness of that remembrance is preserved. The Druses are divided into two classes, the Okals and the Jakals, or the learned, and the unlearned. To the Okals are entrusted all affairs connected with the political and domestic economy of the mountain territories belonging to or occupied by the tribe. They are essentially the peace-makers between contending parties, and go-between in negotiations for marriage, or, for buying and selling; and they are, to a man, bold and venturesome soldiers. In former days the Emir Bechar was wont to invest the most learned of the Okals with a cloak of honour, conferring on him the title of Sheik of the Okals. The Okals were presumed to practise the most strict morality. They practised rigid self-denial; some devoting themselves to celibacy, others turning anchorites, and retiring to secluded Holowas or Hemulages, where, despite the severe cold experienced in the winter, a mat was their bed, a stone their pillow, and a coarse woollen garb girt round the waist with a leathern girdle, their only garment; an atom of bread, twice a day, their only food. The Holowas inhabited by that section of Okals devoted to perpetual celibacy are situated on the sum-

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mits of some of the highest mountains. Where property is owned the proceeds are devoted exclusively to charity. Some of these homesteads are dedicated to Job and others of the old prophets.

Religion.

Of the religion of these people not much is known. Those who have lived longest amongst them have too often been able to obtain satisfactory information on the subject. A Frenchman, who was originally in the household of the famous Lady Hester Stanhope, and had, therefore, many means and opportunities of intercourse with the Okals, was very near acquiring the secret of the Druses' creed. By long and friendly intercourse with one of the Okals, he at last succeeded in persuading him that he had a veritable disciple, this after a knowledge of the mysteries of Hakim, and the day and hour was appointed when he should be initiated. The weather was unpromising; but despite wind, rain, hail and snow, the inquisitive Frenchman started off at midnight on foot, traversed the mountain passes alone. Weary and wet and nervous, he reached the indicated Holowa an hour or so before daybreak, when his spirits revived upon finding the old Okal ready to receive him. His initiation into the mysteries of Drusism was about to commence, when the small oil lamp burning dimly, and the Okal's eye sight being bad, he requested his disciple to snatch a pair of scissors. Unhesitatingly, in complying with the request, the Frenchman extinguished the light—a terrible omen, in the estimation of the Okal, who at once renounced all former promises, and under no consideration could he be induced to proceed with the initiation ceremony. The Druses meet every Thursday evening for devotional purposes at their Holowas, on which occasions, during the earlier part of the evening, strangers, even Europeans, are admitted. The Koran is also read; but this is a blind to any Mahommedan spy who might chance to be present. This ceremony partakes more of the nature of a festive gathering. At a later hour the business commences in earnest. The doors are closed, all strangers and Jakals ejected, and the Okals enter into the mysteries of their creed, guarding with intense precaution all avenues leading to the Holowas by sentries well armed and equipped.

Women.

It is remarkable that among the Druses, and especially in a country such as Syria, where the generality of native Christians and women are almost secluded from society and held in utter contempt, the order of the Okals should be open to persons of both sexes. This is so utterly at variance with the practices of all other Oriental people, including Christians and these mountain chiefs and their followers.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF W.A.
The Sheiks and their principal attendants who intend to take part in the sports congregate here at an early hour, and a great concourse of spectators invariably rolls up. After exercising the horses for ten or fifteen minutes, the horsemen divide into two parties, about a dozen on either side, stationing themselves at opposite ends of the Meidan. The djeeled is a long stick about an inch in diameter, and a yard and a half in length, but blunt and round at both ends. Armed with this, and skilfully pelting it in his hand, the Sheik awaits the commencement of the game. Suddenly there rides forth from the ranks a challenger, who leans slightly backwards in his saddle, his right arm carried below the waist, grasping the djeeled in the centre, and, with the clasped fingers uppermost. After traversing two-thirds of the Meidan he abruptly wheels his horse to the left, without sensibly checking its speed, and in the act of wheeling throws the djeeled with his full force at the opponent he has selected, and immediately afterwards gallops back to his own party, pursued by some other opponent. The djeeled thus delivered, derives additional impetus from the swift curve made by the horse in wheeling abruptly round, and it cuts through the air with a whiff like that of a shot. The pursuing horseman from the opposite side of the road, if he be in perfect condition, and has not used up his djeeled, hisブル, the djeeled of the first opponent, strikes him over his head and shoulders, or even seizes him by the horse's head, and soon the battle becomes general, and presents a most exciting spectacle to those not actively engaged in it. Men on foot find ample and fatiguing occupation in supplying the

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riders with djeerees. In this game severe and dangerous blows are sometimes exchanged, and the combatants get angry, and throwing away their djeerees, draw their swords and fall to fighting in earnest. Usually a game lasts about three hours. There are many anecdotes of the strength and dexterity of djeereed throwers. One, Sheik Hottar Amul, is said to have sent a djeereed through a two-inch board. There is rarely a game without some wound or other being inflicted, and the horses are often greater sufferers than the men; a riderless and half frantic steed has been seen running across the Medan, with a djeereed sticking up from its haunches like a signal staff.

The Maronites.
The Maronites (Christians), with whom the Druse are at enmity, may be characterised as the lowland tribes of the Lebanon, and are addicted to peaceful pursuits rather than to warlike exercises. Their chief employment is rearing silkworms, but they are also skilful and industrious cultivators of the soil; producing a great quantity of wine, and supplying the Beyrut market with fruit and vegetables. Originally belonging to the Greek Church, since the reign of Louis XIV, great numbers of them have conformed to the creed of the Roman Catholic faith, though they will not directly acknowledge the Pope's supremacy. In the middle of the last century, in a struggle with the Druses, frightful massacres were perpetrated on both sides. The Maronites are, every bit as fanatical as the Druses; but the latter's hatred of the Turks is proverbial. What is to be the future of Syria? That is a question none of us can answer. That future is to-day veiled by ominous clouds, which are as yet impenetrable.

SOLDIER SETTLERS' CONFERENCE.
The recent State Congress of all Sub-branches resolved that a Soldier Settlers' Conference be held each year, and in furtherance of this decision, February 17th has been selected as a commencing date for such Conference this year. Last year it will be remembered the Soldier Settlers' delegates commenced deliberations on February 18th, which date was agreed upon as the most convenient to all concerned.

Much good resulted from the Conference held last year, which it will be remembered, initiated action which afterwards resulted in the Commonwealth Government granting £976,000 for the benefit of soldier settlers in this State. The allocation of this grant is now the subject of consideration by the Soldier Settlement Board.

Publicity is the life-blood of the R.S.I., and it was the excellent press notices last February that arrested the attention of civilians and Parliamentarians, and ultimately brought about a realisation of the great many needs of disabilities of soldier settlers. It is therefore earnestly to be desired that all Sub-Branch members seriously consider the possibilities of this Annual Conference and give it their attention by discussion at Sub-Branch meetings and gatherings where ex-soldiers are assembled.

The usual railway concession will be available to appointed delegates, and Sub-Branch Secretaries are kindly requested to submit names of representatives so that warrants may be issued.

Items for inclusion in the Agenda should reach the State Secretary not later than noon on Wednesday, February 10th.

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Applications, together with educational qualifications, must reach the Hon. Secretary, John Garth, Esq., at his address, "Repatriation Department," not later than February 15th, 1926.

The very serious illness of Wally Bennett, formerly of the 28th Battalion, and since his return from service overseas, member of the Staff of the Repatriation Department, and later General Secretary of the Boys' Scouts' Association, will be received on all hands with sincere regret.

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An equestrian was proceeding along with his face towards his horse's tail, and was wearing (among other things) a solemn expression. A passer-by hailed him to learn whether he was an advance guard to some circus, but his reply soon dispelled the illusion. The horseman's response being: "Ah've had it luck the main. Before stairin' Ah droppit aye saxpence in the wee bit horse's chaff!" Canny.

As yet a major, Tommy Todd sauntered along the Strand in search of diversion. He soon came on a knot of soldiers in hot dispute. The party was composed of an English officer and two of the "Tenth" on leave. When T.T. of the 10th arrived on the scene the Tommy sprang to the salute and complained to Major Todd that these men would not salute him. "That's nothing," quoth the genial Tom. "The b——s won't even salute me, let alone anyone else."

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