The Listening Post

Price 3d. Issued Monthly

Annual Subscription 3/6 Post Free

Vol. 5, No. 12

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December 17, 1926

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UNKNOWN SOLDIER CONTROVERSY.

What queer spasms of our public men get at times! Fresh from a trip abroad, including a visit to the battlefields of King Street, Belgium, and of course, the War Graves, Mr. Lovekin, M.L.C., comes along with the latest. We can imagine that worthy gentleman, on the visit aforesaid, realising fully that the first time, when the names of Australian graves, what the Australian soldiers have done and the price they paid in dead alone. If he is gifted with the necessary imaginative mind as an experienced journalist and politician we think he is; we can also imagine Mr. Lovekin realising fully for the first time all the human suffering and hardships the men who eventually returned went through during their years of service, in wounds, bodily health and mind strain. And we can imagine too that this realisation smote his conscience somewhat, not perhaps in a personal way, but for the indifference of his countrymen in Perth particularly.

The Indifference that Grows.

While owner of an influential newspaper in Perth, he has not failed to arrange, the many instances where returned men, whose colossal efforts and sacrifice he now more fully knows, were turned down for jobs by the Government, by semi-Government institutions, by public bodies, by business firms, and by private employers. He has seen the indifference to that most just claim, and sacred duty on the part of employers—Preference to Returned Soldiers—being more and more ignored, and however he has felt on the subject himself, his newspaper has made but little effort to counteract the indifference. There was cause for that, conscience-prick, and it caused Mr. Lovekin to think furiously. Probably he then thought of the disgracefully flawed War Memorial and the indifference of most of Perth's citizens towards perpetuating the memory of their dead.

The Inspiration.

Viewing the Unknown Soldier Memorials in London and Paris, the inspiration came to make some amends by arranging for the body of an unknown West Aus-

tralian soldier to be exhumed and buried at the base of the "Monument-to-Bee" in King's Park, thereby stirring up the necessary public interest to erect the said monument. It is certainly a quaint idea, that, after experiencing an unwelcome prick of conscience, one should then set out to make the other fellow feel similarly. Still, there is much of that spirit in the treatment of many good diggers by certain business men in Perth, since the War ended.

Probably the inspiration went farther in Mr. Lovekin's mind, for surely he did not overlook the publicity and prestige he would command in Perth, as the originator of the idea, if it was carried out with the usual pushing forward and limelight for the usual circle of limelight pushers.

His Methods.

Starting in France, where he made the direct request to the French Government, Mr. Lovekin indicated that he did not desire to consult others nearer home in the matter, whatever the feelings or wishes of those in a better position to judge and with a more intimate knowledge of the subject may be. No, he was out to see it through; it would prove worth his efforts in the long run. So he then tackled the Agent-General for W.A. in London on the subject and caused representations to be made to the Government here. Still nothing doing; but our hero was undaunted. It might be supposed that a man with even less intellect than Mr. Lovekin, having encountered such definite opposition to date, would feel his way on re-turning home before rushing into print. But not so Mr. Lovekin. He did not wait to ascertain public feeling on the matter, and worse still, he did not think it worth his while to find out the views of those who naturally feel deeper than any others on the subject, the returned soldiers who fought with the unknown dead comrade he proposed to transfer after these years from what should be his last resting place. He was aware that the State Executive of the R.S.L. unanimously turned the idea down. Whether he was or was not aware that it had been fully considered and rejected years ago, does not matter. But not to be outdone, he then proceeded to name the two committee-men, Rev. E. Nye and Colonel FitzGerald, who were responsible for the motion supporting their President, Colonel Collett, in his rejection of the project, and followed this up by adversely dissecting the President's letter on the subject, as well as dragging in the cloth of the Rev. Nye in criticism of the action taken. But this was all.

He then continued with a proposal in Parliament, calling for the production of the file, and still not to be denied, made a rumpus over a letter on his pet scheme (of the moment), being absent from the file.

The Diggers' View.

What queer reading the above record of wasted effort? However much Mr. Lovekin can be commended on his pertinacity, he certainly commands no respect from the League on his obvious lack of tact and his still more obvious lack of good taste.

The subject is far from being a new one to the R.S.L., and the digger generally, even if it is so to Mr. Lovekin. It has been fully considered in the past, and the feeling of the returned men definitely secured, so that in respecting the proposal, Colonel Collett and his Executive were merely repeating a decision of long-standing and considered judgment, representing an overwhelming opinion of the returned men of this State.

We, as returned soldiers, do not presume to speak for non-soldiers, but it can be taken for granted that most of the latter look to us for a lead in such matters. Further, our enquiries about town confirm an opinion already held, that the public generally are not favourable to the project, and that Mr. Lovekin is rather alone in his effort.

However, whether he is or not, let us state here and now that the R.S.L. will have nothing to do with the project. Clearly the present suggestion is an idea to which it is opposed by an objectionable method, which could do no other than cheapen the sacred memory of a comrade who gave his all for his coun-
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

24/11/26.
Present.—Messrs. Collett, Riley, Humphrey, McAdam, Philp, McDonald, Longmore, Nye, Shaw, Watt, Tyler, Yeates, Logie, Wedd, Bader, and Margolin.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Pady and Lennon.

Federal Correspondence.—Medical Benefits for Dependents of Deceased Soldiers: A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive stating that action was being taken concerning the scheme put forward by this State branch.

Immigration.—The Federal Executive forwarded matter from several State branches regarding League benefits, to be compiled in pamphlet form for the information of intending migrants. It was pointed out by the secretary that communication to hand dealt mainly with benefits for ex-A.I.F. men.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Longmore, that this Executive draw the attention of the Federal Executive to the fact that the propaganda to hand consisted only of matters dealing with the League’s activities as affecting ex-Imperial men.—Carried.

Employment.—The Federal Executive forwarded information from the Dominions and Allied Countries regarding the employment of ex-service men, as desired by the resolution carried at the Tenth Annual Congress of the League. It was decided that this letter be handed to the press for publication.

Art Unions.—The Maimed and Limbless Association wrote stating that the intended conducting an art union in the early months of the next year, and asking if it would clash with any proposed venture to be run by the League.

It was decided that the matter be left in the hands of the State Secretary, and that this executive grants him permission to reserve a date in June 1927 for the R.S.L. Art Union.

Narambeen Sub-Branch.—The Commissioner of Police forwarded a copy of a communication addressed to him from Narambeen sub-branch requesting permission to run an Art Union for the R.S.L. Memorial Hospital.

Moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. McDonald that this executive notify the Commissioner of Police that it does not approve of this request.—Carried.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Watt that the Commissioner of Police be notified that this executive is obtaining further particulars concerning this Art Union, and in the meantime withholds its approval.—Lost.

A further amendment was moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Watt, that all sub-branches be advised that before the permission of the Commissioner of Police is sought to conduct an art union, full particulars and names of persons responsible shall be forwarded to the W.A. Branch for their consideration.—Carried.

Herne Hill Sub-Branch.—The Commissioner of Police forwarded a communication addressed to him by the Herne Hill Branch requesting permission to run a goose club.

Moved by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Watt that this executive cannot express approval for the conduct of art unions or goose clubs, unless full particulars and names of persons responsible be forwarded to the W.A. branch for their consideration before the permission is sought from the Commissioner of Police.—Carried.

Resignations.—Mr. M. E. Zeffert tendered his resignation as a member of the Executive stating that he could not give the necessary time to League work owing to private business.—Carried.

Moved, by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Wedd that Mr. Zeffert’s resignation be accepted with regret and that a record of the good services rendered by this member be placed on the minutes.—Carried.

Mr. L. D. McCarthy tendered his resignation as a member of the Executive for private reasons.

Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Tyler, that this resignation be accepted.—Carried.

Soldier Mental Patients.—The Perth Sub-branch forwarded a copy of a resolution carried at their meeting held on the 9th inst., suggesting that the Executive interview Dr. Bentley with a view to transferring the soldier mental patients at present in the main building to “X” block of the C.H.I.

It was decided that this matter be referred to the Mental Patients’ Committee.

Dr. Bentley.—A letter of thanks for expression of good will was received from Dr. Bentley.

Chief Secretary.—A letter was read and received from the Chief Secretary concerning the suggestion made by the Mental Patients’ Committee that a fence be erected at “Lemnos.” It was decided that the letter be referred to the Mental Patients’ Committee.

Diggers’ Tipping Competition.—A letter was read and received from the Subiaco sub-branch showing copy of a resolution carried at their meeting held on the 22nd inst., requesting the executive to hold an inquiry into the recent exposure of a Diggers’ Tipping Competition. The letter was received.

The Secretary read the report of the House Committee dealing with enquiries that had already been made, and pointed out that Mr. J. O’Neill, tenant of the hairdresser’s shop and Mr. L. D. McCarthy, V.C., had admitted that they were responsible for the conduct of the Tipping Competition. He also reported that Mr. O’Neill has been ejected from his tenancy as the result.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Col. Margolin, that the action of the House Committee in terminating O’Neill’s tenancy in the Institute for the reasons
stated in the report be endorsed.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that the report be received with the deletion of the reference to L. D. McCarthy as one of the promoters.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Shaw that in view of Mr. L. D. McCarthy’s admission of his connection with the tipping competition, this executive regretfully dispenses with his services as an employee of the executive for the time being.—Carried.

An amendment was moved by Col. Margolin, seconded by Mr. Longmore that Mr. McCarthy be suspended pending enquiry being made.—Lost.

Another amendment was moved by Mr. Riley, seconded by Col. Margolin that Mr. McCarthy be asked to tender his resignation as an employee of the Executive.—Lost.

Congress Items.—Congress items referred to the executive. It was decided to defer this matter until next meeting.

A letter was received from the Agricultural Bank dealing with the resolution passed at the Annual Congress relative to the claims of the next-of-kin of a deceased soldier on his repatriation holding.

Reports.—State Secretary.—The State Secretary delivered a report on the operations of the office for the preceding fortnight. The report was received.

Finance Committee.—The report of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 10th November was received and adopted.

House Committee.—The secretary delivered a report on behalf of the House Committee dealing with their activities since last meeting, and stated that certain changes had been made in the staff. The report was received and adopted.

Federal Congress.—The delegates to the Federal Congress stated that they would submit their reports to the next meeting.

Subiaco Social.—Mrs. Wedd reported that he and Mr. Tyler represented the Executive at the Subiaco Armistice Social. The report was received.

EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTIVE MEETING.

1/12/26

Present.—Colonel Collett, Messrs. Humphrey McAdam, Philip McDonald, Longmore, Nye, Shaw, Pady, Watt, Tyler, Bader, Margolin, Lennon, and Mellor.

Apologies.—Apologies were received from Messrs. Riley and Logie.

Diggers’ Tipping Competition.—Mr. L. D. McCarthy.—Mr. McCarthy had addressed a communication to the State President lodging an appeal against the Executive’s decision of the 24th November, 1926, in dispensing with his services, and requesting permission to appear before the Executive.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Bader, that Mr. McCarthy be granted permission to appear before the Executive and appeal.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Bader, seconded by Col. Margolin that Mr. McCarthy be allowed an advocate Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Longmore that the report as presented to the Executive Meeting on the 24th November be read again.—Carried.

The President then read the report.

Moved by Mr. Longmore that this Executive grant Mr. McCarthy a full enquiry.—Carried.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Watt seconded by Mr. Pady that an enquiry be granted only if the following points only be considered.—

1. Was Mr. McCarthy interested in any way in the Diggers’ Tipping Competition?
2. Was he aware that the Diggers’ Tipping Competition was being conducted in and from the Soldiers’ Institute?

Lost.

Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Shaw that the enquiry take place immediately.—Lost.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Shaw that the following committee be appointed to enquire into Mr. McCarthy’s alleged connection with the Diggers Tipping Competition.—Rabbi Freedman, Mr. T. A. L. Davey, and the State President. The Rev. C. L. Riley to act in the event of one of the other three being unable to do so.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Longmore that the State Secretary correct the report in the “West-Australian” of the 25th November and the “Mirror” of the 27th November, in that Mr. McCarthy did not admit conducting the Diggers’ Tipping Competition.—Carried.

Railway Workshops Sub-Branch.—This sub-branch submitted a communication endorsing the action taken by the State Executive in connection with the Diggers Tipping Competition.

North Perth Sub-Branch.—A similar letter was read from the North Perth Sub-Branch supporting the State Executive in the same action.

Employment Bureau.—Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Pady that the matter of the continuance of the Employment Bureau be left in the hands of the State President.—Carried.

Federal Congress.—The report of the delegates to the Federal Congress, Messrs. McAdam and Philip, was submitted.—Mr. Philip and received and adopted, and laid on the table for the information of members. Both delegates undertook to prepare a statement on matters of interest contained in the report for publication.

State Congress Items Referrred to Executive.—The committee appointed to consider the items referred to the Executive then delivered their report with certain recommendations.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. Lennon gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting of the State Executive, that the State Secretary be granted the right to speak but not to vote at Executive meetings.

Club Premises.—In connection with the resolution regarding club premises, Messrs. Longmore, Lennon and Tyler were appointed to consider and subse-
quently make recommendations for the consideration of the Executive.

War Memorial.—The President, Messrs. Nye and Watt were appointed as a delegation to wait upon the Premier and City Council regarding a subsidy.

The report as submitted was then adopted.

Royal Visit.—A letter was read and received from Mr. Shapcott, Secretary to the Governor, stating that a fixture had been arranged for the sub-branches to greet their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York at 3 o'clock on May 18th. The matter was left in the hands of the State President.

Invitation.—Darling Range.—Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Humphrey that the President, State Secretary, and two Executive members represent the Executive at the Darling Range function, on December 11.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.

8/12/26.

Present.—Colonel Collett, Messrs. Riley, Humphrey, Philip, Longmore, Nye, Shaw, Pady, Watt, Tyler, Wedd, Bader, Margo-

L D. McCarthy Appeal Board.—Moved by Mr. Pady, seconded by Mr. Watt that the matter of calling a meeting to receive the report of the Enquiry Committee be left in the hands of the President.—Carried.

Federal Correspondence.—Certificates of Merit.—A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive showing recipients of Certificates of Merit to whom the medals which were recently forwarded have to be presented.

Life Membership.—The Federal Executive forwarded a communication to Mr. Clapp offering a subscription to the commentaries of the Royal Society.

War Cemeteries.—The Federal Executive forwarded a communication received from General H. G. Chauvel stating that Mrs. Slutzkin had offered to represent the Australian mothers at Jerusalem on the occasion of the opening of the Royal Cemeteries by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

It was decided to send a copy of the letter to the Friendly Union of Soldiers' Wives for their information.

Minutes.—Eleventh Annual Congress.—The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of the minutes of the last Federal Congress, which were laid on the table for the information of members.

Sub-branch.—Humphrey.—The Subiaco Sub-Branch stated that their Annual Commemoration Service would take place in the Honor Avenue, King’s Park, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 12, and requested that a notice be sent.

Mr. Longmore was appointed to attend on behalf of the Executive.

Letters of Appreciation.—Letters of appreciation were received from E. J. Massey and also the South African Veterans’ Association.

Derogatory Propaganda.—The Secretary read a leaflet which was being circulated by A. F. Hanks of Cannington, and it was decided that no action be taken.

Preference to Returned Soldiers.—The Broom sub-branch forwarded a communication showing departures from the preference policy by the West Kimberley Road Board in the appointment of a secretary.

Moved by Mr. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Nye that the secretary be instructed to report to the Premier that the appointment had been conducted by the Consulting Engineer.

Amelioration.—The Collie Sub-Branch submitted a communication in which they asked the Executive to consider amelioration for any individual case which should be made through the State Executive office for their confirmation or rejection.

Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Bader that the State Secretary be instructed to consider amelioration sub-branches as desired.—Carried.

Group Settlement Royal Commission.—A letter was read and received from the Hon. Minister for Lands stating that he had approached another commission on group settlement.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bader that a copy of the communication be sent to the Premier for their comments.—Carried.

Expropriated Properties of New Guinea.—Mr. Gregory, M.H.R. wrote concerning expropriated properties of New Guinea, and requested the League to exert its influence to prevent dummying in the sale of properties.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Humphrey that Mr. Gregory be thanked for his interest in this matter and that we write and explain to him that this subject was discussed at the last Federal Congress, and that the Federal Executive now had the matter under notice.—Carried.

Maltese Settlement.—The Railway Workshops Sub-branch wrote asking what action the State Executive was taking towards the suggested Maltese settlement.

Moved by Mr. Mellor, seconded by Mr. Longmore that the sub-branch be notified that the Executive is watching this matter closely, and when in receipt of further information in connection therewith will take suitable action.—Carried.

Constable Bake.—The Secretary submitted a file showing correspondence to and from the Murray sub-branch and the Commissioner of Police in connection with the complaint lodged by the sub-branch concerning Constable Bake and his attitude towards returned soldiers. An enquiry had been conducted by the Commissioner of Police but he stated that he could not see any reason to take action against the constable, as he had not exceeded his duty in any way.

Moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Pady that the matter be left in the hands of the State President and Secretary for suitable action.—Carried.

Burning of Fire Breaks.—The Beverley sub-branch wrote concerning the burning of fire breaks along the railway line and...
stated that the present system was not effective.

Moved by Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Longmore that a committee of three be appointed to take the matter up with the Minister, after making initial enquiries.—Carried.

Messrs. Bader, Shaw and Wedd were appointed.

Reports.—State Secretary's Report.—The State Secretary submitted his report for the preceding fortnight. The report was received.

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on 24th November, 1926 was received and adopted.

House Committee.—The report of the House Committee meeting held on the 7th December was received and adopted.

Resignation.—Mr. A. N. McDonald tendered his resignation as a trustee and member of the Executive owing to pressure of business.

Moved by Mr. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Watt that the resignation be accepted with regret and that a record of appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. McDonald during his connection with the Executive be placed on the minutes.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Wedd; seconded by Mr. Mellor that Mr. Watt be appointed trustee, he being the next on the ballot taken at Congress, and that Mr. Cohen, the next member on the list of Executive be advised.—Carried.

Finance Committee.—Mr. Mellor was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Finance Committee.—Carried.

Land Committee.—Mr. Shaw was appointed to the Land Committee vice Mr. McDonald.

New Settlers' League.—Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Humphrey that the Secretary write to the New Settlers' League advising them of the delegates appointed by this Executive, and asking for particulars of meetings, and a copy of the constitution.—Carried.

Mr. Watt was appointed as the second delegate on the New Settlers' League, vice Mr. Zeffert.

Case of McGregor.—Mr. Nye reported in connection with this case and the matter was left in the hands of the committee already appointed to handle this case.

Board of Visitors.—Mr. Humphrey, the League's nominee on the Board of Visitors to "Leemos" and the C.H.I. submitted a report, which was received

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G. F. PALMER,
Secretary.

GREETINGS.

The State President (Colonel Collett), the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson), and his staff, desire us on their behalf to extend to all members of the R.S.L. the compliments of the festive season.

The "Listening Post" also extends greetings to readers, with the hope that the coming year will be for all one of achievement, happiness, and prosperity.

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HE KNEW THEM.

A dairy expert was notified as coming to lecture to the cow cockies of a certain centre in the South-West, and the local storekeeper, a fussy and important little man, arranged the details. The expert was taken by him to the local hall and the tea-pullers duly assembled. The lecture was one of those dry-as-dust affairs, and as the storekeeper knew nothing of cow culture, he presently dropped off to sleep.

Finding he was holding his audience, the expert, waxed eloquent on breeds and so forth, coming to the climax in a louder voice with this: "You must remember, gentlemen, THERE ARE COWS THAT PAY AND COWS THAT DON'T PAY."

Possibly dreaming of the debts he hoped to collect, the little man woke up and forcefully chipped in with: "Yes; and there are a hell of a lot of them in this hall."
RED-TAPE STUPIDITY.
SOLDIER SETTLER HAMPERED.

From time to time, cases of victimisation have come before the State Executive, or through this journal, wherein soldier settlers have received unfair treatment at the hands of the Agricultural Bank, but in absolute fairness to the governing trustees, Mr. McLarty, the victims have been given a fair deal where possible, that is, when the details of the cases in question have been placed clearly before Mr. McLarty by deputations from the R.S.L. Executive.

The trouble, however, is that some of the officers of the bank, often in country districts, are not so ready to adjust genuine grievances, or what would be better still, prevent them from occurring. This could often be done by the exercise of just a little common sense and a departure occasionally from the perverse stupidity of red-tape methods. The following shocking example comes from the wheat belt, and is, we hope, for the general good of soldier settlers, not general.

Copies of the correspondence, which we have verified from the originals where necessary, are quoted herewith:

"Dear Mr. Editor,—You will find hereewith a letter—most unique in its way—which I received from the —Branch of the Agricultural Bank. It was received only after inquiries had been made at the head office by the firm with which I placed the order for wire, same being conditional upon the bank’s approval. The head office informed the firm that no order had been received by me up to that date, July 17th. The letter from the District Inspector, attached, is dated the 16th July, probably written after inquiry had been made per telephone from head office, and as it was not till the 24th it is somewhat apparent that it was back-dated to cover the delay."

(Editor: This letter is signed by a soldier settler, who is known to be a hard worker and keen to improve his holding.)

Then follows the famous letter from the District Inspector, which our digger farmer will surely frame as a shining example of how the country bank officials do not always help the settler.

"Dear Sir,—I refer you to the last paragraph of my letter of the 22nd of May, advising that the balance of application fees, £4 17s. 6d. plus exchange, would be required when lodging your amended application. The application was returned here by your inspector together with a cheque for £4 17s. 6d., but as you omitted to add exchange as requested, I have now to inform you that the application is held up till this sum is paid in here.—Yours faithfully,—District Inspector, per—Chief Clerk. July 16, 1926."

Possibly the application would still be in the District Inspector’s office, if the Perth firm had not inquired at the head office, but be that as it may, it took nearly two months for the district office to inform the settler that for the sake of sixpence his developmental work, which he was very keen to get on with, had been held up. We do not know if there is anything in the legal code to deal with obstructionists to agricultural development, but if not, there should be some such clause added to the Land Act to cover glaring cases of this nature. The reply to the extraordinary bank communication, by the digger, is worth reproduction. Here it is:

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 16th to hand in reference to my omitting to add exchange to cheque—purely an oversight for which I am extremely sorry, especially as it has caused such delay in the transaction of business. However, as your office does not accept stamps, I am enclosing a cheque for the amount (£4 17s. 6d.) with exchange added (another 6d.)."

If the above is a sample of the way the bank official in question conducts the important business of the bank, the time is ripe for finding him another job, where his supreme regard for red-tape, and his unfortunate lack of common sense might be utilised in a manner less harmful to the progress of land settlement.

Please support our advertisers.
OSBORNE PARK SUB-BRANCH

During last month the branch held a series of festivities in order to secure funds for the new piano. The concert given by the Revellers' Party was a big success, the programme submitted being one of the best.

Saturday, December 4, was show day and as usual the members of the branch were conspicuous in the programme. The president of the Agricultural Society (Mr. W. E. Robinson), one of the good supporters of the old soldiers, was in great form when he told His Excellency that the district was producing everything. Even children, for the average number of children in many families in the district was more than 13, and twins and triplets were quite common.

In the show the local members of the branch gained many honors. Agriculture was well represented, Mr. L. Blair, one of the best members, securing nearly all the honors. In the poultry section old member Mr. R. Pepper was impressed by the front, and vice-president, Mr. R. Collet secured honours, and soldiers' kiddies were on the No. 1 mark for children's exhibits. Even in the miscellaneous section a returned man, C. C. Morgan, secured No. 1 and No. 2 for his exhibition of hand made cushion covers. Amongst the many voluntary workers on show day, members of the local branch rendered good work, the principal representatives being Mr. C. Shervill (president), Mr. J. Godfrey (secretary) and Mr. H. Nugent (assistant secretary).

When one considers the large garden areas allotted to returned soldiers in the Osborne Park district and reviews the number that has been abandoned owing to inability and disability, it is a matter for regret and consideration and also accounts for no exhibits in the vegetable section. It is disappointing reading to see in the "West Australian" of December 9 in "Current Topics" a comment on how visitors from Europe did not visit the large number of local exhibitors who hailed either from Italy or Jugo-Slavia. The paragraph also stated that the Europeans mentioned had taken a fancy to the district, particularly the returned soldiers who were originally settled, or on which they had failed to make good. Yes, what a tale some of the diggers could tell of efforts to make good in Osborne Park and how the authorities placed them on land that even a Jugo-Slave would not look at. Our contemporary asserts that there is no need to regard these Southern Europeans as anything but a very desirable type of incoming. Why—We shall see.

The branch, as per custom, at its last monthly meeting decided to hold the usual Xmas Tree for members' children and children of soldiers' widows. Toys, fruit and ice cream will be supplied by members and the recently appointed ladies' auxiliary will render appropriate service.

MT. BARKER SUB-BRANCH.

On November 11, the local sub-branch joined forces with the committee who are endeavouring to raise funds to form one large sports ground. The programme was put out was an industrial show and exhibition of work. The entries for all classes were tip-top, especially cooking and school children's exhibits. The latter were a great credit to the district schools, and Albany scholars, who also contributed well. The Hon. F. T. Gourley presided in the morning, accompanied by the local representative, Mr. Arthur Wansbrough, and after breakfast, the party were motored by Mr. T. G. Sounness (president R.S.L.), Mr. Booth (secretary Fruit Growers' Association), and Mr. T. W. Thomas, of Carbarup, to many of the charming selections in this district, which so impressed the Minister in his speech when opening the show, as to cause him to remark that Mt. Barker should be re-named Clover Valley, after the large paddocks of subterranean clover grown, and the stock that is fattened on this grand fodder. The party were entertained at luncheon by the Fruit Growers' Association, and in the evening by the Show Committee. The president and secretary represented the Mt. Barker sub-branch. Other diggers present were Mr. J. H. Morgan (Education), O. A. K. Sounness and H. J. M. Jackin (Fruit Growers). Diggers assisted generally in the decorating, and arranging the commodious cool store packing shed for the exhibition. The attendance was very good, the door takings being £22, which as an entrance charge was a record for this town. The afternoon tea booth also was well attended, and in the evening the R.S.L. contributed a picture, which also brought a packed house, and followed up with a dance, also well attended. The music for the dance was given gratis by Frank Squire on a player piano, exhibited by Messrs. Morris Bros., Ltd., of Perth. Geo. Williamson, one of the branch members, came from Narrabri to assist with his jazz band, but had the misfortune to discover, on arrival, that one of the car passengers had put a number 10 boot through his side drum, which caused George a great deal of disappointment.

Better luck next time George, who should be a good acquisition to the Branch in social events. The financial balance has not been finalised yet, but a fair profit should be available for both funds (R.S.L. and Sports Ground Committee) and the R.S.L. members must specially thank the sports secretary Bill Hockley, who so ably arranged the exhibition, which has been voted the best yet.

GIBBINGS & DEEBLE

Fruit Case Sawmillers

Maroondah (Via Brunswick Junction)
Large stocks of dump and three-qtr. flat cases on hand
All prices f.o.r. buyer's Siding

We are returned soldiers—employing returned soldiers

Write or Ring P.O. Maroondah for Quotes

Make or amend your WILL now, appointing this company as Executor and Trustee, and ensure that the full result of your life work may accrue to those for whom you built it. Call or write and discuss the matter.

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W.A. TRUSTEE BUILDINGS,
135 St. George's Terrace, Perth
Opp. Foy & Gibson

Branch Office 24 High St., Fremantle
and will take the form of a free re-union smoke social. It is hoped that all returned men of the district will reserve the date, and attend. The Sub-branch desires us on its behalf to extend to other branches its best wishes for the festive season.

**MT. MARSHALL SUB-BRANCH.**

The newly appointed secretary of this sub-branch, Mr. W. M. Williams, has forwarded to us a very carefully and cleverly worked out chart which is the record of achievement over a period of five years, this being the life of the sub-branch. For any period can be seen on the chart which the sub-branch officials, attendances at meetings, results of socials, donations made, important events, and the financial membership as at the first of any month. Mr. Williams requested that we publish the chart as a mark of appreciation of the services rendered by the retiring president *(Mr. R. F. Breakal)* and secretary *(Mr. Frank P. Le Cras)* who have worked well in their respective offices for the good of the branch. We regret that it is impossible to comply with the request for many reasons, the chief being that we have not the space available. We compliment this progressive branch on its fine record and wish it even greater success in the future.

**DARLING RANGE DISTRICTS SUB-BRANCH.**

The above branch held its annual meeting and smoke social in the Lesser Hall, Kalamunda, on December 11th inst. After the election of officers the members with their guests sat down to enjoy the good things provided at the smoke social.

Dr. Smythe Yule was again elected chairman. The hill boys know when they have a good man at the head of affairs and intend to keep him there. The Doctor has done a lot of good to the branch in Kalamunda, its membership having risen from 10 to 40 since he took over eighteen months ago. Jim Cutmore was elected secretary in place of George Shaw, who considered that as the branch had again found its feet, he could now take it easier but the lads want unharssing him altogether, as George is now assistant-secretary.

Major General Sir Talbot Hobbs, R. S. Sampson, M.L.A., Colonel Collett, Messrs. Leaman, Philip, Bader, Bevan, and Jim Shaw, together with members of the roads board were the guests. After the Loyal Toast, Padre Halley proposed "Fallen Comrades." Mr. Swan proposed "Army, Navy and Air Forces," which gave the General the opportunity of pushing home the fact that the returned men should stick together at home, the same as they did on service. Tom Halse welcomed the other guests in a pleasing manner, which let Tom Lennon boost his 1,000 strong branch, at the same time challenging Darling Range to do the same. Garnet Philip gave the meeting a resume of the Federal Congress. Messrs. R. S. Sampson, for the Road Board, and Mr. Bevan, for Carilla Branch, also responded.  
Mr. C. Davis, as a member of the Roads Board, proposed the toast of the R.S.L., and then the Colonel told those present what the R.S.L. was doing and endeavouring to do for the returned men, stressing that the Imperial man was not only eligible to join, but that his connection with the League was desirable and advisable.

Seeing that 63 were present, and 55 were returned soldiers of Kalamunda, it augers well for the branch. George Shaw got six new members and promise of more at the January meeting.

The presence of the president and executive members was much appreciated and their words did much to give the branch a very necessary help along.

**BRIDGETOWN SUB-BRANCH.**

"No sleep till morn when youth and jazz, please medley To chase the glowing hours with flying feet."—(Waterloo).

Following a day of the greatest pleasure at the Bridgetown Show on November 17, 1926 in the agricultural hall on the Society's ground, there assembled one of the gayest throngs that Terpsichore could preside over, and surely one of the most successful yet been held in Bridgetown. This function, grandly held under the auspices of the Agricultural Society, was this year organised by the R.S.L., with the object of augmenting the branch's funds towards the proposed Soldiers' Club.

There was a record attendance at the Show, and that record was reflected in the attendance at the various entertainments held in the evening, of which easily the most popular was the ball. Secretary Bevan had his work cut out for an hour or so selling tickets, while Pumpher Jones had no less a task in collecting them and supplying supper tickets. The local jazz and pleasure minded a good programme of the latest jazz music—the piano being a handsome Gulbransen.—(the property of Messrs. Nicholson's Ltd.), while they were occasionally relieved by the same instrument which was operated as a 'plars' club. There was a record attendance at the Show, and that record was reflected in the attendance at the various entertainments held in the evening, of which easily the most popular was the ball. Secretary Bevan had his work cut out for an hour or so selling tickets, while Pumpher Jones had no less a task in collecting them and supplying supper tickets. The local jazz and pleasure minded a good programme of the latest jazz music—the piano being a handsome Gulbransen.—(the property of Messrs. Nicholson's Ltd.), while they were occasionally relieved by the same instrument which was operated as a 'plars' club.

Major Whittell (late of India), his company...
mittee, and the members of the branch responsible for the organisation of the function are to be congratulated on the success that attended their efforts, as the gross proceeds totalled £17 8s., while it is expected that something like £30 will be netted.

Seen stepping the light fantastic at the above ball, comrade Arthur Rogers of the R.S.L. Co-operative. The Sub-Branch's greetings, comrade. They hope to see more of you in applepolis.

NARAMEEN SUB-BRANCH.
A meeting was held on Saturday, 27th November, Mr. Berryman presiding. Members desired that a summary of doings of the sub-branch since its formation be published. This sub-branch is one of the youngest children of the League, having been born on Anzac Day of this year when old Sub-Branches met in remembrance of mates "gone west." The town of Narambeen did not exist in pre-war days, and to-day the men who fought are congratulated on:

1. The men's Elastic BRACES, of every size, at advertised prices.
2. Men's Silk SOCKS, in plain or fancy stripes; greys, fawns, champagne, navy or black; reliable quality. 4/11 pair.
3. Men's Silk HANDKERCHIEFS and ties to match, in fancy boxes, all colourings. 10/6 set.
4. Assam Silk Three-Garment SUITS, heavy quality, latest cut, well made throughout, sizes 3's to 7's, 12/6; sizes 31 to 71, 75/6.
5. Cream Pure Wool Gabardine TROUSERS, tailored, with cuff bottoms, side and hip pockets, side straps, nicely cut, in sizes 3's to 7's, 30/- pair.
6. Boys' BLAZERS, Albany flannel, in navy with assortment of coloured cords, double sewn throughout. Sizes 3's to 4's, 9/11; 6's to 8's, 11/6; 9's to 12's, 12/6; 14's to 16's, 15/6 each.
7. Boys' Cream Poplin Sports SUITS, a belt back, nicely cut, well made throughout, sizes 6's to 10's. Only 14/6 suit.
8. Men's Grey Mohair SUITS, three garment, stylishly cut, well tailored; a nice lightweight summer wear, sizes 4's to 7's, 65/- suit.
9. Men's BARKER GOWNS, heavy twailing, in neat patterns, a reliable wearer, double sewn throughout, sizes S.M. and M. 39/- each.
10. Collapsible TROUSER STRETCHER and SUIT HOLDER, handy to pack in suit case, exceptional value. 15/9 each.

THE AIRDS CO. LTD., General Providers
Wellington to Murray Street, Perth—Walk Thro'
Brickhill and her lady helpers for their untiring efforts on behalf of the Digger is con-
cerned. If the members of the branch and the community in general were to learn
the meaning and the correct function of the Amelioration Fund, less trivial appeals
would be made to the R.S.L. It is indeed, very paltry for a member to call on the
secretary—pitch his ploD—asking
for a loan of perhaps £5 or £10 to settle
some private debt. However, there are
many cases, such as this, put up to the
Trustees of the Amelioration Fund. The
West Perth Sub-branch would remind its
members that those funds are raised by lady helpers in the streets for the ameliora-
tion of those unfortunate Diggers who
cannot help themselves.

A deputation of temporary employees of
the State Public Service was received by
the Branch recently. Under the recent
reclassification, the Service received an
increase of £24 to salaried officers, and the
temporary staff were to receive an equi-
valent amount in the proximity. In some
cases, especially the Lands Department,
sixpence per day was the amount received.
Obviously someone has blundered, and the
matter has been passed on to the State
Secretary, Mr. Benson, for rectification.

Success continued, as is reported by the
Branch, on behalf of an ex-imperial mem-
er, whose pension was under suspension.
After much correspondence to London, and
our local Branch of the Repat. Depart-
ment, the matter was reached, and
indeed, the Branch, whose membership
is now over 600, has all manner of members—personnel we might call it—and the
lot of the Secretary is no light job.

Mr. Peter L. Ross (secretary of W.P. Sub-branch) has written Mr. McMullen, of that depart-
ment, to bring about the appointment of a
new collector. The Public Works De-
partment, has been going on in this way
for nearly twelve months.

PERSONAL.

Talking of sideboards. There is a
showing of inclination—at least in the
Workers’ Homes—the proliferation of the
ancient whiskers of our granddads. Bill
and Bert (we haven’t got an Ali) should
invest in something like Koko—Hobo.

Jack Lane, of the Agricultural Bank,
drew his second free last month. It was
a daughter. Congratulations to secun-
dus.

Joe Sweeney will take a deal of beating
as an all-round athlete. The Agricul-
tural Bank cannot put up anything to
equal his foot running.

NATIONAL IDEALS.

Mr. Bert Bevan, the Secretary of
the Carilla Sub-branch, writes an interesting
letter, suggesting that the League should
interest itself more in matters of national
importance, and that this journal might
devote a column or two to articles of a
national character. “I certainly think,”
writes Mr. Bevan, “that the national
characteristics of the R.S.L. comprising, as
does every shade of political and reli-
gious thought, and welded together by
one great ideal, possesses as does no other
Aussie organisation, the material for the
propagation of Australian national ideals,
which would make it as vital a factor in
our national life as did the A.I.F.

By a series of articles as mentioned, the
various sub-branches, or members of
same would have an opportunity of study-
ing these questions between now and the
next Congress, and delegates, being au fait
with the subjects, would be enabled to
discuss them with that knowledge em-
bodied, in the powers of deduction and
induction.

Take, for instance, that great menace
to our national security, the empty North.
Nature has provided, with a generous
hand, all the elements which go to the
making of another great and prosperous
State, peopled by our own race and
colour, and living under the most congenial
conditions, with the possibilities of cheap
power, generated by tidal waters (28ft., to
40 ft. rise and fall); water conservation
in the hills at river heads, electric rail-
ways (mono-rail for speed), and a fertile
soil, where no fertilisers are needed. tree-
less plains, ready for the tractor, stone
houses, asbestos ceilings (material on the
spot), vast iron deposits, and other phases
of the subject too numerous to mention
here.

This is one subject. Then take the
Murchison for dairy farming, and lucerne
growing in the sheep country. These are
subjects of intense interest to both city
men and country.

“Another matter before I finish. I notice
the Secessionists have secured as organiser
for their district, our friend “Bull” McGinty
of Congress fame. For the sake of these
newcomers, would you print that section
or clause of the Federal Constitution dealing
with States desiring to secede, i.e.,
minority of States and people.”

[Mr. Bevan’s suggestion is a good one,
and one which we would certainly give
effect to if we could find the space. When,
we enlarge, we will be able to devote per-
haps a regular column or two to matters
of national importance. In the interim
we would be pleased to publish short ar-
ticles from our readers.—Ed.]

When Motorin from or to the Wheat Belt, call at
LESQUE MOTOR COMPANY
LIMITED GARAGE
Facing Guildford Post Office

Reparis to all makes of Cars undertaken at Lowest Rates
Petrol, Oil, Tyres and Accessories at Perth prices.

Elide Battery Service Station
All Repairs under the personal supervision of Chris, A. Lesque

Local Dealers for
Willys Knight, Federal Knight, and Overland Cars and Trucks

J. M. SEWARD & CO.
Australian Agents

17th December, 1926.
Zeffert, Watt & Company

Mail Order Specialists
127 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH

Wish all Ex-service Men

A Prosperous New Year

By purchasing your requirements from this reputable firm you will save your hard-earned cash and thus

Add to your Prosperity

DO YOU KNOW?
That when you send your hard-earned cash to the big emporiums you are contributing towards their high rental and other high overhead expenses?

YOUR ALTERNATIVE
is to purchase your requirements from the Reputable and Reliable Mail Order Firm of ZEFFERT, WATT & CO., whose rents and general overheads are so low that they can and do sell at a nominal profit only.

NO BAIT
is thrown to the public in the form of high-sounding so-called "Sacrificial Sales"—no Sprat is used to catch a Mackerel. ALL their prices are consistently low at ALL times.

FOR CONFIRMATION
just glance at these few prices picked at random.

CALICO—Fine Cloth, no filling, 31in., 9d. yard.
SHEETING—Horrockses' White Twill, 54in., 1/9 yd.; 72in., 2/6yd.; 80in., 2/11 yard.
QUILTS—White Honeycomb, single, 8/11 each; double, 10/6 each.
TOWELS—White, 1/11, 2/6; Coloured, 1/3, 1/6, 1/11, 2/6.
BLANKETS—White all wool, double bed size, 38/6 pair.
GINGHAM—Check, 26in., 6/9 doz. yards.
CREPE-DE-ChINE—French, all colours, 6/11, 7/11, 8/11, 10/6 yard.
GEORGETTES—Heavy weight, 5/11, 6/11, 7/11, 8/11, 10/6 yard.
JAP SILKS—All colours, 2/6, 2/11, 3/6 yard.
FROCKS—Made in Check Gingham, 2/11 each, all sizes.
FROCKS—In Cream Fugi Silk, 12/6 each.
FROCKS—In Striped Fugi Silk, 15/6 each.
HANDBAGS—Ladies' Handbags, all fashionable shapes and colours, 10/6, 12/6, 15/6, 19/6, 25/-, 29/6.
HOISIERY—Ladies' Art Silk Hose, all shades, 2/11, 3/11, 4/11, 5/11 pair.

WE PAY FREIGHT.

Boots—Men's Heavy Blucher Boots, 6/11; Tan Military Blucher Boots, 11/6; Elastic Side Boots, 16/6.
SHOES—Patent Oxford Shoes, with crocodile tops, the very latest, 17/11 pair.
SHIRTS—Gent's Striped Fashion Shirts, with collar to match, 4/11 and 6/6; Blue Fashion Shirts, with collar to match, 6/11.
FLANNELS—All wool Flannels, 5/9.
DUNGAREES—Strong Dungarees, from 4/6.
Suits—Ready-to-Wear Tweeds from 47/6; Serges from 69/6.
PANTS—Serge Pants, 12/6, 15/-. 19/6.
HATS—9/-11 and 18/6.
SOCKS—In fine all wool Cashmere, grey or black, 2/6, 2/11 pair.

We make Suits to Measure. Send for patterns, prices, tape and self-measurement chart.


MONEY REFUNDED OR GOODS EXCHANGED IF DISSATISFIED.

WHAT COULD BE FAIRER?

MEN'S, WOMEN'S, AND KIDDIES' WEAR, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, ETC., ETC.
PERSONALITIES.

Fred Bateson, who for years acted as a delegate on the State executive of the League, finds the Group Settlements near Busselton more healthful than the metropolis, but having made the League his hobby for so many years, he sadly misses the "good old days."

N. C. Brown, one-time lieutenant in the 10th Light Horse, is now bank inspector for the Wubin-Buntine district, which includes the Glowery estate subdivision, where every settler is a soldier, and where all are well on the road to prosperity.

Now manager of the N.S.W. Bank, at Carnamah, J. S. C. Francis, who was twice wounded in France, while serving with the 20th Battalion. He left originally as quartermaster of the 5th Field Ambulance, but preferring the rougher stuff of the trenches, a doubtful choice, he transferred to the aforesaid 20th and took part in the famous evacuation of Gallipoli.

V. F. Jackson, a prominent member of the Carnamah Sub-branch, and now a successful farmer who was in town recently having done 217 miles in a record time per car to attend the bedside of his sick mother. We are pleased to be able to record that the good lady is now on the road to health. "Jacko," as he is known to his many digger pals, now goes back to garner a ten-bag crop, untouched by sepsoria or frost. Andy Cummings, another very successful farmer at Carnamah, represented the Sub-branch at Congress.

Tired of the city, and now going on the land, is J. H. Hughes, who joined the 28th when only 15 years of age, and did two and a half years with the colours. Two brothers were killed in stopping Fritz, while his father served in the 21st, and was badly wounded. Truly, this is a splendid family record. We wish J.H. the success he is undoubtedly entitled to, in his farming venture.

"Congratulations to Percy Barblett on securing the position of Assistant Town Clerk of Perth. "We understand that many applicants applied for the job. Percy, who by the way, was a State civil servant, was at one time prominent in League circles, having been secretary of the Subiaco Sub-branch.

Another ex-soldier to "put in his thumb and pull out a plum" during the month is Lt. Colonel R. F. Fitzgerald, who has joined the staff of the "Sunday Times," taking charge of the agricultural section of that paper. Fitz. is a member of the State Executive of the League and was formerly president of the Dalwallinu sub-branch.

YOU CAN HAVE AMPLE WATER FOR LESS MONEY IF YOU INSTALL A State Imp. Windmill

Just let us know your particular requirements and we will supply full information as to complete outfit and estimate of cost

WE GUARANTEE SATISFACTION

State Implement Works MURRAY ST. PERTH
just completed his apprenticeship as a machinist, was 22 years of age, and was a good cricketer. He was a lad of good character and of happy disposition and his death has cast a gloom over the "Listening Post" staff.

We join in congratulating Miss Vivian Carpenter on her success at the recent Northam Eisteddfod. She gained first prize in the contralto solo and second in the open solo competition. This talented young lady has on numerous occasions given her services at League concerts and social evenings and has been at the service of those in distress and in the hospitals.

It looked like old times to see sweet little Elsie Brickhill in the streets of Perth on Armistice Day selling poppies. Since her return from Sydney about eighteen months ago Miss Brickhill has been in business on her own account and consequently has not had the time at her disposal to frequently visit hospitals and busy herself in soldier concerns, as of yore. Nevertheless she still keeps in touch, and is as willing as ever to do her little bit for her thousands of digger comrades.

In town, having sold his farm near Pithara, is Harry Williamson, who served in the Boer War and was rejected for the Big Scarp.

Vic. Adams, member of the Pergonal sub-branch, called on us last week while on a short visit to Perth. Vic. has a bouncing son of two summers he contemplates nominating for a Best Baby Competition.

On every hand success is attending digger farmers in the wheat belt. Joe Balme of the Carnamah sub-branch advises that he has stripped as high as 39 bushels to the acre off one of his paddocks.

Jim McConnell, of Wiljie Hills, reports a splendid crop and an offer of £6 an acre for his farm after harvest. Jim is wisely not taking it.

Major Lloyd, of Moora, who has done well with his wool clip, advises 800 acres of wheat stripping above expectations.

Bob Bicket, of Dalwallinu, one time Sergeant in the 16th, is stripping the best crop he has grown to date.

Fred Meyers, of Wubin, has 1,200 acres of crop stripping splendidly. Fred, who served in the 44th, had little of the world's goods when he took up his present holding five years ago. But with three sons, one of them a digger too, he worked hard and is now on the road to affluence.

Sid Valentine, who organised the recently formed Morawa sub-branch of the R.S.L., is another good digger who is fast attaining prosperity.

Simpson and Hollingsworth, one-time wheat farmers on the Mullewa line, and now controlling the Goldfields Club Hotel, are catering for country visitors at 10/- per day, with motor garage thrown in.

"Dinkum Cockie" writes from Ballidu—

"Evidently, Mr. Editor, the machinery firms are taking a tumble to themselves in the matter of advertising in the Diggers' paper, as I notice quite a number of advertisements by firms wanting to do business with the digger farmers. Good luck to them, and may every dinkum digger cockie patronise those firms for their machinery requirements. I met a machinery traveller the other day, and when I asked him why his firm was not in the 'Listening Post,' he said he wished they were, as he was often asked the same question and he knew he lost business in consequence. Couldn't you stir them?" [We do, but some of them are very slow to appreciate the advantages of the "Listening Post" as an advertising medium.—Editor.]

Monaghan's

GLOBE HOTEL

For Superior Accommodation

Try our Six-Year Old Port Only 2s. Bottle

WELLINGTON STREET, PERTH
**VARIA.**

"Tartan" writes from Ballidu as follows:—What a queer lot the Scotchmen are, and what queer customs they have, with haggis, bagpipes and so on. I have just read an account of a big (or is it wee?) Scotch night, held recently in Perth, which my friend here, McTavish, tells me must have been a fearsome sight, though not without certain regrets for being absent himself. But with all his queer customs and his "fearsome" dialect, Jock has something loveable about him, as well as being something of the he-man as a soldier generally, a fact which we all learned in the big brawl. Your scribe remembers instances galore where, in order to visit a "brither" Scot in one of the units, particularly if the latter possessed bagpipes, numbers of different ranks from Scottish regiments miles away would frequently pay visits. Clannish?—yes, to an extraordinary degree, but good sports and men who would not let you down in a scrap.

**RETURNED SOLDIERS' MONUMENTAL WORKS.**

Only Address: KARRAKATTA (near Station)

Write or Ring F832 and we will post Catalogue.

We call by appointment.

**THE BEST PAIR**

Swan Lager

Swan Bitter

THEY BEAT ALL OTHERS

"I.A.B. Cockey" writes:—Could your Executive do anything towards getting the I.A.B. to grant loans towards running a few sheep? Most of us want to get square and off the Board as soon as possible, and some of us have had lots of sheep experience, but our inspector says, "Nothing doing." Why?

"Batting Digger" writes thusly from Kondinin:—Count me in for the second A.I.F., and the misfits, too. Have had a yarn to a few coppers and they are all of my opinion, too, that if an organiser were sent round he could enlist hundreds in a month in the wheat belt. There are few farmers who have been at the game for three or four years who cannot rake up the necessary £100 or £200 a-piece required, and if they knew that a few mates were going, either local ones or from the old battalion, you could count on them in-mobs. Anyhow, if the Tommies and the Yanks can run these pilgrimage parties, we can run them. Count me in, and I can rakes up a few more round these parts if wanted to.

"Private 231." has this to say:—What is all this twaddle about bringing an unknown soldier's body to King's Park? Doesn't it strike you, Mr. Editor, as a bit indecent to connect such a sacred ceremony, as this should be, with a scheme to raise money for the mythical Monument? In any case it is years too late to think of it, and the more of this kind of thing that is done, the more it is cheapened. It might have been done at Canberra for an Australia, but it seems to me as too late for even there. It looks as if Mr. Lovekin thought of this scheme a lot too late, Anyhow, what is he butting in for?

"Johnny Secession."—Please tell "Canberra," I takes off me 'at to 'im. What a chance the "Sunday Times," and its crowd have of knocking a star out of our Aussie flag. Some of my best coppers in the War came from the other side, and if they don't want to split up Australia, well, I don't. Anyhow, the people in N.S.W. and Victoria are just as fain-mind ed a crowd as we are, and if the politicians are not giving us a fair crack of the whip at present, surely we can put the case before the voters over there, and get a crowd in who will. It looks to me as if this Secession stunt is being worked up by people who cut little ice in politics now, but hope to be something big if W. A. separates. In any case, it is not the brainwave of a real statesman, or a dinkum Aussie. Cut it out!

Wheatbelt.—What is wrong with the dinkum politicians of this State? Or are there none? Take the Federal House, which simply bristles with returned men. That they have made good at the "talking game," blackmailed in the constitution of the Ministry, Bruce, Page, Howse, Marr, Glasgow, etc., all ex-soldiers, who are now making history in peace. And yet there is not one returned man amongst the Federal Representatives of W.A. Drake-Brockman being-sacrificed at the last election. In the War, we had just as good soldiers, and just as brainy leaders, as the other States. Are they too modest to give Federal Politics a dinkum go? For my part, I will give my vote to any dinkum digger, provided he is a straight goer, regardless of his party, and feel quite sure that he will go straight into Parliament. Even in the State Parli-
ment, the number of diggers is all too small. We could do with a few more of the Dave, North Wilson, Denton, Corboy, Latham and Cornell type, regardless of their official brand of politics. I know the League is non-political, but surely there is no real reason why the League and its Branches should not push the propaganda of supporting Returned Men, not only for Parliament, but for other elected bodies, such as Municipal Councils, Road Boards, etc. The day has got to come when diggers will occupy most of those positions, owing to the numbers coming on in years and making good, but more particularly owing to their broader experience, and knowledge gained during their years abroad. Most of your digger readers look to you, Mr. Editor, for a lead in such matters.

"349": After the armistice was signed, the heads suddenly discovered that Light-Horsemen didn't know their jobs, and orders were given to commence elementary training as per drill book. One day our troop was being inspected by a Tommy staff officer, who wanted to see if our chin-straps were being worn at the right angle. After a few haws and heahs, Mr. Staff Officer turned to ride away, but in doing so bunged into the troop lined up. "East off, there!" roared the troop-leader, when a wag on the left flank chipped in: "No 'e aint, but 'e blanky soon will be."

"Prime Minister Bruce has done himself and his country credit at the Imperial Conference and later, and it is pleasing to note that his prestige had been obviously enhanced as the result of his splendid war service. We could do with more leaders of the Bruce type whose minds have been broadened and refined in the clarifying furnace of war.

Mr. Yeates was born in Kent, England in March 1875, and was there brought up on a fruit plantation. At the early age of 17 years he enlisted in the Royal Artillery and served with the Mediterranean forces and later for five years on the north-west frontier of India. He was also in the thick of the South African War and the Boxer Rebellion. In 1905 he returned to his early avocation and took up fruit growing in England and arrived in this State in 1912 and took up land at Millendon, Upper Swan. During the Great War he served on the instructional staff with the fighting 44th Battalion, being severely wounded at Villers-Bretonneux.

Mr. Yeates is as good a citizen as he was a soldier, and since his return he has occupied many honorary positions, including membership of the Swan Row Board, the State Fruitgrowers Advisory Board, and president for four years of the Upper Swan sub-branch of the League. He has been a member of the State Executive of the League for two years, during which his efforts on the Land Committee on behalf of the soldier settler, particularly the fruitgrower, have been invaluable. Mr. Yeates has been the W.A. representative on the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board for a period of two years. We understand that his period of office will expire with the end of the year and that he is seeking re-election. We know the worth of this good digger and wish him success at the poll.

In these days of machine-made politics in this Commonwealth, it is indeed gratifying to note how many returned men are putting their shoulder to the wheel in their own behalf over domestic matters, in our dealings with our fellow component parts of the Empire, and with foreign nations, we are of one accord. It matters not which party is in power, its representatives to Imperial or League of Nations Conferences speak with confidence for the whole of the Commonwealth. From a returned soldier's viewpoint it is pleasing that two of their number, in Prime Minister Bruce and Sir Neville Howne, V.C., were the spokesmen of Australia at the Imperial Conference, whilst another digger, in the person of Dr. Page, is holding down the F.M.'s job in his absence. We want to see more returned men in our own State Parliament, and a few of them at the fountain head.

Mr. B THE OPTICIAN

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STORIES OLD AND OTHERWISE.

It was during the war, when a Director of Propaganda was appointed in England to counteract German efforts, also to increase land production, munition output from factories; in fact, everything that would help to win the war. Men, money, food, etc., were badly needed, and everyone was asked to produce, produce, and spread the propaganda.

Sally, a black gin, was slushie at a North-West hotel kitchen; her lord and master, Tommy, occupying a corresponding staff appointment in the yard. The boss, being "stung" with the propaganda "bug" worked it off one morning on Sally and Tommy as follows:

Boss: "Want plenty propaganda, Sally, why no propaganda win'em war?"
Sally: "Propaganda, boss, what 'em propaganda?"
Boss: "You no mak' em piccininy, plenty work for war."
Sally: "Me mak' em piccininy plenty.
Me married Billy, three piccininy, me married Jimmy, two piccininy; Tommy him no piccininy. Tommy him no proper gander; me proper goose."

THE GREAT OFFENSIVE.

Most of our readers will remember that "Cambrae" is situated alongside Forrest House, in the Terrace, the proposed purchase of which site for a Town Hall brought about the downfall of a Perth Mayor.

The story comes from a city club, where interested old men foregather, and often delight in hearing stories of the war, from ex-soldier friends. One gunner hero was telling a wonderful story of how, after the infantry advanced, he took his guns into Cambrai, in the Great Advance: how they had to take them out again, and, after some delay, how he again rushed into Cambrai with his guns. The story had reached an exciting stage, when an acquaintance of the soldier, who had been sleeping his limejuice off in a chair, woke up and spoiled things by firing this off:

"Say, Smith, I thought you lived at Forrest House; not Cambrae!"

All men are equal on the turf—and under it.
Generally speaking, women are generally speaking.
Laugh and the world laughs with you, Kick, and you kick alone;
For the smiling grin will let you in,
Where the kicker is never known.

ARMY TRAINING.

It happened in England after the Armistice. Two diggers were travelling in a country train, non-smoking compartment, the only other occupant being a cross-grained "old bird."

Digger No. 1 discovered two cigars in his pocket and handed one to his cobber. Before the later could light up, the old bird objected to smoking. Digger No. 2 eyed him closely, then told his mate to light up and take no notice of the blank old nark.

At the next station, the ancient one lodged a complaint with the guard against the diggers. The guard was sympathetic, but told the pals he would have to do his duty and that the cigars had to be put out, or another compartment taken.

Digger No. 2 then came to light, and complained that the "blank nark" was travelling first class on a second ticket. This was into the guard's barrow, and the old josser had his name taken and was shifted out of the compartment at the "town."

After the train moved again, No. 1 asked, "How did you know he was on a second chit, Bill?"

No. 2: "Weren't you taught to be observant in the army? When I eyed him off, I noticed the top of his ticket sticking out of his vest pocket and it was the same colour as ours. How did I know? Blimey!"

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And so to-day we are gathered together to honour the memories of true patriots—those who by their acts sought to preserve the lives, liberties, institutions, traditions, and ideals of their countrymen—the ashes of their fathers, the temples of their gods.

In every British war cemetery there is a Stone of Remembrance, and upon it is carved the words, “Their Name Liveth for Evermore,” and one might say, with perfect truth, that the League, in erecting this Memorial Hall, and in holding such services annually, has determined that, so far are is humanity possible, we shall not forget.

The memorial is a striking peg, and honourable to those who have built it. A most satisfying effort on the part of the young men of the metropolitan area. The only undenominational monument within the City of Perth, whose “civic fathers” have, so far, failed to adequately recognise their debt to at least 10,000 of its inhabitants who served themselves and their cause.

To-day we commemorate those who, in death, found the fulfilment of their earthly mission. But their work must be continued by the younger generation coming on, and by us. We must not fail. The future of this great country, and the happiness of its people, depends upon us.

The war was destructive of many things, and literature suffered with the others. To-day I would like to mention three names connected with it. The first is that of Rupert Brooke, who was killed on Gallipoli. The second is Donald Hankey. He has a special interest because, for a time, he was resident in Western Australia. He was a member of an old English family, and was destined for the Army. Graduating at Woolwich, he subsequently felt the call of his Church—particularly in respect to amongst the boys of the East End of London. Desiring to personally investigate a scheme for their emigration, he came out here and worked, for a time, as an ordinary laborer on virgin land near Kellerberrin. He returned to England just before the outbreak of war, and later, when the summons came, rejoined the army. He was killed on the Somme in 1916, but left behind him some letters, published in book form under the title of The Student in Arms, which disclose a most remarkable knowledge of the mentality and inner feelings of men in that most supreme test of patriotism—the front line in battle.

The third name is that of Colonel John McCrae. He was a soldier in Flanders. So appalled was he with the calamity that had overtaken the human race, so imbued with the justice of the British cause, and so convinced of his own inevitable end, that he sent a message to his countrymen. It was published in the London “Punch,” and I would like to read you a line or two from it—

"To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with those who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields.

An outstanding feature of the policy of the League is education by travel. I know of no finer means for the youth who, later, must assume the full re-

Y.A.L. ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE. COLONEL COLLETT’S FINE ADDRESS.
The Annual Memorial Service conducted in memory of members who died in the Great War was held by the Young Australia League on Sunday, 29th November, in their Memorial Hall.
The R.S.L. State President (Colonel Collett) delivered the address for the occasion, and as usual, when the scholarly Colonel speaks, he said something worth listening to. The following are extracts from his speech:

“As one who shared with some members of this League a part in the gigantic struggle of 1914-18, may I congratulate the Executive on their action in arranging this Annual Memorial Service, and also express my gratitude for being invited to participate in the proceedings. The invitation is an honour which I very much appreciate, although I must plead my limited powers of expression on the public platform, if I fail in the few words I shall utter, to do justice to such an occasion and to such an audience.

Some time ago your General President made it clear that the main idea of the Young Australians League was to make its members lovers of their own country, and of the Homeland, and to express that love in a patriotism that was all-embracing.”

Let me repeat that last sentence—“a patriotism that was all-embracing.”

The seed sown in the first ten years of the existence of this League grew, matured, and bore splendid fruit. When Australia, together with the rest of the Empire, took up the defence of its liberties, no one visualised the long and bitter war that would fill the next four years with tragedy upon tragedy, nor could anyone foresee the life and treasure that was to be laid down in the interest of this country, and of the Empire.

Yet so strong was the call of country, so great the pride of race and claims of kinship that nearly 500 members of this League, young Australians, donned the livery of the great Services and more than fully established their claims for citizenship. Was ever there a more complete justification for the existence of this League? All credit to its founders.

Patriotism signifies devotion and implies sacrifice. The sacrifice—the greatest of all—was made and, a few months ago, we listened with reverence, to the recital of the names of those 89 who, through their efforts on our behalf, now sleep beyond the seas.

It is redundant to say that man dies but once, but, when he gives his life in fulfilment of a patriotic purpose, how gloriously he is remembered. Can they be expressed better than in the words which Macaulay attributes to Horatius?

“And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds;
For the ashes of his fathers,
The temples of his gods.”
sponsibilities of citizenship.

Has anyone been abroad and not come back with the firm impression that Australia has indeed been blessed by Providence with a wonderful climate and infinite resources?

Has anyone not been struck by the wonderful future that, in so young a land, faces the colonising powers and standards of living of us members of the British race?

Has anyone who has travelled in the Near or Far East, not come back with the fullest appreciation of the meaning of the term of "a White Australia"?

Or, having seen the homes and lives of the peoples of the older lands, is not now determined to insist on a sane system of public health, a better housing scheme, and reasonable hours, and pay for all workers?

Or, again, having seen the child life in the streets of the larger cities, has not vowed that such things will not be tolerated under the Southern Cross, but that there shall be, in our urban areas, playgrounds enough and for all?

The answer must be in the negative. Then let us set about an answer to those things that are harmful.

I think that one of the first things we ought to do is to learn to understand one another. Political and other partisan propagandists do much to prevent this. There are charges of greed, sweating, and snobbery on the one part, and dishonesty and ignorance on the other. You will observe how analogous are the terms.

Neither party concedes anything of value in the other, and both forget that the true aristocracy and the product of the soil are as one—all are workers for the common good of the community.

Let me relate two incidents, both of which bear on the point I am trying to make. The wife of a farm hand in an English village, writing to a sister in London shortly after the outbreak of war, told her that George, her son, had joined up. She went on to say that one of the Earl's brothers was George's officer, and that the Squire's son was in the same platoon, but that so far he, George, did not seem any the worse.

The other incident concerns the Guards. An officer, a member of one of the old English families, had, for the first time in his life, been compelled by force of circumstances, to live with his men. He confided to a friend of mine, whom he met during a train journey, that his men were extraordinarily interesting and stout fellows, too.

To be described by an Englishman as a "stout fellow" is to pay a very high compliment indeed.

During my personal experience of the war of 1914-18, I had a unique opportunity of judging men in the aggregate. Those men were drawn from all walks of life in Australia.

I was tremendously impressed with their worth, and with the great value of the material available to our statesmen in the moulding of this young nation, and the establishment and maintenance of high ideals. Perhaps what influenced me most was the ease with which they got on with each other, and how powerfully they worked for the common good.

Well, you members of the Young Australia League here this afternoon, are, possibly, the sons of younger brothers of those men of the A.I.P., of those who now lie in foreign soil. You have yet to play a man's part in the service of your country.

Think of the opportunities that will be afforded you in the future—not in war, I hope—and, when they arrive, make the most of them. The torch is within your grasp, "be yours to hold it high." Take unto yourselves the old Roman motto, "Civis Romanus sum" and apply it to yourselves. Let your proudest boast be, "I am an Australian citizen."

If you remember what they—those 89—died for, and play the game for your country, then, indeed, will Australia be a happy land, what is more, you will be worthy of it. You will possess a patriotism that is all-embracing.

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PHYSICAL TRAINING

(Continued)

Physical Training, Australian Military (By Captain C. R. Collins, Supervisor of Forces).

PHYSICAL TRAINING AMONG
PRIMITIVE AND PRE-HELLENIC PEOPLES.

I.-Primitive Man.

Movement and growth are the main characteristics of life and the phenomena of exercise—the performance of a movement or a series of movements with reference to some definite end—are as old as life itself. Man, however, primitive, the training of the young has always been the business of the adult members of the community. "Education in all its aspects" writes Professor J. Welton, "has a more or less consciously designed purpose. It always implies that adult members of the community endeavour to prepare the young to live a more effective life than they would without such guidance." It is clear from the fact that this guidance aims at enabling the young to acquire those mental, moral, and physical qualities which are considered most desirable by the community as a whole, that the line of training of the young in keeping with the community's ideals and needs. Such ideals and needs are ever changing, so that, through the course of history, man's conceptions regarding physical training have been so varied that its importance has been stressed in one age, it has been bitterly opposed in another, neglected in still another, though it has attracted the attention of educationists all the while. Well has the American Physical Education Review, classifying the prevailing conceptions of physical training into:

The Greek, or aesthetic.

The Monastic, or spiritual.

The Military, or knighthly, and

The Modern or scientific.

In its origin, however, exercise is purely natural. It is manifested in those simple reflexes of suction and grasping, which are essential to the infant's existence, and in those spontaneous movements whereby the larger co-ordination and activity of the child is brought about. The instinct finds outlet. This utilitarianism is clearly manifested in the activities of primitive man.

With the savage, life is a continuous struggle for existence, a never-ending fight against the forces of nature. Lack of social organisation and ignorance of the arts and crafts intensifies this struggle and causes frequent migrations in search of food. This, together with the gladness of finding more powerful enemies, Orgies of feasting alternate with long periods of semi-starvation. There is little or no effort to conserve food. When plentiful there is a debauch of eating followed by a period of torpid somnolence; then the tribe goes lean and hungry in its search for further supplies. As the social scale is ascended the arts of cultivation begin to appear and their appearance and the tribe must be always prepared to fight for the possession of the land or the retention of localities favourable to the continuance of its existence. The chief activities are physical and directed towards the prolongation of life—eating, drinking, sleeping, fighting and the chase. All forms of manual labour are carried out by the female so that the male may be free to exercise his functions as a warrior and hunter. Even what little religion he possesses rests upon a physical foundation. His ideas of the forces of nature are vague and fanciful. Natural phenomena such as fire, flood, storm and pestilence, are the working of supernatural beings who give victory in war, good fortune in fishing, or smite the tribe with some devastating epidemic, according to caprice. These, then, must be placated and wheedled into a more beneficend mood, and no important expedition is undertaken unless preceded by the propitiatory rites of sacrifice, incantation, and dancing. Similar rites occur in the celebration of successful hunting or victory in war. Dancing, both as an emotional expression, and a religious observance, appears at a very early stage of man's existence. In the dance the motions of the chase and the combat are rehearsed, and it soon becomes an important factor in the spiritual and physical training of the young savage.

Certain rites could not be witnessed by women, and certain foods were reserved for the warriors. There were certain rules to be observed, any infringement of which would bring down the vengeance of malevolent spirits upon the whole tribe, and death was the penalty meted out to the transgressor. This was engendered a sense of responsibility on the part of the community for the acts of its members, and in the individual, that sense of loyalty to his fellows which is the germ of corporate life. The needs of primitive man being chiefly physical, the basis of training is physical. For the continuance of the tribe's existence its male members must be hunters and warriors gifted with courage, endurance, cunning, loyalty, alertness, and skill in the manufacture and use of weapons. Considerations of this nature determined the type of education given to the young tribesman and his life training took the form of a series of tests of endurance and fortitude that appear to our more sophisticated minds in the light of fiendish and revolting cruelties. Before the young American Indian could become a brave he had to endure the ordeal of the torture stake. The young Zulu was given his weapons and driven forth from the kraal on to the open veldt, where he must subsist for a whole month on the proceeds of his hunting. Wherever another member of the tribe who might come across him had the right to slay him. Even in a community like Sparta, that had progressed beyond a state of mere savagery, boys were flogged before the altars of the gods, that they might become inured to pain, and later on, show hardihood in battle. Not infrequently the young savage was expected to produce some concrete evidence of his prowess, and the head and the scalp taken from a foeman in battle were to the Dyak and the Red Indian what the honour cap, the medal and the "blue" are to the modern athlete.

Mr. T. Hall, of Warwick, Queensland, is one of the few white men who have witnessed the rites celebrated by our own aborigines in the bora bora. The monstrosity he observed took place in the ranges above Killarney, about 15 miles from Warwick, in the year 1845, and it was described recently, by a writer in the "Proceedings of the". Induc- tion and manhood rites lasted three days. The youths due for this rite were subjected to strenuous tests, including a three-days' fast, before entering the sacred circle. There had a diameter of about thirty feet, with an outer rim eight feet wide, along which the tribal poles were set. Each pole had its own totem that recorded by signs the history of individuals who had won distinction. The youths took their places by their own pole, and had to prove themselves in the use of spear, shield and boomerang of their own making. After having challenged each other on the first day, they were subjected on the second to an attack by chosen warriors from their own tribe, or from a friendly tribe related by blood. Those failing became pariahs as in the bora ground. There were one of marriage unless one of the old widows of the camp chose him as mate—her she did not refuse. These
measures ensured the physical fitness of the Darling Downs natives, which they preserve more or less to the present day.

Though the physical training of the savage was mainly utilitarian, it had its aesthetic and recreative sides. The dance has already been referred to, but it must not be forgotten that the play tendency, which man has in common with the animals, was also present. But the play was simply a means of amusement. There was no recognition of the value of exercise as a means of promoting and maintaining general bodily health. It is only when man emerges from the tribal state and achieves a fuller conception of corporate life that exercise takes on a more or less religious significance, to be observed by the Jews with respect to their health—personal hygiene enjoined as a religious observance. Physical exercises are mentioned in the older histories of the Japans, and a story is related about the Chinese emperor, in which regard exercise seems to have been more passive in its character. The ancient Hindu was essentially an ascetic, and in consequence, it should be regulated by the State. Like all ancient States, Persia made education the monopoly of the ruling classes, that is, the nobles and the warriors. The Zend Avesta, which contains their sacred writings, lays down rules of conduct in matters of morality and healthy living, and from the time of Zoroaster, the Persian has habituated himself to early rising and exercise. The gymnasiums, of which Xenophon and Strabo have all given accounts of the training of the young as practised in ancient Persia,

Herodotus tells us that the Persians taught their boys three things: to ride, to shoot, and to tell the truth.

According to Strabo, "The youths are called to arise before dawn at the sound of brazen instruments, and assemble in one spot as if arming themselves or for the chase. They are arranged in companies of fifty, to each of which one of the king's sons or the son of a satrap acts as a leader, who runs, followed at command by the others, an appointed distance of thirty or forty stadia. They require them also to give an account of each lesson, when they practise loud speaking and exercise the breath and lungs. But the most complete account of the training of the Persian boy is to be found in the Sophocles, Xenophon. This work, an historical romance dealing with the early years of Cyrus the Great, evidently rests upon a solid foundation of fact. The market place is the place of assembly for exercise and the school where the young are imbued with ideas of justice by observing their rulers, who, "during most of the day are continually deciding cases amongst them. They teach the boys self-control also, and the sight of their rulers living a daily life of self-control contributes greatly to their learning this virtue themselves. They teach them likewise to render obedience to authority, and the sight of their elders rendering strict obedience to the authorities contributes greatly to this also." Self-restraint in safety and drinking was taught not only by example but by allowing the young only the very simplest of fare.

Xenophon lays particular emphasis on the athletic and martial character of the training. Riding, hunting, archery, javelin throwing, swimming and polo were the main parts of the curriculum, and they were regarded not merely as sports or warlike exercises but as subjects of high educational value.

At seventeen the boy was enrolled in the company of the youths, in which he remained for the next ten years. Part of the time was spent in guarding the city, and the remainder in hunting under the leadership of the king. One of the responsibilities of the Persian kings was to rid the country of lions, and hunting was deemed the most valuable of training for war. One half of the company guarded the city while the other hunted. Hunting, says Xenophon, "inures them to early rising and to endurance of heat and cold, while it gives them exercise in marches and running, too; they must both use the bow and shoot the dart against a wild beast wherever it falls in their way. Their courage, too, must be often sharpened, whenever any of the strong wild beasts confronts them." The mission that remained in the city spent the time "in practising the other exercises which they learned as boys, shooting with the bow and hurling the javelin, and are contending all the time with one another in these pursuits. There are likewise public contests in these exercises, and prizes are offered."

It will be seen that the training of the boy was limited and had a distinctly military bias. Nevertheless it was eminently practical and was a conscious recognition of the value of exercise in developing certain mental and moral qualities, and as such, forms an important and interesting link between the training of the primitive man and that which operated in the more highly organised communities of Hellas.

To be Continued
CASUALTIES.
OVER 8 MILLION DEAD.

Mr. R. F. Harlow, an American statistician, who visited Europe to compile figures of World War casualties, writes in "Current History"—According to most recent calculations, completed after months of careful research among the Governments of the 15 belligerent nations in the World War, 8,461,595 men lost their lives and 21,099,935 more were wounded in the conflict. No other war in the history of mankind has approached such gigantic proportions—29,561,530 casualties out of a total mobilised force of 64,683,810 men engaged—an average of one dead out of every eight under arms, and one out of every three wounded. Even this average, high as it sounds, falls far short of the mark set by Roumania. The losses sustained by this little country are the most pitiful, and at the same time most startling, of the war. Roumania had under arms 75,000 men, and she lost 35,706 of them, a death roll of 47.76 per cent. And 120,000 more of her women were wounded, making the combined loss she sustained from dead and wounded 60.76 per cent—more than six out of every ten men in her army. In marked contrast to this record is that of the United States. While Roumania ranked first in dead among the 15 nations that participated in the war, the United States came last, for it furnished 4,000,000 men, and lost in dead 50,360, or 1.5 per cent. Our wounded totalled 205,690, making 4.3 per cent. loss on that score. Our total loss was less than one-eleventh as great proportionally as that of Roumania. Had we suffered as heavy a proportionate loss as she did, it would have meant 2,250,000 of our troops dead and another 750,000 wounded.

Roumania's percentage of death loss was nearly three times as great as that of any other nation that was engaged in the war, as is indicated by Germany's 17.3 per cent., the next highest loss. But in wounded the record is different. France took first place with 50.72 per cent.: Austria-Hungary next with 46.15 per cent. and Russia was third, with 41.25 per cent. The United States ranks again at the bottom of the list on this score, with 4.3 per cent. Germany lost more men than did any other nation. Her 1,773,000 of dead, however, was only 75,000 greater than the number lost by Russia. And France and Austria-Hungary also sustained heavy losses in numbers. France's dead amounted to 1,357,800, while Austria-Hungary's was 1,200,000.

THE WRONG AMMUNITION.

It was in the good old boom days, and "Jerry Hogan" had been elected Mayor, for the unteenth time, of a small but lively goldfields town, mainly because no one else wanted the job.

As usual, Jerry gave a banquet to celebrate the occasion, and had been holding forth for nearly an hour on the importance and dignity of the Mayor's position, when a well-directed meat pie made connection with Jerry's eye. Dignity was promptly scrapped. The irate Jerry had the direction of the "enemy fire," and bouncing round the table, bore down on "Jim Clancy," the supposed offender, threatening to "clean him up," for "dodging" the said Jerry, with a meat pie.

Jim stoutly denied the charge, and in proof thereof, displayed his outsized in hands, to which particles of jelly were adhering.

"Strike me pink, Jerry," he said: "I've been throwing nothing but jelly all the crimson night!"

GENERAL RAIN.

A quartette of diggers had been "spotting" one rainy day last week and arrived at the Metropole after a tour of half a dozen hotels. A bewhiskered and apparently satisfied cookie was encountered outside the last hostelry, who remarked to the "travellers" that the rain seemed to be general, doubtless thinking of his farm. "Must be," replied one of the revellers, "it was raining at the Melbournes, at the Bedford, Joe Monaghan's, Joe O'Brien's, the Goldfields, and the Criterion, and it's raining here—very general."
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