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SETTLERS’ COTTAGES, 2, 3, and 4 Rooms, cut out ready for erection.

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

All other communications should be addressed to the Editor.

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

Editors: E. S. Watt, L. Gibbons.

The only official League matter contained in this journal is embodied in the published minutes of Executive Meetings, and other items which are acknowledged as such in their text.

19th March, 1926.

THE EVASION OF A MORAL OBLIGATION.

The Base Ingratitude of the Citizens of W.A.

Valle—old Fidelity. Were it possible to draw on the exhaustive vocabulary possessed by those of us who tended mules and camels; were we imbued with all the hidden lore in Britain's great museum, our feelings could not be adequately expressed. Disgust our portion now is. It brooks not what the mass believes and does. They are but sheep, blinded with an imbecile ministry of their leader. The citizens of this State to almost a man, aye, or woman, for that matter, have brazened dishonesty and have flouted justice. Behind their leader, their demi-god, the man who would now be a conscript in a blue-grey uniform, serving an autocratic war lord, fly for the timely aid of the true patriots of the Empire; this head of State counted and encouraged the inherent ingratitude of his people. Six Thousand; the flower of our manhood, laid down their lives (while others stayed snug in their homes preaching the land of their birth or adoption, and to preserve and prosper the integrity of this vast Commonwealth of nations.

Let us briefly review the happenings of the past twelve months as effecting the progress of efforts to commemorate those glorious heroes. Take Phil. Collier, the head of the State Government, firstly. No microscopic examination need be made, for he has been in the background as far as the official position is concerned in this matter of prime national importance he could not entirely evade, in fact so drawn was he that his true colours were well and truly revealed.

Once a committee, anxious for funds to support a more deserving cause, to wit, the Public Hospital, waited on Phil. Collier and asked for money for that institution. To evade the issue, the War Memorial was played against the question of government aid. Collier's next stroke was the Premier's move to call the issue, that in playing off the idea of a utility memorial he went so far as to state definitely that he would not give one penny towards the commemoration of those men who laid down their lives that he might live in freedom (unless that means of commemoration were something other than that which it purported to be). It was better so, those gallant dead would a thousand times rather be forgotten on foreign strand, than remembered by such a penny.

Next stage was when the State War Memorial Committee themselves waited on Mr. Collier. He was reported as sympathetic. It is obvious that reporters are guileless creatures, for if the two pressmen present at that interview carried an honest conviction that the Premier was sympathetic, well they may perhaps now be more awake. The Premier said that the Committee’s request was modest and that he would submit it to Cabinet; he said that he thought the sum collected by the Committee from the whole State might well have been drawn from one Perth block. He hinted that he had seen memorials everywhere he had been, he had seen the “field” left untouched as the war had left it. With all this he had perhaps one of his most gratifying moments when he saw the Committee leaving his office. In any case, he created a general impression that he would encourage the project.

Last move of all followed an interview with the Fremantle War Memorial Committee. This Fremantle Committee played into Phil. Collier’s hand as smoothly as did the Hospital Committee, months before. Let Perth and Fremantle combine, said the Committee, and build at Fremantle, the State’s front door. So it was to be a Perth memorial! Perth was not even in it. Perth and Fremantle might combine if they listed, but what unutterable impudence to ask that the State—the whole State—should combine with Fremantle to build a Memorial at Fremantle! Could a State Memorial be erected anywhere but in the State’s capital? Enough, it served to open the door for the Government to escape a moral obligation, and the Premier, true to his original conviction, has now refused to give one penny. Thus we have in our dishonoured State of Western Australia the feeble spectacle of the fall from enviable eminence of peace, to the base depths of moral degradation. A people with a record the subject of emulation by other States in War Time, now the meanest ingrate of the Sisters of the Southern Cross.

In every State large sums from Government coffers have subsidised the memorials erected, in every case the monumental type of non-utility memorial exists or is mooted, and we have here in W.A. something less than £3,000—the free offer of a grateful people! Trembling we forsee prosperity’s reproach—woe to those to whom the blessedness of giving is unknown—then how much more greatly cursed those denying moral obligations.

The door still remains ajar and if there be one repentant soul, let him hasten with his mite (we dare not say “penny” lest solution follow) and thus his conscience salve.

GONE AND FORGOTTEN.

The State’s Disgrace.

(By “CAMELO.”)

How hath the mighty fallen? During the strain and stress, yea and hysteria of the war period, when the “flower of the nations” were saving civilization from disaster and laying down their lives cheerfully in the process, the citizens of this State were moved also to make sacrifices and we prided ourselves on the success attendant upon all efforts to raise funds for comforts and war relief. We were, in our own opinion, a large-souled people—more liberal than the other States of our Commonwealth. Public men still speak with pride of the glory of these departed days, and in hushed tones of the wonders of the deeds performed by our soldiers and of the noble sacrifices of the dead.

The war is over—a nasty period—but let us forget it; let the dead bury its dead.

"Now lies he there, and none so poor to do him reverence."

We shall not judge on our actions of the abnormal yesterday, when fear gripped our hearts.

The memorial to be erected will stand also as a standing reproach to this generation, and we are free from any disgrace brandished as being at heart a mean-souled ungrateful people.

"Blow, blow, thou winter wind, Thou art not so unkind As man’s ingratitude."
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STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

16/2/26.

Present.—Colonel Collett, Rex. Riley, Messrs. Isaac, McDonald, Philip, McArdan, Freedman, Shaw, Yeates, Bateson, Longmore, Watt, Pady. Apologies were received from Messrs. Wedd, Fitzgerald, and Colton.

Leave of Absence.—Mr. C. L. Harvey was granted leave of absence for one month.

Federal Correspondence.—Membership: A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive in connection with membership.

Communications from the Federal Executive were read and received dealing with resolutions 34 and 35, tenth Annual Congress, in connection with land settlement.

A further communication was read and received from the Federal Executive in connection with Resolution 27 re War Service Homes.

Glenoran Art Union.—Wires to and from the Glenoran Sub-branch were read and received together with a letter from them setting out that their Committee had decided to postpone the drawing of their Art Union until June 23rd.

Moved by Pady, seconded by Mr. Longmore, that this Executive learned with regret the necessity of postponing the Art Union owing to the lack of support, and suggests that unless the sub-branch can give some guarantee of the ultimate success of the venture, they should consider the advisability of closing down immediately and refunding the money to subscribers. The views of the sub-branch supported by a balance sheet would be appreciated.—Carried.

Boulder Art Union.—Application was made by the Boulder Sub-branch for permission to run an Art Union on the Sydney Cup.

On the motion of Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. McArdan, it was decided that permission be granted.

Mr. McDonald voted against the motion.

Williams Sub-Branch.—The secretary read correspondence from Mr. P. C. Gubbin, of the Williams Sub-Branch, pointing out that the branch was defunct and that certain monies were still in hand, and would very likely be handed over to another club. He wished to tender his resignation as a Trustee of the Fund.

The secretary explained that he had communicated with the late secretary of the Sub-Branch asking for the books, etc. His action was endorsed and it was suggested that Mr. Gubbins be asked to retain his position as Trustee.

Anzacs Day.—A letter from the United Council of A.I.F. Units of Queensland was read and received, in connection with Anzac Day, expressing their intention of commemorating the Day on the 25th April, and not Monday, 26th. H. Nicholson.—A letter was read from the Fremantle Sub-Branch expressing appreciation of the action taken by the Executive Office in connection with this case.

Reports.—State Secretary's Report: The secretary read his report dealing with visits to sub-branches on the Great Southern line. The report was read and received.

Lease of Institute Land: Mr. Longmore's report in connection with his interview with the Premier was read and received. It was decided that the President and Secretary continue negotiations on the lines suggested.

Fremantle Wonderworld Funds: The committee appointed by Congress to report on the Fremantle Wonderworld Funds delivered a report which was read and adopted.

Relief Funds: A report of the operations of the Relief Funds for the month of January was read and received.

Employment Bureau: A report showing the activities of the Employment Bureau for the month of January was read and received.

Sympathy: It was decided that a letter be sent to Mr. McCarthy, sympathising with him in his wife's illness.

Conference of Soldier Settlers: Proxies: Requests were received from the Glenoran and Corrigin Sub-branches for the appointment of proxies to represent them at the Conference. Mr. C. L. Harvey was asked to represent Glenoran and Mr. A. N. McDonald Corrigin.


Leave of Absence.—Mr. C. Longmore applied for leave of absence until the 8th May, which was granted.

Mr. Philip applied for and was granted leave of absence for the next two meetings.

Federal Correspondence.—War Memorial.—Villers-Bretonneux: A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive advising that the designs for competition for the National Memorial at Villers Bretonneux had been extended to 31st July, 1926.

Immigration: A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive dealing with immigration setting out Resolution 31 carried at last Federal Congress. It was decided that this matter be referred to the Finance Committee.

Medals for Recipients of Certificates of Eligibility: The Federal Executive advised that badges could be obtained at a cost of 15s. each, and that the requisite number of badges be ordered, and that the matter of the attaches be left in the hands of the State Secretary.

Employment Grant: The Federal Executive advised that the monthly allocation of the Employment Grant to the end of June this State, would be £34 10s.

War Service Homes: A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive dealing with the War Service Homes. It was decided that this be published.

Temporary Employees, C.P.S.: The Federal Executive advised the result of negotiations in connection with "temporarily employed Returned Soldiers in the Commonwealth Public Service. The letter was received.

Migrants to India: A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive, showing copy of one from the Ex-Servicemen's Association of India, advising that there was very little employment in India, and it would not be advisable for Europeans to go there in the hope of obtaining Employment.

F. W. Wood: Advice was received from the Federal Executive showing the position arrived at by four independent medical advisers in connection with Wood's case. The communication stated that the disabilities could not be attributed to war service, and therefore the appeal was disallowed.

moved Mr. Zeffert, seconded Mr. Philip that a short history of the case be prepared and sent to every Western Australian member, and all returned soldier
members in both Federal Houses.—Carried.

Letter of Appreciation.—A letter of appreciation was read and received from Mr. T. A. Osborne thanking the League for efforts which resulted in a pension being granted to him.

Anzac Day.—The matter of Anzac Day was then discussed and a letter was read from the Federal President in connection therewith.

Moved Mr. Shaw, seconded Mr. Cohen, that the Federal Executive be approached and asked to undertake to obtain warrants for the citizen forces on Anzac Day.—Carried.

Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Cohen, that a committee of five be appointed to be called the Anzac Day Committee, with power to add.—Carried.

The President, Rev. Riley, Rev. Nye, Rabbi Freedman and Mr. McDonald were appointed.

Mental Patients.—The Repatriation Department advised that arrangements had been made with the Perth Hospital to have advise sent when any ex-soldier was admitted to Ward 12.

Alien Immigration.—Regarding the Press statement of the Premier concerning the influx of aliens, and following upon the letter received from Mr. A. Smith of Narrikup, dealing with the same subject, it was moved by Mr. Zeffert, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald, that the question of alien immigration be referred to a committee.—Carried.

Messrs. Fitzgerald, McDonald, and Zeffert were appointed.

State War Memorial.—A letter was read and received from the Perth Labour Women's Organisation expressing the opinion that the £3,000 now held by the State War Memorial Committee, should be used to relieve the sick and dying in any suitable hospital.

Medical Benefits.—A resolution was submitted by the Mr. Lawley Sub-Branch requesting the Executive to make inquiries into the medical benefits for widows and dependents with a view to providing hospital treatment.

It was decided that the matter be left in the hands of the Secretary for action.

League Propaganda.—The Perth Sub-Branch expressed their willingness to cooperate with the State Executive in an endeavour to secure printed matter on League activities to use for League propaganda. This matter was referred to the Finance Committee.

Reports.—State Secretary's Report: The State Secretary read a report of the operations of the office for the preceding fortnight. The report was received and adopted.

Employment Bureau: The figures for

members in both Federal Houses.—Carried.

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SHOULD CAPITAL BE CONSCRIPTED DURING WAR?

"P.J.C." writes:

I have followed with much interest this subject as published previously in the "L.P." and I am inclined to think like "E.S.W." that capital could not very well be conscripted alone.

Now, as an old soldier of the last war, many phases incidental to the prosecution of wars, and of the aftermath, make me seriously to think that there might be some totally different condition invented under which a war should be waged.

It was often said that silver bullets won the war, or that money is the deciding factor in the struggle. Nation against Nation; but is this so? Personally I cannot believe it. The histories of white and coloured races dating back from 100 years ago, and less, will go to show that wars were waged and won by people who did not know what money was, but they fought for their freedom, their country and their kindred, and all they needed was equipment and rations, the former as also the latter, being often supplied by their own effort prior to, and during hostilities.

If we take the realm or its equivalent in notes, and place it in comparison with materials such as are necessary to use against the enemy, we would not find any use at all for coin, or bullion or paper money with which to destroy him: but, on the other hand, massed machinery of various invention, chemical agencies and everything that can hit him good and strong on land, in the air, on the sea, and under the sea, and the absence of all needful commodities incidental to the beligerent's needs are also required and this constitutes the second necessary weapon.

I contend then that the real powers to bring against an opponent are man-power and material power. Cannot these be supplied without bringing in the filthy lucre; one of the paramount causes of war and the prolongation of the same period?

We all agree with "E.S.W." that there are many profiteers who reap huge material and monetary benefits during the periods which their country (their own or adopted) is struggling for supremacy in a life or death conflict. Seeing that it is the Government that is supposed to be the party responsible for the conducting of hostilities, why should these blood-suckers hamper and cripple that Government's efforts?

It is the greatest anomaly that some of a country's subjects should gladly lay down their lives, or suffer permanently broken health, while the profiteer, the loafer and the shirker (who participate in all the good things supplied by the same country) share none of its sorrows and sacrifices.

It is generally feared that in the event of another war, in which Australia may be involved, it will be no mere skirmish, but infinitely worse than the last. If this should occur within the next forty or fifty years, how do we expect to finance it? The British Empire is bound and shackled with enormous capital debt, and it seems impossible to attempt to conduct an early war on the L.S.D. basis, as this would mean absolute national strangulation. We recognise that we have no control over our enemy as regarding his war policy, but at least we can control our own.

During the Great War the British Government Authorities controlled and distributed the war supplies for more than ten million people, and for some period practically the whole United Kingdom. It was very essential that this be done; in fact, it appeared as if the Imperial Government had conscripted everything of use except capital.

On the occasion of another war, why should we not, each and everyone, throw all in the common lot and place man-power and individual material wealth at the disposal of our country immediately it is involved in a great struggle.

For the financial side of the question I would suggest that a moratorium be declared and all circulation of money be forbidden, the edict to be lifted only when events and conditions so warrant. Every person capable of rendering service in any shape or form whatever should be relegated to such positions as deemed suitable, by the direction of panels or boards appointed by head authority; the scheme would include the patriot who needs no bidding to render his country service, as well as the class of citizen who would otherwise shield himself during war behind the waving flag or put up the plea of a "conscientious objector," or that his "particular kind of business" was assisting his country in the crisis, and he supposed to be indispensable to conducting of service.

It is universally believed that so long as the profiteer of every type continues to amass his bloody wealth during war, then he is not very anxious for that war to cease too soon; but if he be put on an equal plane with every other citizen, then his power to prolong the war would be gone.

With regard to another type of individual—the slacker or the indifferent person (who was appealed to in vain to help at...
What happens to an Intestate Estate?

Do you know? Very few people do. Many have hazy ideas that it does not matter—it will be alright in the end. The Laws of Intestacy are inflexible, and by omitting to make a Will, you may unintentionally deprive those you wish to benefit of what you intend they should receive. Are you not a better judge of your wishes than the Court? Have your Will prepared by your lawyer, NOW.

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by competent authority, private household supplies and those of certain institutions excepted only. All goods would be then under bond and no sale or exchange be made without authority. All stocks would be entered up to the credit of the owner at the then market value, and when the country was again in a position to resume conditions as before, every owner would have his stocks made good or be paid the equivalent in cash, whichever was preferred. Possible surplus of stores and material after the war could be sold and the money applied to the relief of widows, orphans and wounded, and for pensions. Of course the latter is only applicable if we won the war; otherwise, there would be a different tale.

"E.S.W." asks the question as to whether the pastoralist is likely to produce the usual or greater requirements under general conscription? Well, I think he would, for more reasons than one. In the first place, he could not afford to be independent of the rest of the community. Secondly, there being no cash market for his product, he would naturally be eager for peace-time conditions. Thirdly, every citizen would be answerable to a tribunal of his own countrymen for anything in the nature of treason or for having failed his country in its time of need when he could have done otherwise.

I believe that if everyone is placed equally to share responsibility, according to ability, a much greater effort can be made and a much better result achieved.

We have only got to recollect what battles the R.S.L. has had to put up to rectify wholesale injustice done to men who left good jobs, gave up professions, abandoned studies and sacrificed seniority to go and serve their country abroad. One cannot blame individuals for being suspicious when the R.S.L. with some of the able and powerful to defend his life and—something more, which is his honour! However, if a man really objected to one part of military service, use could be found for him in another.

I have digressed somewhat from the main theme, but it is because of the fact that in the wholesale conscription of manpower, the objectors, on one plea and another, would be very numerous and our administrators would be confronted with a problem of first-class dimensions; but like most problems, it would be speedily solved when tackled in proper manner.

The very fact of all material becoming the property of a central authority, foodstuffs would of course be controlled as by a general commissariat. If a person did not, or would not comply with the regulations, then there would be no issue of rations to that person until he did comply.

The production, supply and distribution of foodstuffs are separate problems, but as each during the great war were handled in a masterly way and on a gigantic scale, it can be done again and possibly more efficiently.

Regarding the commandeering by the Government, and probably on very short notice, of all material in the country, the question naturally arises as to what is to be done with huge stocks, but this should be a simple matter. An immediate inventory would be taken of all goods held by owners or their agents, and same checked

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SOLDIER SETTLERS' CONFERENCE.

The second annual conference was held in Perth from the 17th to the 19th of February last. There were present about 30 delegates under the chairmanship of Colonel H. Collett, the State President of the League. Altogether about 25 sub-branches were represented.

Much ground was traversed relative to the Federal Government's grant in connection with land settlement, and it appears that the definite statement of the Federal Authorities that it is the fixed intention of the Commonwealth Government to wash its hands entirely of land settlement for soldiers, leaves us in the parlous state of dependence on a State Government which has never exhibited much warmth towards the men who risked so much for the State. With no avowed policy on the part of the Collier Ministry, with a host of unfortunate soldier settlers who are labouring under unfair burdens, and with many of them having been encouraged to qualify for land settlement, the whole subject calls for grave concern from those who have the interests of the State at heart. The disbursement of the Federal Grant is not considered by the State Government, and one feels that this is not unreasonable, as it is to be expected that a State Government would act to its State's advantage the more surely of the two. It should not, however, be lost sight of that the unfair position of some soldier settlers results from the mal-administration in incorrectly assessing the value of properties by the servants of the State authorities themselves. Thus the temporary or figurative gain in boosting the value of assets and the indiscriminate method of paying high prices for improved properties, has reacted to the State's ultimate loss, dragging into the slough of despair those citizens whom we rightly regard as the backbone of the community. The opportunity exists for the State Government to modify considerably, if not to completely remedy the injustice short-handed by the equitable distribution of the funds placed at their disposal. The Soldier Settlers' Conference expressed its opinion very decidedly that the State should use the Federal Land Settlement Grant to remedy the disabilities under which soldier settlers labour, and that unsettled but qualified applicants should be settled on the basis which led them to seek to qualify.

Other matters of importance discussed by the Conference to were the following effect:- That extra wire netting be supplied to Group Settlers to enable them to adequately fence against vermin. That the promise to link up the Kalkaling Railway with the proposed railway line to the life Government. That the Government should take over the line at present running as a timber line between Manjinup and Tannam to facilitate transport for local settlers. That the Government should conduct a series of experimental subsidised plots in the horticultural, viticultural and agricultural areas. That the I.A.B. be asked to arrange for the certifying as to the correctness of otherwise of machinery and spare parts accounts before payment is made. That the I.A.B.'s system preventing clients from warehousing wheat, was not in the best interests of the settlers concerned. That the consequent action by the State Executive were passed, completing a most successful Conference. The delegates are to be congratulated on the soundness of their decisions and on the logical and reasonableness of their resolutions. On these grounds it is imperative that much good will emanate from their concerted efforts.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES.
Commonwealth Public Service.

The following letter was recently received from Mr. E. J. Dibdin (Federal Secretary) setting out the League's recent action in respect to soldiers temporarily employed in the Commonwealth Public Service:

"Representations were made to the Public Service Board in October last, as it was then considered the Board was not treating justly soldiers who were qualified for permanent appointment under Section 84 (9) (a) of the Commonwealth Public Service Act. I might explain that this particular section refers to soldiers who have been temporarily employed continuously in a non-clerical capacity for two years; providing their services have been satisfactory the Section says that the soldier shall be permanently appointed. "Individual complaints were received from the Postal Sub-section, intimating that soldiers who had completed two years' service had not been permanently appointed. In cases where the soldier's services were being dispensed with. "Shortly after our representations, Federal elections took place, then Congress, then after Congress the definite result of the election, which meant alterations in Cabinet, all delayed adequate representations, but the matter was taken up again with the Prime Minister.

"The question of promotion of juniors to the Public Service is certainly a very difficult one, naturally placing the permanent appointment of soldiers in jeopardy. A further question also having a material bearing on any decision that may be arrived at was Section 84 (9) (a) which deals exclusively with returned soldiers and provides a first preference for soldiers who have passed an examination for entry into the service. This Section gives preference in permanent appointment to temporary employees over 84 (9) (c) previously quoted. In addition to this many positions are being filled in the Clerical Division by temporarily employed soldiers, many of whom have qualified by examination for permanent appointment. "As the result of representations it has now been decided that 162 soldiers temporarily employed in a non-clerical capacity, who are qualified under Section 84 (9) (c) will be permanently appointed, but that the Public Service Board are then going to be asked to make also permanent appointments for the junior soldiers".

"In addition to this all the soldiers temporarily employed who have passed the examination will also be permanently appointed, as vacancies occur; this includes the temporarily employed soldiers in the clerical division. "The decision arrived at, although it permits of juniors being promoted, must be regarded as satisfactory."
SUB-BRANCH NOTES.

CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE SUB-BRANCH.

At the annual meeting of the above Branch the following were elected as officers for the ensuing year: President, P. L. S. Thompson; Vice Presidents, Messrs. Lindell and McKenzie; Hon. Secretary, A. Brown (unopposed); Treasurer, S. V. Barwood (unopposed). The 14th April. A special meeting, however, Committee went into recess until the will be called for the purpose of dealing with the cases of distress. The annual 13th March. New members continue to be enrolled and it is hoped that old members will return and give the benefit of their experience to the new.

Mt. LAWLEY SUB-BRANCH.

The monthly meeting of the above Sub-branch took place at the Lyceum Buildings on Monday night, March 1st. A large attendance of members rolled up and some interesting business was discussed. Mr. Spencer Compton reported on his visit to the Pilbara Sub-Branch during his recent stay in that area, and in an interesting address outlined the history of that Sub-Branch.

The business of the evening was concluded shortly after nine o'clock and was followed by a social. A tip-top musical programme was provided by a few of the local talented members, assisted by the next door neighbours from North Perth.

The next Monthly Meeting of the Sub-Branch will be held on TUESDAY, 4th APRIL, in lieu of Easter Monday, which is a holiday. At this meeting the State Secretary, Mr. D. M. Benson, will deliver a short lecture on soldier settlement, and Colonel Margolin will speak on Gallipoli.

MIDLAND JUNCTION SUB-BRANCH.

The Annual Meeting of the Midland Junction Sub-Branch took place in the Town Hall, Midland Junction recently. Mr. J. A. Tipping (President), presided over about 20 members. In his annual report the President mentioned the good work the Sub-Branch had done in assisting diggers that were in distress; also assistance given to widows of deceased soldiers. The Secretary presented the balance sheet, showing a small credit balance, which was highly satisfactory after commencing the year with a deficit, and taking into consideration the number of cases of distress the Branch has had to assist. In order to facilitate matters for comrades wishing to attend the meetings, the ordinary meeting night was altered from fortnightly to monthly; the next meeting being fixed for Thursday, February 25th, and every four weeks thereafter. The election of officers resulted: President, Mr. J. A. Tipping (re-elected unanimously); Vice Presidents, Mr. G. F. Pridde and E. F. Jamieson; Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. A. Jamieson (re-elected unanimously); Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. E. Gray (unanimously re-elected); Auditor, Mr. F. W. Bateson.

KALGOORLIE SUB-BRANCH.

The monthly General Meeting was held on Wednesday evening, March 10, at 8 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Fairley presided over a large attendance.

Apologies were received from several members.

The Treasurer, Mr. J. Anderson, submitted the financial report which showed the Branch to be in a healthy state financially. The Secretary, Mr. D. R. Elliott, reported having paid out £7/1/- to alleviate certain distress cases in the district.

Prospects' Assistance Board.—The Secretary reported having been able to assist for two returned soldiers the amount of three months' sustenance to enable them to prospect in the vicinity of Coolgardie.

16th Battalion Welfare Committee.—It was decided to donate the sum of fifteen pounds to the above Committee, to provide for the welfare of the 16th Battalion when competing in competitions at the coast.

Anzac Dinner.—It was decided to hold an Anzac Dinner on Anzac Day, Sunday, April 24th, during the evening. It was also decided to charge the sum of 2/- to help defray expenses. The members resolved to provide sweets for the children as in past years.

Anzac Day.—The members expressed their intention that instead of marching to the Commemoration Service as in past years, they would meet at the monument.

Anzac Ball.—The Anzac Ball Committee reported that the Anzac Ball would be held on Friday, April 30th, and that the Town Hall had been engaged for that occasion.

Social Committee.—Messrs. Frankish, Hart and Jones were elected to the Social Committee.

WEST PERTH SUB-BRANCH.

Publicity Officer J. W. Scott was severely censured by President Thrush for having failed to enlighten comrades of other branches of the activities of the West Perth Branch.

The daily paper recently published a report of achievements by the South Australian Branch of the League, wherein it had secured a ruling from the Commonwealth Government demanding the appointment of some 100 temporary clerks for the permanent staff. The West Perth Branch must receive all credit which might be due. During the past two years or so representations have been made for these temporary officers to be placed on the permanent staff under the regulation provided for that purpose.

On the occasion of the Prime Ministers last visit to this State, our erstwhile president, H. S. Humphrey, and secretary, A. H. Morrell, secured his assurance that the matter would receive his earnest attention, and displayed surprise that such a state of affairs prevailed in the Commonwealth Public Service. Our South Australian comrades may, perhaps, share the credit of West Perth's latest achievement.

Mr. Morrell was successful last week in securing the continuity of service for two members in the G.P.O. who had received notice of dismissal.

At the request of the West Perth Branch, the P.M.G. has directed that the name of a deceased soldier, H. M. Gilbert, should be placed on the Honour Roll. Perhaps he has been experienced in obtaining the total names, but we can rest assured of the sympathetic views taken by the P.M.G. on all matters within responsible measures.

It is rumoured the West Perth Branch will be shortly negotiating with quotes for a smoke social.

Lost, not stolen, but perhaps strayed—Col. R. F. Fitzgerald. He is obviously a recluse of late. The duties as country organiser on the appeal for the Blind must take up much of his time.

Joe Sweeney (10th L.I.H.) is a blossoming operatic singer—we don't think!

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Mt. BARKER SUB-BRANCH.

State Secretary’s Visit.

On Tuesday afternoon, the State Secretary, Mr. D. Benson, arrived at Mt. Barker, at 3 p.m., having been motored from Cranbrook by Mr. Monck-Mason, who is always out to do what he can for the returned man in his district. Mr. Benson telephoned to the Secretary (Mr. P. Gillan) about 9 a.m. that day of his movements. At 1 p.m. the Branch President, Mr. Tom Souness, of “Merryup,” Orchard, was communicated with, and after a little chat the Secretary was instructed to arrange a dinner for that evening; also that he (Mr. Souness) would arrive at 3 p.m. and do his best to show Mr. Benson a few miles round the district. In company with Mr. J. H. Morgans, late original 11th Batt., they motored out the Blackwood road to “Merryup,” and the Hay River, visiting the pick of the district. In the meantime, the Secretary got a monopoly of the telephone at the P.O. and all could be phoned to given order to be ready to move at 6 p.m. to the front line at the Park Hotel, Mrs. Reddin, the ever-obliging proprietress and her staff got busy at 4 p.m. and by 7 p.m. everything was in readiness to attack. The objective was in the dining room, and a platoon of twenty-four made no bones about it, but were in position by 6:15, and dug in with their legs under the well-laden table, with President Souness at the head, the State Secretary on his right, and Branch Secretary on the left.

It was very gratifying to the Secretary especially also all members, who could see that such a repast could have been arranged in such short notice. Alick O’Neil, at the lower end of the table, kept the table well supplied with a basket close by. After all hands had satisfied the inner man, they, or those who were ‘there’ were invited to the toast of “The King,” and after which about a quarter of an hour talk and smoke, all retired for a fresh air breathe and re-assembled in the smoking room upstairs for an address from Mr. Benson.

The attendance at this meeting was added to by others who missed the spread from reasons beyond their control.

The President (Mr. Souness) in introducing the State Secretary, said how pleased they all were at having Mr. Benson there that evening, and expressed the wish that all would listen patiently and at the end of the address any questions would be gladly answered by Mr. Benson, and probably to their satisfaction. Mr. Benson was welcomed with a real “great applause,” and started off with the history of the early career of the League from small dimensions to what it is now. He stated the advantages gained in the past and the many benefits won for the living soldiers and dependents of our dead comrades, which was the result of only united efforts, and which could only be held by the majority in powers the same as any other Union. If the R.S.L. failed to function, as the mouthpiece of the A.I.F. and ex-Imperial soldiers, we would have other bodies and individuals persuing to advocate soldiers claims and perhaps gain a little personal popularity thereby. Governments and other institutions would be besieged by soldier problems from all quarters, instead of the present practice of investigation being made by their own R.S.L. officials, which very often proved very successful if represented truthfully to the proper authorities. It was no use diggers reclaiming whilst other comrades continued the job of previously safeguarding the ground already won for those who were fortunate enough to return, as well as continuing that loyalty to dead comrades, by looking after their fatherless families. Let any one who was not posted and call to mind the Gallipoli days, pass on to France, and commencing with Ypres and Passchendale, travel south, to Pozieres, Flers, Fleurbaix, Bullecourt and other grim places, where thousands of the bravest and best of our race sleep. One of the main objects of the League is to perpetuate the memory of the fallen, to keep ever-green the memory of their comradeship and self-sacrifice, and to respect the wishes of those who are not forgotten.” In some districts the diggers seem to think that the problem for the living has been solved. Let all diggers bear in mind that by discounting our obligation and slumbered, the cutting out process would soon begin. Then good-bye should benefit. The League’s activities do not stop at our coast line. We are affiliated with ex-service men’s organisations throughout the British Empire, and only lately has Australia been represented at the British Empire Service League’s biennial conference at Ottawa, presided over by Lord Haig, who takes a great interest in the welfare of all ex-soldiers. In our own State we have another active soldier, the State Governor (Sir William Camphon) as patron. Our League is a democratic body, not promoted in the interest of any particular class or creed. The unselfish creed and manners of the A.I.F., which were good enough in war-days, can still be found in the army’s successor, the R.S.L. Mr. Benson concluded his address by conveying the best wishes of the State President (Col. Collet), Rabbi Freedman (Past President), and all the twenty members of the Executive in Perth. Acknowledgment was also made of the generous support and encouragement given by the press of the State. The League was a public body without legal standing and he hoped the public of Australia would remain loyal to them without exception and in presenting our claims to the public, the press were understandably the diggers, advocate. Mr. Benson resumed his seat with a good old rally from all present.

Mr. T. G. Souness (51st Batt.) in putting it to any digger present to ask questions, was met with a volume of them. Mr. Benson replied to the many questions asked satisfactorily and Mr. Alick Martin (10th L.H.) concluded by moving a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Benson, which was seconded by Mr. H. V. Jenkins (A.R.O.D.) in a very able manner. Mr. Benson promised to call again but not for half a day next-time, as he could plainly see that the Mt. Barker Branch and district deserved more time from an official from Perth. All diggers are looking forward to his next visit.

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DIGGERS IN THE NOR'WEST.

Mr. G. Spencer Compton, B.Sc., who held a commission in the 28th Battalion, in company with that good friend of the soldier prospectors, Mr. C. M. Harris, recently returned after spending a couple of months in the Nor' West, where they journeyed to examine and report on the Braeside Mineral Belt (east of Oakover River).

We requested Mr. Compton to tell us of the diggers encountered in this far outpost of the State to which he readily acceded:

"When my train pulled into Mt. Magnet," said Mr. Compton, "at midnight of New Year's Day, 1926, Bruce Fleming, late 28th Battalion, hove into view. Bruce looks well. The whole district had been attracted to Mt. Magnet for the local club's races. It never rains but what it pours, and into the scene walked good old Barney Murphy, D.C.M. (also 28th). He had motored to Nambeelup, and we met at dawn on the platform when the train stopped. Barney's horse had not been successful, but his owner was by no means downhearted. Who could ever take away the heart from such as he? A short stay in Meekatharra gave me little opportunity to make acquaintances, nor on the way up to Marble Bar through the various stations. Away east of Marble Bar in the Braeside country, I met for the first time, "Long Sam" Kennedy (11th). He would have been a really tall man if it were not that so much grew along the ground. Sam was captured by the Hun in front of Lagnicourt (March, 1917), when Lieutenants Pope, V.C., and E. D. Simmons and their merry men gave such a good account of themselves. There were few survivors of the platforms engaged, and they were prisoners for the remainder of the war. Sam was a thorn in Hunny's side while they kept him. In Port Hedland soldier folk are numerous, and Mr. Ross Keesing is president of the Marble Bar Branch (R.S.L.) now centred at Port Hedland, and Mr. Barnard, the energetic and pleasant secretary, L. E. Taplin (late Air Force) runs most of the transport for miles around, and the harbourmaster, the schoolmaster, and the doctor (Dr. Wilson) are all soldier-men. Rain has been rather plentiful during this summer in the north, and many of the stations were looking very well. Since my return further heavy rain has fallen, and a good season must be assured from Brown to Meekatharra. It is sincerely to be hoped," concluded the narrator, "that the good season spells prosperity to all our soldier friends of the Great North-West."

And so say all of us.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
THE LISTENING POST. 19th March, 1926.

THE CASE OF F. W. WOOD.

For at least two years the case of F. W. Wood of Collie has been constantly before the League in this State which has thus far failed to effect without success to secure what it considers a just deal for this unfortunate man. Although set-back after set-back has been experienced in the effort to get Wood's injury recognised as aggravated by war service, the prospects of recovery are not slackened and it is hoped to eventually achieve the objective. The latest move of the State Executive is to circularise all Western Australian and ex-soldier members of both Federal Houses and the following is the letter prepared by the State Secretary (Mr. Benson):

"Following upon a resolution passed at the last meeting of the State Executive of the R.S.L. held on the 3rd instant, I have the honour to call your attention to the facts and information necessary action, particulars of the unsuccessful pension claim made on behalf of the above-named Australian soldier."

"This case was mentioned in Parliament by Mr. Prowse, M.H.R., on the 25th February last, a report of whose speech appears on Page 1128, Federal Hansard. No. 11."

"Following upon the able advocacy of Mr. Prowse, it may be repeated that Wood enlisted in 1914 and after a rigorous medical examination was accepted for service. At that time the medical officers found no trace of any weakness due to a previous fractured ankle."

"The training of the 11th Battalion at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia in 1914—when men were plentiful—was severe and searching. Furthermore, the long period of boat life between Australia and the ports of disembarkation (Alexandria) was not advantageous as the men were required to keep fit by continuous physical exercises, producing leg weakness from the hard decking. The desert marches from Menli Camp, Egypt, proved just as unhealthy and Wood's weak ankle, as his previous military training, and with the rest of his comrades of the 1st Australian Division, he was later engaged in holding back the Turk on Gallipoli."

"Wood is a man of strong physique, and when not in the front line trenches his duties consisted of carrying water and ammunition from the beach to the forward units. The Minister himself should know the severe strain imposed by this duty, as a box of small arm ammunition is a two-man load on easy marching ground, but to be carried by one man up and down steep hills, like those of Gallipoli, the soundest limbs must ultimately feel the strain. Wood's leg gradually gave way, but it was not until after the evacuation and his Battalion was once more in Egypt, that he found he could not soldier on. He did not conceal anything, however, but told the medical officers that his ankle had suffered a previous fracture. He was thereupon returned to Australia and discharged in 1916 as medically unfit due to fractured ankle."

"Realising that he was finished as a soldier, he then resolutely threw himself once again into civilian life, and with a brave heart faced the back-blocks as a prospector. Little by little, however, his condition became so weak that the medical officers recommended an OPERATION, and the disability finally compelled him to take a lighter job. Eventually, the foot became so weak that Mr. Wood was compelled to seek hospital treatment, and invoke the aid of the Repatriation Department for himself and his widowed family."

"It would appear that at no time has Mr. Wood's period of independence from the time of discharge to collapse has not been in his best interests, as the department have no connecting medical testimony over that period."

"There are men who have steadfastly refrained from approaching the department for assistance, we hear of them frequently, and Wood is one of them. Unfortunately, for his claim, however, for nearly three years we have been up against medical opinion. On the one hand we have a signed certificate from four medical men in this State who say that Wood's condition is brought about by his war service. The department's medical men on the other hand, state that this view is not the correct one. Our evidence in Wood's case is from men who have seen and examined the claimant. Two of them have examined the bones of the foot during the process of a surgical operation. The department's officers have never seen eyes on Wood, so that their conclusions are pure theory as against the practical observations of the medical men upon whose findings our contentions are based.

"I submit that this claim has been prejudiced from the outset when the Perth Repatriation Medical officers decided against Wood from an examination of his papers, and without any personal observation whatever."

"It is contended by the Repatriation Commission that Wood's present condition is not in any way brought about by war service. Can it be said then that had Wood stayed at home, his collapse would have been just as certain? The department's attitude is the result of an unfavourable finding of four medical men. The R.S.L. has four medical men probably just as qualified as the department's officials to support its contentions favourable to the claim. Why then does the Commission not give the soldier the benefit of the existing doubt? The position as demonstrated to me by the local surgeons is that the damaged ankle became infected and the strain, and to relieve it, the soldier threw his 171 stone body forward on the front part of the foot. The small bones of the foot were not intended by nature to carry the extra strain of the bones followed. These decayed bones were removed at the Collie Hospital."

"Summed up, Wood was a good soldier who carried on at a time when our fighting line was thin. During this time he could probably have indulged parliament and "swung the lead", by reciting the fact of the previous fracture. This was not done, however, until the leg would no longer march, and his unit was back from the battle area."

"The foregoing particulars are being submitted to all Western Australian members of the Commonwealth Parliament, together with all soldier members, in the hope that the claims of a good citizen and comrade will be fully and forcibly represented to the representatives of the people, assembled in the National Parliament."

"Wood supports a large family by the cultivation and sale of vegetables at Collie. The weak leg frequently forces him to crawl on all fours to carry out his occupation. This distressing condition is in the opinion of my League the result of his patriotic service."

"We, therefore, leave the case in your hands, encouraged with the hope that your fellow members in the House will disregard theory, form their own conclusions based on commonsense and reason, and where a doubt exists extend to a good deserving man, that measure of assistance in accordance with the provisions of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act."
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ITALY'S SURPLUS PEOPLE.
A GLANCE TOWARDS AUSTRALIA.

Italy's population is increasing at the rate of 500,000 souls a year. In the past she has readily found outlets for the excess. The United States absorbed from 300,000 to 400,000 annually. This was one reason why Italy did not colonise. The territories that she possesses overseas were chosen chiefly on account of their strategic value.

Now all is changed. America will only take 40,000 a year. The rest have had to go elsewhere. Hundreds of thousands have crossed into France, where there has been abundant work for them in rebuilding the devastated areas. Of the remainder a proportion has migrated to South America, and a considerable number has come to Australia. The residuum left behind in Italy is being added to each year, and the difficulties in the way of their disposal becomes more and more formidable.

Writing in the “Nineteenth Century” for December, Dr. Beckles Wilson takes up the problem at this point. Importance, he says, is being shown, and the issue has become a live one, both on the platform and in the press. Eyes are turned in all directions. One writer in the Fascist organ declares: “The existing map of the Mediterranean must be altered. And this change can be brought about only by an act of force.” He is thinking of Anatolia certainly, and of North-West Africa possibly. The interested powers in those particular instances would be Turkey, Greece, France, and, ultimately, Great Britain.

Looking farther afield, the Cameroons are mentioned as a likely haven for Italy's surplus workers. Here, Japan, which holds the mandate, is chiefly concerned. What was formerly German South-West Africa is coveted as a source of raw materials which Italy badly needs, and, in this case, the Union of South Africa becomes involved. But there are other parts of the British Empire which are receiving attention, and, to judge by the length of the newspaper extracts supplied in the article, they are attracting more notice than any other country. Describing Canada as a “vast country with an existing population of only a fifth of that of Italy, the “Progresso Italia” asks:

“Why should they seek to close the barrier to our industrious and sober people? What rights does this small population possess to half a continent which would survive an appeal to the conscience of the world? What are they doing with Nova Scotia, so rich in coal and grazing lands, but so poor in workers that after a century and a half it has only the population of the Italian city of Turin.

This is pointed criticism indeed. But what will be thought of Dr. Buzzini, a well-known publicist, who, after ranging over the world in quest of likely resting places, has this to say of Australia:

“Why should a country like Australia which is manifestly unequal to the task of developing its vast empty spaces, bar out the immigrants of a European country, who possess strong arms, resolve, will, and intelligence? Who gave them the right? Not Great Britain. Have they the power in themselves to enforce it? Is there any justice in such exclusion?

“Think of what a million industrial Italians would have made of the vast, fertile, but empty spaces of Queensland, five times the size of Italy, and yet which in the course of a whole century the British immigrants have only scratched. The only reason Australia can urge for their dog in the manger policy is the geological unity of their country. Australia is an island. If there had been four islands instead of one! The argument is childish. And, in any case, what of Papua and New Guinea? Why have not we granted the mandate for those islands?”

Italy, as the writer of the article in the “Nineteenth Century” points out, could find room for many millions more if she made better use of her agricultural lands. But that would only ease the problem. Moreover, the urgency of finding raw materials for the industries which are rapidly springing up would remain. It is well that Australia should know of Italy's plight. Time could be spent probably in thinking about it as it affects Australia.”

Don't Slide Out.
VARIA.

"3121" has the right of reply: In my opinion you flatter "1556" in likening his literary effort (L.P. 19/2/26) to such an excellent argumentative weapon as a Mills bomb. His epistle, however, not equal in force to a good old jam-tin bomb, but resembles a Blackboy Hill practice-bomb—all smoke and smell. Misrepresentation of my article and abuse of myself, such as "1556" descend to, does not affect or refute my expressed beliefs. Allow me to summarise my original article—I contend that in the army of 1914-18 human technical skill and specialised knowledge were often wasted or misdirected. That many men were allowed to serve in corps of the army they were not best adapted for. That from a national point of view our manhood, poets and artists, skilled in the sciences, crafts, and industries of their nations. Let no snapping critic infer that I am forgetting "Les Autres" who fought and suffered. The army lost the benefit of the brains of some of its soldiers, though gaining by their personal gallantry in action. If any thoughtful reader will criticise my beliefs and show me where I am wrong, I shall be grateful. To "1556" I commend the above-mentioned rules of co-operation; "Fair play is bonnie play," and "Abuse is no argument."

"Digzac" champions the cause: I'm with "3121" all the way in his argument and consider that the "bomb" thrown by "1556" was as a rotten egg. Leaving a nasty smell, it did no damage. "3121" merely made the sensible suggestion that specialised knowledge should not be wasted in the army. Surely "1556" would not place skilled men such as engineers and doctors in the line of fire, when their services are in such demand, in their own particular branch of the army! Yet he takes "3121" to task for his advocacy of a system for the better distribution of manhood values and skill. Methinks "1556" had coloured Yankee glasses on when reading the words of wisdom of "3121."

"Red Gun" sits on the rail: "1556" was evidently not a bonner at the stoush. His aim when he shot at "3121" was a bit wide of the mark, but for all that a splinter pierced his antagonist without causing much damage. "3121" is right in his contention that technical units should be manned by trained technical men; the infantry is no place for such men, but although it is a loss to the world when real statesmen, poets and leaders of outstanding general ability are killed, I fail to understand why such should not belong to the infantry. The acute service conditions of the firing line tend to the uplifting of character; thus the statesman becomes a greater ruler and the poet becomes inspired with the majesty of his fellow humans, making his verses a living force often long after the cruel God of War has claimed the writer for a victim. Hugh McCrae was killed shortly after writing that soul stirring, yet simple masterpiece "In Flanders Fields" and Rupert Brooke's works acquire added depth and meaning by his early and pathetic death.

E. St. Ives Bilston, who claims to be the ex-champion liar of England, can't keep out of the argument—Having read with deep interest a compound issue of vaporing in your Varias columns, one "3121, Peak Hill," being part authority with "1556; Meekatharra," as the other portion, I bethought me that as it is a poor locality, organisation or community that cannot boast of at least half a dozen asses, I might chip in and make a triangular burlesque of the stunt, sincerely hoping that you—may be successful in digging up (or resurrecting) the other three required to finalise same, in order that readers of the "L.P." may not be enabled to say with truth that our Brotherhood is "poor or obsolete. For a "curtain raiser" please understand distinctly that matter "3121." In Flanders Fields" toot and you'll see the top-rail. I don't give a tinker's cuss whether the infantry boasted a superabundance of brains, pioneer and light-horse units, etc., etc., etc., were too totally absent of those essentials, or M.T., (pot "Military Jacks") fraternised with the "Boots" from our city "guestosties" (only poor "bootses" to be thus degraded) in the front line; we won, all the same—and that'll do me, yours to ridicule! That I, the "dope" speaking "proprieterised", none may be evidenced by the following facts:

1. That I ever enlisted at all!
2. That with my breadth of knowledge and experience of all things pertaining to militarism, I did not remain in camp until at least one star had appeared on my shoulder, well and truly gilt and armoured by "S. Brownes."
3. That I got a crack with a "broomstick bombstick" at "the apex" sufficiently violent to find-a brains of a mule. But it always produced a lump on the skull bone!" Messrs. "3121 and 1556" are presumably gifted with true Dig. sense of humour, and desirous of arguing the point for argument's sake. Such a state of existing affairs is extremely refreshing, providing each "keeps his grapping" and does not stoop to specialise personality. Introduction of the latter is tantamount to the "bugle call for retreat," or an acknowledgement of victory to "the other fellow."

It may be that the "drab" or "blue-mouldy" existence of our beloved comrades "out back," surrounded by mulga, saltbush and spinifex, where the sole reaction may be found in tracking a piebald bungarra 14 miles over spinifex (colour of same determined by his tracks), or exploring amidst all things "creepy-crawly" in quest of an Albino nigger, has upset their respective equilibriums, from which they will surely recover. Or it may be that there is a secret understanding between those two ex-brothers in arms, and they are just breaking out, to vary the monotony of peaceful conditions and surroundings. Stranger things have occurred, for during my lengthy and varied career of "scribble-itis" it has frequently fallen to my lot to take up both affirmative and negative, getting a pal to copy out and sign one or 'ther. But this is divulging tricks of the trade, or hobby in my case. However, the above methods are where one gets real humour out of pen or pencil, especially when able to brag of being the "biggest liar unhung."
W.S.H.—What possessed the League to request that the Federal Government should pay surplus received from the sale of War Service Homes to the late occupiers? I can’t for the life of me see where the grounds can be for such a request. If a man defaults, he has broken his contract and he has had a ton of license before, the Commission will take action to eject him, and then he has only to get in first and say “Please sell.” If he does that, he must get all that he is entitled to.

Bill.—Under the heading of “Bitter Fruits of War,” your February “Listening Post” quotes the case of an ex-soldier who has developed illness six or seven years after the war. Your correspondent says that the Commonwealth Government should compensate in such cases. I say that it does so. If the quotation of the medical man’s conversation could be procured in writing above the medic’s signature, the digger would be served equally.

H. J. O’Neil writes a word of encouragement from Mornington Mills. I am always delighted to get the ‘Listening Post.’ It is a power of strength behind us lads, and I wish you every success.

“2500.”—A suggestion came from you some time ago for returning soldiers to build their own memorial in this State to their fallen comrades, if the citizens failed to respond to the appeal of the State War Memorial Committee. What about doing something, now that it is known of the miserable failure of a “grateful” people to honour the dead? I have already subscribed to the State fund, but if you will set the ball rolling I will send along my modest 2½. There are about 20,000 diggers in this State. If you could get an average of 5½ each, there would be enough money to build a substantial memorial. (Before doing anything, we would like to get a number of opinions from our readers on the proposal.—Ed. “L.P.”)

MIGRANTS TO INDIA.

A letter has been received by the Federal Secretary from the Secretary of the Bombay Branch Ex-Services Association, India, in respect to inquiries made for persons wishing to migrate to India. He states —

“I assure you that in the present state of unemployment in India amongst the European Community, this country is absolutely the last to which one should come with a view to obtaining suitable and adequately-paid work. Every season, destitute Europeans are being repatriated to the United Kingdom by the score by the various Charitable Associations, and I cannot urge too strongly that any European without means, if out of India, should stay out.”

WAR SERVICE HOMES.
ELEGIBILITY OF EX-SOLDIER SETTLERS.

As the result of representations made by Mr. R. H. Green, M.P., the Minister for Works and Railways advised that the question of granting assistance under the War Service Homes Act to eligible persons under the measure who had previously been assisted to settle upon the land, and had failed through no fault of their own. The Government is not unsympathetic to the claims made by these returned soldiers, and it has been decided that any application for housing assistance lodged by an ex-land settler coming within the class mentioned shall be considered by the Minister, who has been authorised to grant a loan where the facts of such a case fully justify such a course.

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**FURNITURE REMOVAL EXPENSES**

The Federal Secretary recently received from the Minister in charge of Repatriation the following letter in reference to the above:

“Referring to your letter of the 22nd January, conveying to me the contents of a letter received from the Victorian Branch of the League on the above matter, I beg to inform you that I have had the matter under full consideration. From inquiries I find that the great weight of medical opinion, on which the Repatriation Commission relies, does not consider that it is necessary or advisable to send ex-soldiers suffering from war disabilities from one locality to another for climatic reasons, etc. If, however, these incapacitated ex-soldiers are considered by the Departmental Medical Officers to move to a climate and district more suitable to their complaint (I am quoting from your Victorian Branch’s letter) then the department is prepared to bear the cost of the removal expenses of the furniture up to a reasonable amount.”

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It is indeed pleasing to record that quite a number of our badly maimed mates are minimising their hardships by becoming petrol knights. One of the latest recruits is dear old C. W. R. Beechey, of Leederville, who, now proudly steers a new Cyno.

The most confirmed bachelor is evidently not immune from Hyman’s pointed shafts. League vice-president the Rev. C. L. Riley efficiently and securely tied the matrimonial knot during the month between Miss Mable Knapp, who came to this State from Berks, England, about three years ago, and Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzgerald. Fitz. was supported during the process by Lieutenant-Colonel Margolin. We wish Fitz and his pretty bride long years of mutual happiness.

Visiting this State is Brigadier-General James H. Cannan, of Queensland. The General is well and favourably known to a number of our diggers, he having commanded the 11th A.I. Brigade, which included our “Fighting 44th” Battalion. Since the war General Cannan has closely identified himself with the soldiers’ movement, having held the office of President of the Queensland Branch of the League for a period of four years.

South Africa lost a worthy citizen when Major-General Sir Henry T. Lukin passed away. A great soldier, this large-hearted man always found time to further the interests of his war-time comrades, being for a number of years till his death, the President of the British Empire Service League in South Africa. The General was the chairman of the inaugural conference of the B.E.S.T. held in 1921. The interment was the greatest military funeral ever witnessed in Cape Town.

It is pleasing to record that Mrs. McCarthy, the wife of our genial V.C. winner, is slowly but surely recovering from her recent severe operation.

One of the most earnest and capable delegates elected to the State Executive during recent years is Major Geo. Shaw. George, who has a fine poultry run out Belmont way, has been elected as vice-president of the newly-formed Poultry Growers’ Association of W.A.

RETURNED SOLDIERS’ MONUMENTAL WORKS.

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Mt. Barker Personalities.

Our old comrade, Billy Millons, who has been Club caretaker for some time, has had a rotten spin lately, one of his "Dutch Pegs" not treating him too well. Rest wanted.

Clem Wall, of Mt. Barker, who has been for a long time on the telephone gang, left on Tuesday under transfer to Coolgardie district. Best of luck, Clem, from all diggers.

Fred Allen, also after a bad spin with "screws," has been considered by the Telephone Department, after representations by this Branch, for a transfer to a warmer climate, and has now left Mt. Barker for Wagin. To be wished the warmer region has the required effect.

Harry Scott has been an "gone an’ got spliced. Good luck to Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

Two local diggers lately became the proud possessors of Baby Citroens. Alec O’Neill and Gerry Wall. Find them much easier to handle than "horses."

Flickers under the command of "Bow" Stanley (Cool Store Engineer), shows a great improvement. Better films, larger houses, and satisfied patrons.

Jim Clothier, with his new W. & G. truck, shifted some thousands of dumplin’ apples for last boat... A good grafter, and gets a fair share of what’s going.

Local diggers with any carting, don’t forget to give Jimmy a fair go. "Phone 42..."

THE BEST PAIR

Swan Lager
and
Swan Bitter

THEY BEAT ALL OTHERS

A TRIBUTE.

(Mrs. Watson is grateful for what the League has been able to do for a close digger relation of hers and cleverly words her appreciation in the following poem, which has been forwarded to us through the Fremantle sub-branch. It is of interest to read the sentence formed by the index letters of each line. —Ed. L.P.)

A TRIBUTE.
(To Messrs. Brennan and Walker.)
Take this—a tribute small—
Humble (it scarce dare crawl)
Extending thanks to all—
League-loyal soldiers
In trials I’ve proved your worth,
Salt of Australian earth.
Trustees! Your land of birth,
Esteem: Unbend her.
No suppliant weakly sue
(Squeals may false abuse).
None who loam, ever uses.
God bless thee! soldiers!

Proud in your great League’s might
Out-beam, like rays of light.
Signal—“We fight for right”—
To all beholders.

—IDA E. WATSON.

Fremantle, 26/2/26.

Don’t Slide Out.

Bring a New Member for 1926.
ONE TOO MANY.

It was a half of a night. Thunder enough to wake the "Jacko" dead, and raining fit to swamp old Solomon's Pool. I was a good ten miles from camp, and it was with a dinkum bullocky's curse that I swung into the saddle again and turned the pony's nose for home. For about an hour we battled along, and then the supply dump at S—— lay in sight. Glad of a brief respite, I guided him toward it, and for a few minutes we rested in the shelter of a huge stack of tiffin.

The rain had eased off, and for a brief second a sickly-looking moon gazed down on things earthly. That was what started the trouble.

An Algerian guard was on duty, and, to the initiated, there is no need to say more than that. You might tick a Tommy, or induce a Billjim to look the other way, but the man who beats an Algerian is going some.

But, as I was saying, it was the moon that caused the trouble. When she took that peep from behind her cloud bank she gazed fair on to four shadowy figures, each surmounted by a bag of barley and a felt hat.

Chuckling a little, she dodged behind the clouds again; but it was too late. The mischief had been done, and in a trice the "shadowy figured" found themselves surrounded by about a dozen sons of the Sahara and a like number of business-like bayonets.

The result was a confused babble of voices for ten minutes, and then a procession to the Supply Officer's tent. From where I was standing I could see and hear everything that passed, and everybody seemed to be trying to talk at once. As the "shadowy figures" could not speak a word of Arabic and the Algerians vice versa, the result was laughable. But with the advent of the Supply Officer things took a different turn. He had been wakened from a sound sleep, and was arrayed in the pink pyjamas the girl had sent him, and a desire to be "firm in the matter." He had no knowledge of Arabic, and was placing, the "shadowy figures" under guard pending the arrival of an interpreter in the morning.

That would have been serious for the said "shadowy figures," so I decided to see whether I could help them at all. I had borrowed a cobber's flash civvy raincoat in the morning, and that and the Jacko pony I rode must have made the S.O. think I was an officer. Anyhow, he greeted me very decently; and when I told him I could yabbah Arabic pretty fluently, he was more than delighted at my arrival.

Well, for a good ten minutes I did the interpreter stunt, and then I got him to dismiss the guard.

Then I opened the case for the defence. I pictured to him the love of the Colonial for his horse, the long night rides, and a dozen other pitiful things, and altogether put up such a beautiful tale that even old Judge Jeffreys would have had to declare the accused "not guilty." So the S.O. decided to give the "shadowy figures" a stern lecture, take their names and numbers, and refer the matter to their O.C. next morning. Forth came the notebook and down went the particulars.

Luckily, he was a new man out, or the bluff wouldn't have worked. But it did, and that was all that mattered then. He gave them the lecture, and in it repeated often, "I've been one too many for you fellows this time, what!" Then he let them go, and as they left the tent last one winked at me and in that wink there was a world of mystery.

Five minutes later I was in the saddle again and thinking hard. I was wondering where the "shadowy figures" had left their horses, and whether they would bump further trouble on the way home. Then I remembered a young waddy that runs by the side of the dump and turned the pony's head toward it. Half-way to it, I met them coming back. But where there

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had been four "shadowy figures" there were SIX, and where there should have been four horses, there were ten. And the spare-nage were loaded heavily, too. The chap who gave me the winks, told me the rest of the yarn, and here it is.

Two of them had acted as horse-riders while the other four had carried out the raiding part of the business. Three times they had returned without mishap, and it was on the fourth trip that the moon peeped out and made a mess of things.

It started to rain again then, so we parted, they to their bivvies and I to a sharp trot home.

Two hours after the sun came up, the chap was "one too many" rolled out of bed and prepared his report for the O.C. 19th Light Horse Regiment, 9th Light Horse Brigade.

"ANON.
(In "Australia in Palestine")

Renew that League Sub.

APPRECIATION.

The following letter was recently received from Mr. T. A. Osborne (11th Battalion) of Maylands: "I should like to express my appreciation of the very able and successful manner in which your association helped me bring my case to a successful issue with the Repatriation Board. I am sure that it has not been for your great help I should never have got my just dues, considering my papers went down when the Brunga (D16) was torpedoed and the Repatriation Department would not recognise my claim. It has been a long fight and I want to again thank you for the great part that you have played.

"I should like that inserted in your official organ, 'The Listening Post,' so that other returned soldiers can see that the Returned Soldiers' League is still doing its utmost in the interest of returned soldiers."

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When the "Twenty-eights" were back to their quarters C.O. (now deceased) inaugurated a system of saluting. The orderly officer had to promenade past the billets capturing salutes with an orderly sergeant in his wake taking down offenders' names. The troops got their heads together and arranged a counter-move. As soon as the C.O. showed his nose out of his quarters the news spread, and men poured from all quarters to pass and salute him. He soon resembled an eccentric windmill in action, and saluting was allowed to drop very shortly afterwards.

SUB-BRANCH RETURNS.

The State Secretary and officials are finding that their efforts on behalf of the cause are being severely hampered by many Sub-Branch Secretaries who fail to regularly send in their returns. There are now over 40 Sub-Branches behind in their returns. Is this fair to the members and the organisation? Every day diggers are coming to the League Headquarters for advice and assistance, who when asked the usual question, state that they are financial with their Sub-Branch, but a scrutiny of records in the Executive Office fail to support the statement.

Financial members who do not receive this journal are prone to blame us, when almost without exception it is proved that non-delivery is due to the fact that Secretaries have failed to forward returns to the State office, from which names and addresses are forwarded to us.

The State Executive, together with most Sub-Branches, are busy organising to make the 1926 Anzac Day the most spectacular and impressive held yet. Falling this year on a Sunday, the day will particularly lend itself for solemn and fitting observance. All over the State diggers have signified their intention of marching in procession with medals up to the local services, and every opportunity possible will be used to advise the rising generation of the degradation of war and the valour and heroism of its participants.

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Department of Defence T. TRUMBLE

Melbourne Secretary

SOLDIERS' MENTAL HOME.

The buildings being erected at West Subiaco for the housing of our mentally sick comrades, are now approaching finalisation, and will be ready for occupation by the end of June next. Four separate blocks, subdivided by fences, are being built for the patients, comprising almost everyknown comforts and conveniences. Three blocks will be used for the segregating of patients, whilst the fourth consists of a kitchen and two separate dining rooms.

The League has every reason to be proud of its efforts to give its most unfortunate mates the best opportunity of recovery, or at least, greater contentment; and those responsible for the general design of the home appear to have done their work with foresight and ability.

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the sun, nice books to read, etc., etc., as
the imagination wills. Now, we didn't
expect all these things, but when we got
word, "The regiment is going for a rest
behind the lines," everybody's ears prick-
ed up, and we were all on the qui vive for
the few days following.

Sure enough, we moved out all right,
and camped one moonlight night on a
gently-sloping plateau to the west of the
hills, taking up our abode comfortably
in bell-tents, six of us to a tent. We'd
had a long day, so soon turned in and
slept the sleep of the conscientious. Be-
hold us next morning, at that cold, cheer-
less grey hour which just precedes the
dawn, lying in various picturesque at-
titudes, with the cold wind playing on us,
as yet untouched by the sun's compensat-
ing warmth. A bugle gave out its brassy-
metalled message, and one of those neces-
sary evils known as corporals invited us to
"turn out and fall in." Now, it was the
watching hour of 4 a.m., and we didn't
like "turning out" or "falling in," or any
kindred mysterious movement; but neces-
sity knows no law, so, to the accompani-
ment of many an ungracious "Blast the
war," "What sort of a rest is this?" we
crawled out of bed, dressed, and wandered
our weary way to the stables.

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