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Vol. 5, No. 5

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ANZAC DAY.

Sumburned, eager, and swift in thought,
Keen to avenge a wrong,
Fierce in his onslaught when he fought,
Yet on his lips a song;
Tough as limb of eucalypt,
Clean as a rod of steel,
This was the breed that sailed away
To bring the foe to heel.

Horse or afoot or on duckboard track
Metal or canvas,
Snow or rain or tropical heat—
"All in the game, my boy,
Give me your packs for half-a-mile,
I know just how you feel."
This was the breed that sailed away
To bring the foe to heel.

Loving his land with fervent love,
Dreaming of summer seas,
Vital, chaste and manly,
And gold of wattles trees.
"Dinkum, mate, it's a good old place,
But I'm not the one to squeal."
This was the breed that sailed away
To bring the foe to heel.

Over the top!—Behold him then,
Under a rain of shell,
Pressing on the zone of death,
Dying for a flag and a bell!
Secrets between his God and him,
His lips will never reveal—
This was the breed that sailed away
To bring the foe to heel.

O ye who still can dance and sing,
'Neath skies of radiant blue,
Pause and reflect this sacred day
On those who died for you.
And softly, tread the shrines wherein
The weeping mothers kneel,
In prayer for those who sailed away
And brought the foe to heel.

—Warraroo, in "The Sydney Mail."

The State Secretary has handed to us some/photos of a grave in Toowee Road Cemetery of No. 1007, Corporal William Argyle Campbell, of the 5th A.B.G.R.O.C., who died at the Northampton War Hospital, on November 11th, 1918, together with a letter from Mrs. A. A. Horan whose husband was well known here as an ex-M.L.A., and who died a year or two ago. Mrs. Horan, who wrote to Mr. Benson from Birmingham, England, states:—"Could you kindly get in touch with the deceased soldier's relatives whose photograph of grave I enclose. When my late husband was in England he took great pains to get these photographs, but unfortunately when we both sailed for Australia six years ago they were left behind. I have recently arrived in England and found them intact and thought that the relatives may appreciate them. I intend to stay in England with my wife for a while, but I think the sunshine of Australia will claim me again."

We will be pleased to hear from any relatives of the dead soldier, who will no doubt appreciate Mrs. Horan's kindly action.

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STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.


Deputation to Senator Pearce.—Mr. Zeffert then delivered a verbal report of the deputation which waited on Senator Pearce in connection with Immigration and Employment. The report was received.

Federal Correspondence.—Repatriation Commission: A letter was read and received from the Federal Executive advising the re-appointment of the present members of the Repatriation Commission for a period of three years from the 1st July, 1926.

B.E.S.L. Tribute.—The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a communication received from the B.E.S.L., enclosing a photo of the Centenar, and showing a wreath deposited on behalf of constituent organisations.

Resignation.—Mr. A. Stirling/Isaac tendered his resignation as a Vice-President. Moved by Mr. Philip, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that the resignation be accepted and that Mr. Isaac be thanked for his services to the League in the past.—Carried.

Position of Vice-President.—As Mr. H. S. Humphrey was the next on the exhaustive ballot taken in Congress for this position, it was decided that he be written to and asked if he would accept.

Notice of Motion (Membership).—Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Bateson, that the resolution carried at the Executive meeting held on February 3, 1926, reading as follows be rescinded.—

“That the State Secretary in his report at the first meeting of each quarter include—

(1) Number of new financial members.
(2) Number of renewals of financial members.
(4) Number of unfinancial members.
(5) Number of subscriptions lapsed and also a comparison for the same period of the previous year.”—Carried.

Invocation.—An invitation was received from the Quairading Sub-Branch to a smoke social and dinner to be held on Wednesday, May 19, at 8 p.m.

It was decided that the State Secretary be requested to attend.

Midland Workshops.—Mr. Bateson explained that preference to returned soldiers was not being observed in the Midland Workshops in the allotment of duties, and he stated that a deputation had waited on the Commissioner for Railways but without result.

Moved by Mr. Bateson, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that a deputation of three from the Executive consisting of Messrs. Bateson, Shaw, and the Secretary, visit on the Chief Mechanical Engineer, Mr. Evans, and place the Executive’s views on this case before him. Carried.

New Branch.—Approval was granted for the formation of a new branch at William.

State Secretary’s Report.—The State Secretary then delivered his report for the preceding fortnight, dealing particu-

larly with Anzac Day, which he stated had been commemorated in a most fitting manner.

After discussion, and the reception of further reports by Mr. Wegg for Maylands, Mr. Bateson, for Midland Junction and Mr. Pady, for Fremantle, the report was received and adopted.

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 27th instant was adopted with the exception of that portion of the report dealing with the State Secretary’s expenses.

In this connection Mr. G. D. Shaw moved that the resolution contained in the Executive Minutes of 3/12/26, dealing with travelling expenses, be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

Alien Immigration.—Mr. Zeffert delivered a report of the Committee which was appointed to consider the matter of immigration, and stated that the suggestions made by the Executive had already been adopted by the Commonwealth Government.

Children’s Hospital Cot.—A report was then delivered on behalf of the committee appointed to formulate a scheme for the endowment of a cot at the Children’s Hospital.

Moved by Mr. Zeffert, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that this scheme be approved for submission to Congress and copies sent to all sub-branches for their information and comment.—Carried.

C.P.S.—Attention was then drawn to the fact that the Commonwealth Public Service had been granted a holiday on the Monday after Anzac Day, and as this was contrary to the policy of the League, it was moved by Mr. McAadam, seconded by Mr. Zeffert that the Federal Executive be requested to explain the reason for this holiday in view of the feeling expressed, and the policy of the League.—Carried.

Kelmscott.—The President explained that the President would not attend the Kelmscott function on Saturday next, and Mr. Shaw was elected as delegate in his stead.

15/5/26.

Present: Messrs. Collett, Philip, McAadam, Freedman, Shaw, Logie, Wegg, Bateson, Zeffert, Watt, Pady, Bader, Harvey and Humphrey. Apologies were received from Messrs. McDonald, Yeates and Cohen.

Hospital Matron: The Secretary reported that he had been in touch with the Medical Department, and it was ascertained that although the Matron had been requested to accept a position in the North-West, she had declined, and the matter of her transfer had not been finalised. She would first go on leave, and the Medical Department had promised to advise the Secretary of further eventualities.

Vice-President: Mr. H. S. Humphrey had been approved to accept the vacant position of Vice-President. He intimated by letter that he appreciated the honor and would accept.

The President then took the opportunity of welcoming Mr. Humphrey, who suitably responded.

Invocation: A letter was read and received from the Boy Scouts’ Association requesting the Executive to send a representative to the Massed Boy Scouts’ Service, which has been arranged to take place in the Prince of Wales Theatre on Sunday, May 16, at 3.30 p.m.

Mr. Humphrey and several other delegates signified their intention of being present.

Railway Workshops: The Secretary reported that Mr. J. Kane, President of the Railway Workshops Sub-Branch, had waited upon him during the day and lodged a complaint in connection with certain phases of employment of returned soldiers at the workshops. The complaint concerned a man named Clarke, who had been superseded by a man named Eagles, a non-soldier.

A deputation from the workshops was present at the meeting, and members thereof were given an opportunity of presenting a case to delegates.
Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Bader that a deputation from the Executive wait upon the Chief Mechanical Engineer to protest against the stated promotion of a non-soldier over qualified soldiers.—Carried.

Messrs. Bateman, Wedd and Shaw were appointed a deputation.

Case of Stone: The deputation appointed by the Executive to interview the Chief Mechanical Engineer in connection with the Stone case and night-watchmen at the Railway Workshops, then delivered its report. Satisfaction had been obtained by the deputation, and the Chief Mechanical Engineer stated that he was in thorough accord with the views held by the League. The report was received.

In connection with the night-watchman, it was decided that the Chief Mechanical Engineer's reply be sent to the Darling Range Sub-Branch.

F. W. Wood: The Secretary read a communication from Mr. Harry May, of Collie, dealing with the case of Wood, and requesting that the Federal President be asked to co-operate with Mr. Prowse, M.H.R., on the matter and to Melbourne in representations to Sir Neville Howse. The Secretary explained that he had wired the Federal Executive in this connection. His action was endorsed.

Letters of Appreciation: Letters of appreciation were received from—

(a) Perth Sub-Branch in connection with the League activities.
(b) Mr. William Owen, in connection with the successful action of the League in securing a pension for F. Damon.
(c) Mr. L. A. Rodoreda, thanking the Executive for obtaining a pension for him.

Anzac Day: Letters were received from—

(a) Subiaco Sub-Branch protesting against the action of the Executive in making all arrangements to commemorate Anzac Day in the City without referring to Sub-Branches.
(b) Mt. Lawley Sub-Branch congratulating the Executive for the arrangements for the day.
(c) Railway Workshops Sub-Branch congratulating the Executive and suggesting that the Executive keep a record of the number of deaths of returned soldiers during the year and have the same announced at each Anzac Day Service, and also print the names of the deceased soldiers on the service sheet.
(d) Federal Executive showing Anzac messages received from overseas.

In connection with the suggestion of the Railway Workshops Sub-Branch, it was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Wedd, that the sub-branch be advised to include the matter in the Agenda Paper for the next Annual Congress.—Carried.

Employment Grant: A letter was received from the General President stating that after further representations, the Commonwealth Government had decided to continue the employment grant till the end of December, 1926.

Moved by Mr. Zeffert, seconded by Mr. Bader that a further protest be made and the Commonwealth Government be asked to continue the Employment Grant so long as the New Settlers League Grant is continued.—Carried.

New Siding: Advice was received from the Lands Department that the Minister for Lands has approved of the name of the new siding between Kalkalling and Mukenubudin being "Pope's Hill," in accordance with the wishes of the Returned Soldiers in that district.

Reports (State Secretary): The State Secretary read a report covering operations of the Executive for the period since the last meeting, and dealing with his visits to Narrogin, Kulin, Wagin, Corrigin, and Panjapra. The report was received.

(Soldier Settlement): The Soldier Settlement Committee delivered a report in connection with the Commonwealth Grant of £7,600. As sufficient time was not allowed for the proper consideration of the report, it was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Zeffert, that the matter be deferred and a special meeting of the Executive be called for Thursday, 20th inst., to consider this matter, and that all members be notified.—Carried.

BRITISH DISABILITY PENSIONERS.

Time Limits:

Advice has been received from the Repatriation Commission that claims by ex-Imperial officers, nurses, non-commissioned officers and men to any pension, gratuity or allowance in respect of disablement incurred in the Great War (including claims by pensioners for additional disabilities) can only be considered if made within seven years after the date of discharge, or within seven years after the termination of the war (August 31, 1920), whichever date is the earlier.

Applications for any class of Great War pension, and other relevant communications should be addressed to the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation for the State in which the applicant resides.

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Proprietor: Chas. Sebo (Late 11th Batt., A.I.F.)
THE GO-GETER'S OF THE WEST.
(By "Nedele.")

After a visit to Collie during the weekend, in which we commemorated the landing of Anzac, I feel I cannot let the event pass without voicing my impressions of the Sub-Branch of the League in that town. The co-operation, the concentrated efforts of the diggers at Coalgall is a revelation. They have one object, one ideal, and they work to attain that end. "No man can reasonably expect more than a fair deal." That is their ideal. "A fair dinkum go."

At Brunswick Junction, whilst waiting for the connection to convey me to Collie, I witnessed a meeting of two Digger pals. No. 1 asked—

"Where yer been, Joe?"

"Down at Collie," came the reply in accents suggestive of disgust.

"How'd yer get on?" was the next query.

The crows offered me a job! shouted Joe.

The significance of this encounter was not borne upon my mind, until after I had made the acquaintance of the Go-getters of Collie. Undoubtedly Joe would have refrained from bumming his way to Collie, where he anticipated his eloquence would be worth a few bob if he had known that Collie's strength is nearing 200, and each member of the Branch enjoying regular employment. Collie's activities in "lending a hand" is not confined to members of the League. A genuine case of distress will not appeal to them in vain. Why, not long ago a x-yellow was organised by them for the benefit of a widow of their town, whose late husband was not a digger. This is only one of many cases taken up by the returned men of Collie.

Now for Anzac Day—the usual weekly calvalry was forgotten, and decorum took the place of insobriety. Aplenty testimony of this was made manifest at the service held in the Soldiers' Park on Anzac Day. The remembrance of the "Dead March" by the Amalgamated Coalmen Band, and the impassioned appeal made by the Rev. Arthur Mason to make the best use of the liberty given to us by the sacrifice of our boys, brought every one present nearer to a fallen comrade or loved one.

Approximately forty diggers came into Collie from the West Arthur districts to pay homage to their fallen comrades. Here again the Collie boys rose to the occasion. All those who were billeted at the homes of the members of the Branch. After the service an adjournment was made to the Soldiers' Hall, where an excellent repast—thoughtfully provided by the Ladies' Auxiliary—was partaken of. For the best part of the victuals, the Newdegate Cup was on show, which I understand they are holding for the second successive year. I noticed one pocket edition of the trophy, and on asking the why and wherefore, I was informed that a "little feller" goes each year with the big 'un. I naturally asked "Where's the other little feller?" I was then enlightened further. The delegates will bring "little fellers" numbers two and three, ditto big 'un, when they return from Congress.

The Collie boys are a force to be reckoned with. It is no odontology when one says their forcefulness has been felt in other States than W.A. They back up their own contention with a thoroughness that leaves no doubt in the mind of the fellow, that they have right on their side. They are resourceful, hospitable, and they have initiative.

They are the "Go-getters of the West."

Storing of Wheat.—The following resolution was carried at the Soldier Settlers' Conference in February last:—"That in the opinion of Conference, the Board's policy of preventing I.A.B. clients from warehousing wheat is against the best interests of the settlers concerned, and further, the settlers should be allowed the option of either immediate marketing of their produce or their warehousing for future sale."

Mr. Hewston was interviewed in connection with this matter, and he stated definitely that it was against the Board's policy for clients to store their wheat. It appears that last season 180,000 bags were stored and when sold realised a much lower price than if disposed of immediately. In view of this the Board refuses to allow settlers to store their wheat for a long period. They do not object to a matter of a fortnight or so.

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Omega 2¾ S.V. 3½ h.p. engine, £65-10, with 3in. tyres
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G. H. Iles, late 6th F.A.B., A.I.F.
PERSONALITIES.

On Saturday morning, 24th April, the digger patients at the Perth Hospital took advantage of the fact that Dr. T. L. Anderson was leaving for a holiday, to indicate to him the high regard in which he is held by his digger pals, and to present him with a handsome walking stick, which was made by Mr. T. A. Osborne, from local woods, and a travelling rug. Mr. W. H. Malone, in making the presentation, spoke about the goodness of the Doctor to his patients, many of whom had been in his care for over six years, and was ably supported by Messrs. F. C. Cartwheat and W. A. Golland. The Doctor feelingly thanked the boys for their kindly thought.

Cliff Saddler, V.C., is one of the young "diggers" who should be assisting to govern this country. Cliff's speech at the Perth dinner was equal to any given there, being "meaty" and delivered in an easy fluent manner.

Colonel Collett has a keen sense of humour, which was perhaps one of the main reasons underlying his undoubted success as a war leader of the Australian type. The Colonel's anecdotes told in his dry manner are always worth listening to. He excelled himself in this regard at the Perth Anzac dinner.

Vice-President Catternole, of the Perth Branch, is an interesting and intellectual chap. "I arrived in this country three years ago as a raw 'Pommy'," he told the gathering at the Perth Anzac dinner, "and I was immediately received with open arms and welcomed as a brother, until now I am with great pride spoken to as 'Digger'."

Dear old Tom Lennon, the President of the Perth Branch, looks far from well these days. Although Tom got badly knocked about at the "box-on," forcing him to spend most of his time in hospital, his thoughts and acts are always for the other fellow who is ill, or down on his luck. The League will continue to be rich whilst it contains men of the calibre of Tom Lennon.

Beverley Sub-Branch has lost one of its members in Mr. Joe Newby, who has accepted a good position with a leading Perth firm. Joe is a prominent Boy Scout, and was for years a metropolitan commissioner of that splendid organisation.

Congratulations to Sir William Latham on becoming a member of the Legislative Council (ex Joseph Duffield—reduced to the ranks). That the State War Memorial appeal was not more successful was not the fault of Sir William, who has worked hard and long to commemorate the State's fallen heroes. The ex-soldier will have a good advocate in Sir William Latham.

"Great was the crash." These were the words used by Doug Elliott, Secretary of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch, when he recently fell from the top of a ladder in the Soldiers' Institute. Unfortunately, Doug had the bad luck to break his left wrist in two places, and he is now nursing that part of his person in a modest way. For two months he will belong to the "wingies" but he still carries on a one-handed way the affairs of the League. Sympathy, Doug, old boy, and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ernie Laycock, one of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch live wires, has gone to the North Country on X-Ray business for some months. He now enjoys four months holiday from Executive hum drum.

Congratulations to Doc. Stacy on again being elected President of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch. The Doc. has always been a keen advocate for the digger, and in his position of President, he is the right man in the right place.

Mr. Jack Williams returned to the goldfields recently after a long spell in the Government Hospital, Perth, where he was undergoing repairs as a result of the scrap with Fritz. He took his seat on the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch Executive on his return and was given a warm welcome back. May you continue in good health, Johnny.

Harry Hocking, who received the enemy's trade mark early in the war whilst a member of the Artillery, has recently had to undergo an operation for the removal of his injured eye. Satisfactory reports are now received regarding his progress along the road to recovery.

Tom Riley, Padre of war-time fame, recently attended a "Toc H." conference in Melbourne. With him was R. Calder-Crowther, also an ex-Light Horse officer, and both played a conspicuous part in the conference referred to. In fact, W.A. was complimented by the Eastern States delegates for its service.

Given one enthusiastic, energetic and capable public-spirited digger in a district, and it is a cert. that in that centre will be found a live Branch of the League. Most diggers will join up and work, provided they are given a lead. At Bridgetown, the Branch is stronger now than at any period of its existence, and it is steadily growing in numbers and usefulness. The propelling force here is Secretary Tommy Wyer.

Lt.-Col. R. F. Fitzgerald has joined the staff of the Imperial Printing Co., Ltd., and incidently of this journal. With Fitz pushing sales it is anticipated that this purely digger company will soon have to be ordering new machinery to cope with the volume of business.

"The Girl with the Flags," Miss Ethel Campbell, has suffered a sad bereavement in the death of her splendid father. Doctor Campbell's home, time and money were always at the disposal of diggers passing through Durban. It will be remembered that the doctor accompanied his talented daughter in her triumphant tour of Australia a few years ago, and further endeared himself to us. All diggers will sympathise with Miss Ethel in her great loss. She appeared to be passionately attached to her father.

Mrs. "Morrie" Zeffert, the wife of our worthy State Executive, is, we regret to learn, an inmate of St. Omer's Hospital, where she was operated on for appendicitis.
Subiaco Sub-Branch and diggers in general lost a true friend and comrade when Harry Giles, the licensee of the Victoria Hotel, Subiaco, passed “over the border” during the month. Harry could always be successfully called on to assist unfortunate diggers, and widows and orphans in distress. He served at the war with the A.A.M.C.

League Trustee A. N. McDonald is having another spell of enforced idleness, as the result of his activities during the years 1914-18. If good wishes could make a man well, Mac, would soon be his pre-war robust self again.

Mr. A. Sterling Isaac recently resigned his position as vice-president of the State branch, after a number of years of good service. We understand that his increasing business activities precluded him from giving the time to the position that he felt was necessary.

After many months of patient suffering, poor old Wally Bennett passed away at the Perth Hospital on Anzac Eve and the world is the poorer for his loss.

Wally, who just prior to his death was State Secretary of the Boy Scouts Association was rich in character and prolific in doing good deeds. Although only 32 years when the grim reaper claimed him, he had accomplished more than many who live the allotted span. Our sympathy is for his mother and relatives.

Executive delegates were pleased to welcome Mr. H. S. Humphreys back into their ranks. At the last meeting, Mr. Humphreys finding that he could now spare the time, accepted the vacancy of vice-president, caused through the resignation of Mr. Isaac. Members remember with gratitude his work on their behalf when he held the presidential reins.

MT. BARKER RE-UNION SKITS.

One of the most pleased at the Re-union on the 28th, was the Secretary of the Sub-Branch.

Old faces and young faces were all smiles that night. Everyone was asking where did they all come from.

Old veterans were well represented by Bill Cooper (of Chevrolet fame), Jack Ames, who keeps the W.A.G.R. loco. in water supply, and Scotty Rutherford, who has been at Muir’s Forest Hill for many years.

Henri Ortis, from New California in the Pacific, was like a bee in a bottle, and when one of the speakers praised our French allies up, Henri’s eyes were as big as a 3-inch “Dunn.”

Jerry Wall was in his glory with “Ainslie” close to him.

“Blucher” and his old pal George were two very proud comrades. “Blucher” came in about 30 miles to attend, despite the awful wet night.

“Dinky Di” was a beam of smiles when Alick Martin told the crowd that “Dink” was one of the men that took Jerusalem—attached to the famous 29th Division.

Bill Armstrong, from Cranbrook (17st. of the best) came 40 miles to be present, and put up a stirring response to “Sister Sub-Branches,” inviting all to wear the badge as it only cost 2d. a week, or as he put it, a postage stamp a week will fix the 10s. for one year’s sub.

“Morgy,” the school teacher, kept all busy with his anecdotes, while Alick O’Neill did likewise with “antidotes.”

All hands did not forget the “Hotel Nurses,” who waited on the tables and kept the plates full of the best that could be put on a “menu.” Good girls are worth remembering, and when the empty “butter dish” was passed round, what was the result—seventy “John Dillons” for the girls. Comradeship always exists where ex-soldier is concerned.

Paddy, engaged to clean the office, was standing idle when the governor appeared and asked him why he was not getting on with his work. “Well,” said Pat, “I have got no soap. ” “Oh!” was the governor’s reply, “you have got a tongue, have you not?” “Ah!” said Pat, “but you don’t take me for a cat, do you?”
J. M. DREW, M.L.C., HITS OUT WILDLY AND BLINDLY
in his attempt to injure the League

Reviewing the recent controversy between the State Executive of the League and the Minister for Education, we find that strong-minded, great-hearted, true-faith men were called to defend a rightful, unchristian injustice that has been done to the League by the Press. The "West Australian" newspaper in this instance has acted most unfairly by the R.S.L. Usually that periodical may be counted on to be well-informed, judicious, and generous in the cause of the soldier. In this matter of Anzac Day addresses to children, however, the "West Australian" permitted Mr. Drew to level libellous accusations against the League and did not sufficiently give its grace to refute the false stigma so cast.

The history proceeds along lines in which the League was involved in a press controversy with the Minister for Education on the right and desirability of addresses being given to children relative to Anzac. The "West Australian" wasfair enough to the League in this matter until Mr. Drew made slanderous references to the matter of the Soldiers’ Mental Home. It was when the League attempted to vindicate itself and to show the true perspective of the case, that it was found that the newspaper in question would not permit space for reply, moreover, other correspondents were silenced, and from private sources, which likewise was not published.

The League’s quarrel is not with the press, for in spite of this unkindness, much good has been and is being done through its agency, it is the ignominy of one of our present Ministry which "calls" for the just indignation, not only of every member of the League, but of every loyal citizen of the Empire. The action of the soldiers in desiring to correct with visiting celebrities to discuss means for the adjustment of disabilities, the existence of which does not check the beat of hearts of the mind of most of the League’s critics, had not the slightest bearing on the Anzac addresses; yet Mr. Drew, seemingly introduced it. The nature of that discussion did not concern the Minister, nor is it anything but a sample of soldier utterances, they should preclude soldiers from addressing their own children.

So wildly would this anti-soldier blind the public with misrepresentation on League performances that he would accuse the League of failing in their duty to their mentally sick comrades. In this matter there was no stone left unturned by the League. Early in 1923 the soldiers of W.A. pushed the matter forward, and a resolution at the Congress of that year urged the Commonwealth and State Governments to take steps. The Federal authorities had long before agreed to do exactly as they had the whole way through. The Mitchell Government consented to the proposition, but was succeeded by the Collier Ministry before the agreement was ready for signature. Mr. Drew had succeeded Mr. Sampson as the controlling Minister, and Mr. Drew, knowing little of the spirit of Repatriation, had difficulty in perceiving the subject in the correct perspective, and much unnecessary delay resulted.

Mr. Drew stated that it was not on record that the League Executive concerned themselves while the negotiations were in progress in protecting the unfortunate soldiers who were to be excluded from the institution.

Mr. Drew has a conveniently short memory. The members of public who interested themselves in this matter have it on record that if it were not for the League there would be no new mental home for soldiers being built to-day, and nothing would have been done to prevent our mentally sick comrades from slipping deeper into the fastness of inscrutability. It was the result of the publicity given by the League, and this journal in 1923 and 1924, which caused certain public-spirited citizens and other sections of the press to awaken to the urgency of this need.

Those of us who have carefully followed the doing of this anti-soldier Minister have it on record that he is perhaps more concerned with the "temperamental" than with this "mental" problem. We have in mind his action in appointing to the heads of the local authorities, and contrary to the usual custom, a non-soldier to the position of caretaker of the Kalgoorlie State School over a dozen, soldier applicants, because he (the non-soldier) possessed the correct "temperamental qualifications" for the position.

Still again, we find this fountain head of gratitude to the men who made his job safe for him, reproaching their sacrifices for daring to infer that it is necessary to remind the public of the heroic deeds of men who were not only strong enough to lay down their lives that he and others might live. The public was given a chance of showing how it valued the services of the fallen soldiers and from the whole State little over £3,000 was collected to commiserate the sacrifices of the dead. How well they remember! Then Phil Collier, himself, Mr. Drew’s chief, said "not one penny will I give," and his Ministers backed him well and truly when put to test by the War Memorials Committee.

Mr. Drew obviously had a weak case when it became necessary for him to "hit the air wildly" with all sorts of irrelevant matter in his blind effort to injure the League. Mr. M. E. Zeffert, who took up the cudgels, owing to the State Secretary being absent in the country, can congratulate himself on so successfully parrying the Minister’s sword thrusts as to leave Mr. Drew practically unaroused.

The League is not concerned with politics, but it is concerned about a politician who gratuitously offered an insult to the diggers of this State by placing the schools "out of bounds" to them on Anzac Day, and who offered an insult to the intelligence of the public with his stated reasons for so doing. Perhaps the Minister of Edicts will learn this same day when it becomes necessary for him to give an account of his deeds to his masters.

"God give us men. The time demands Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and willing hands; Men whom the lust of office does not kill; Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy.

Men who possess opinions and a will; Men who have honor; men who will not lie;

Men who can stand before a demagogue And dam his treacherous flattery without winking.

Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog.

In public duty and in private thinking."

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VARIA.

Rex.—It appears funny to me that any and every time the Executive members show collective or individual enterprise, they are the centres of criticism. On the other hand, if they do not let the world know what they are doing and what they are doing, they get sat on for indolence!

5301.—Talk of the time arriving for the closing down of R.S.L. activities has reached me! There are actually men so short sighted as to deny that the League has scope for ought but social activities. I should like to think of the hundreds of returned men developing T.B. at this stage of the game and I dare not glance into the future! Each day there are new cases of this dread disease reported among our returned men, and the story of their battle to establish the origin of the disability, is ever more difficult as the war becomes more remote. Don't cast this aside as a matter not affecting you! It may easily be your turn to-morrow and who amongst us has not tasted too? Keep the League strong to help your cause.

The Beverley Road Board is evidently waking up, as at its last meeting the Chairman made the suggestion that the Board should entertain the members of the R.S.L. at a social at some suitable date in the future. Apparently they are a little jealous of the lead given them by a private citizen in honouring the returned men.

Sapper.—I suggest that the State Secretary should have an occasional talk per medium of wireless broadcast, to non-members of the R.S.L. If, about every three months or so, he were to give a summary of the achievements, and various activities of the League, it should be a powerful means of propaganda, and should be productive of an increase in the membership of the League. By this means he would no doubt reach many returned men, who otherwise would hear nothing of the League's doings.

At the request of the soldier settlers of the Muckenbudin and Kalkalling districts, through the State Executive, the Government have agreed to call a new siding there “Popes Hill,” as a compliment to the popular Colonels of the old 16th Battalion. We commend the idea and would like to learn that the names of all our worthy war leaders would be similarly honoured, which reminds us that the station now bearing the name “Swanbourne” is due for another change of nomenclature. Owing to it being built in a deep cutting, it could very appropriately be called “Dugout,” after a famous A.I.F. Colonel. (Two guesses only allowed).

Spot.—It was said recently that a certain leading dignitary should not have been waited on by league members because he was out to “smash the British Empire.” If that is his objective, then he should have been waited upon with a brick in a stocking; but is it? Personally, I do not think so, and I am backed up in my belief by the many, who held the confidence of the prelate. A man should not be judged by garbled and often inaccurate press reports. 4 have in mind, however, a certain weekly paper of this State of which half of its letterpress is used in inciting the public to smash the Commonwealth—and this paper prides itself on its patriotism.

Cameo.—I am proud to know that the Anzac celebrations throughout the State were a great success, and an improvement on anything held previously; but it would be interesting to learn how many people went to the services as a mark of respect to the dead, and how many went out of curiosity to see the show? These are pertinent and perhaps unpopular questions, but the failure of the people to pay their respect to the dead by making a slight sacrifice, in subscribing to the State War Memorial, forces us to the belief that the bulk of the people attend just because a crowd begets a crowd.

Reggd.—I notice that the State President disavowed any Executive authority in connection with the recent League delegation wearing the visiting R.C. Prelates. Much good has already resulted from these fees, as much publicity has been given to the mention and there; one Perth daily wrote a splendid leading article drawing attention to the necessity of an extension of the powers of the Repatriation Commission as a result. It is high time the people be educated to the urgent necessity of a change, then the battle is nearly won, as our politicians must reflect in their legislation the will of the people. In my humble opinion the members of the delegation are to be congratulated on their foresight and broad-minded advocacy of at least one pressing problem. It was not mentioned in the press that the delegation was from the League-Executive, so why the need, and at such a late hour, of the disclaimer? The delegation was certainly thoroughly representative of the League, consisting as it did of the State Secretary, the President of the Perth Sub-Branch, a prominent V.C. three Executive members, and the League Auditor.

Joseph Duffell, ex-M.L.C., and ex-President of the S.P.C.A., signed his political death warrant recently antagonising the diggers and their pals, whose name is legion. Perhaps he greatly underestimated the power of the League; but he must surely know now that he backed the wrong horse.

Many candidates for parliamentary honours in the recent elections had as a plank of their platform the magic words, “Preference to returned soldiers,” and what humbugs most of them were! How many of them practised their preachings by placing their printing orders with returned soldier printers? It is time all the aspiring hypocrites were exposed.

STEWART DAWSON’S
Cor. HAY & BARRACK STREETS,
PERTH.

THE LISTENING POST
21st May, 1926.
The splendid success of the dinner given at the Soldiers' Institute on Friday, 23rd April, by the Perth Sub-Branch "to our friends," reflects great credit on President Tom Lennon, Secretary George Mellor, "Fat" McCarthy, and others who so ably assisted. It was a cosmopolitan—yet distinguished—gathering, comprising men of all shades of political—and other beliefs, and of many stations in life, from the Premier right up to the glorioss digger (with apologies to the Rabbi). Mr. "Speaker." Walger made a fine impassioned oration, which moved the gathering, when proposing the toast of "Fallen Comrades." The Premier, who proposed the toast of "The Day We Celebrate," spoke well, but did not depart from the beaten track. Cliff. Sadler, V.C., supported the Premier in a telling manner. Other speakers included Colonel Collett, Mayor Franklin, Commander Griffiths-Bowen, "Fag" McCarthy, V.C., Mr. Kitson, P.M., Branch Vice-President, Cattermore, Father Hayes and Mr. Abbott. An excellent musical programme was enjoyed. Good company, tasty "eats," many drinks, splendid speeches and pleasant music altogether made the evening thoroughly enjoyable—one long to be remembered. We hope that it is the intention of the senior Sub-Branch to make the function an annual one.

MOUNT BARKER.

Soldiers' Re-Union.

So successful was the first re-union of soldiers of the Mount Barker district, which was held on the Wednesday following Anzac Day, that we are hopeful that it will be repeated at least annually.

The function was conducted by the sub-branch at Mount Barker and reflects much credit on its members, not only for the happy and efficient conduct of the social, but also for the efforts which resulted in such a warmhearted attendance of non-member ex-soldiers. There appears to have been present members of all the W.A. units, as well as ex-Imperial army and navy representatives.

Following the progress of this desirable festive gathering, our report shows that the Park Hotel was the scene of the revel and that the proprietress, Mrs. Reddin, whose name is not unfamiliar to this office, was hostess in the ace of the word's meaning. We learn further that every necessary toast was honored heartily and that the responses were fitting and able. The absence of the Narrikup diggers is to be regretted and in explaining that they were unable to attend on account of their operations "submarining for myths," the Secretary made happy reference to Stumpy Bill Hards, who was unable to attend on that account.

So congenial the spirit and so obvious was the utility of the sub-branch, that before long every one of the dozen badges that Percy Gillam, the branch Secretary, had on hand, were adorning new members' coats, whilst it is a pleasant reflection that there are plenty more in Perth, and that Percy's receipt book was still further requisitioned.

From the toast "the Secretary" and that of "the President" it is easy to see that the sub-branch is in capable hands. The Secretary is uniting in his efforts to help his fellow digger over the stile to-day as he was "over there" in the unenviable task of stretcher-bearing.

Items of the musical order interspersed the doings of the evening. The old familiar war choruses were rousingly voiced to the accompaniment of Mr. Watson (44th). Among the vocal artists were Jack Ames (Hussars), Geo. Smith (28th), B. Hickling (31st), Alice Cunningham (Highlanders), H. V. Jenkins (A.R.O.D), in a special request from the Imperial men "The Man from the Snowy River," by Ted Barrett (the navy). The accompanists were by Tom Harbull (44th) and John Pickles (16th). The proceedings terminated at 11 p.m. by all joining in the National Anthem and "Auld Lang Syne."
The Anzac Day memorial celebrations in Beverley were held on somewhat similar lines to last year. The proceedings opened with a parade of the school children and Boy Scouts at the local Soldiers’ Memorial, at 2.30 p.m. The returned men of the district, to the number of some 68 or 70 men, also paraded in support of the children.

The gathering was addressed by Mr. Frank McDonald, J.P., on behalf of the Road Board, and by Mr. E. P. Wansborough, M.L.A., and the meaning of the “Day” was explained to the children, and their duty to the country was stressed by the speakers.

Quite a number of the general public gathered at the monument, which was tastefully decorated by some of the young ladies of the town, and laid wreaths thereon in memory of loved ones who laid down their lives for King and country. At 3 p.m. all marched in procession to the Mechanics’ Hall, where a memorial service was conducted by the representatives of the local Protestant churches. The returned men were accommodated with positions on the stage, while the body of the hall itself was literally packed with the general congregation, and a further 100 to 200, who could not secure even standing room in the hall, stood out on the side verandah and in the porch and entrance.

Altogether it was the largest crowd which had gathered in the hall for many years, and showed the need of a larger and more up-to-date hall in Beverley. At the conclusion of the service, the Secretary distributed a bag of sweets, with an apple and bun to each child present, which had been provided at the expense of the Road Board.

Previously, to be precise, at 1 o’clock, Mr. E. G. Barrett-Lennard entertained between 50 and 60 returned men at dinner at the Freemason’s Hotel. A very pleasant gathering took place, and a sumptuous dinner (which compared more than favourably with some of those provided by the “babbling brooks” of the A.I.F.) was provided by Mrs. McManus, and was done full justice to by all hands.

There was only a moderate attendance of members at the May meeting of the Beverley Sub-Branch. The meeting declared itself as strongly in favour of the scheme for the endowment of a cot in the Children’s Hospital, as outlined by the Executive, provided a majority of the Sub-Branches support the endowment proposal. An account for the burial of a deceased returned soldier was presented to the Sub-Branch, but consideration of same was deferred pending the result of enquiries into the circumstances of the widow. The matter of trying to get a returned soldier to open up a high-class hair-dressing saloon in Beverley was discussed, and it was felt by a majority of those present that there is a good opening here for such, provided the workmanship is thoroughly efficient and up-to-date. It was decided to write to the State Secretary asking him for help by making our ideas known to competent hairdressers.

It was also decided to ask the Executive to try and arrange with the Broadcasting Company to have the addresses of the Chaplain-General (Archbishop Riley)-and other speakers at the Anzac Day Memorial Services broadcasted in the future.

Letters of thanks were ordered to be sent to several of those who helped to make the Anzac Day Memorial Service in Beverley the huge success which it was, and also to Mr. E. G. Barrett-Lennard who kindly entertained between 50 and 60 returned men to dinner on Anzac Day.

**CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE SUB-BRANCH.**

Both the President and Hon. Secretary of this Branch are laid up. The President, in hospital at Fremantle, and the Secretary is at home suffering from a painful accident to his leg. The absence of these two good workers was felt very much during the organizing of Anzac Day celebrations. We wish them both a speedy recovery and return to duty. Meanwhile, the Branch is carrying on, and the next meeting the itinerary for the year will be discussed in conjunction with the Ladies’ Auxiliary, when it is hoped to organise a series of entertainments, as a recoup for last year’s losses.

**KALGOORLIE SUB-BRANCH.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch of the R.S.A. was held at the Soldiers’ Institute, Dugan Street, last month, Dr. Stacey presiding over a large attendance. The Secretary, Mr. D. R. Elliott, submitted his report for the twelve months ending 31/3/26, and the following interesting items are extracted from it—The membership strength was 206 as against 211 last year, and Secretary
had great hopes of inducing a number of unfinancial members to rejoin. The Branch had been successful in obtaining employment for returned men on 72 occasions. Poppy Day, 1925, had been very successful, a profit of £34 10s. 6d. resulting. Fifteen new Endowment Members had been enrolled during the last twelve months. The amount of £127 18s., was distributed among distress cases on the goldfields. A profit of £179 8s. was made on the Perth Cup Sweep, this amount being transferred to the Distress Patriotic and Institute Fund. Several cases of pensions were dealt with, an increase being obtained on four occasions, and a pension of £1 per week was gained for the father of a deceased soldier. Among the numerous visitors to the Institute during the last 12 months were Senators Pearce and Lynch, Col. Collett, Capt. Dyett, and the members of the R.S.L. Federal Congress. The average attendance at the general meetings for the year was 24, as against 25 in 1924.

Progress has been the keynote of the activities of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch during the past month, and the Branch is making a speed recovery from a state of depression which temporarily hovered over its head during the early part of the year. This depression was caused by the unfortunate position the Branch was placed in owing to the fact that the major portion of the controlling Executive were forced to resign on account of leaving the district, and in consequence the work and progress of the Branch was in a state of temporary abeyance. The annual meeting took place last month, and considerable enthusiasm was manifested in the election of office-bearers. The meeting was splendidly attended. For the position of President there were two nominations, viz., Dr. V. O. Stacy, and Mr. T. C. Fairley. When the votes were counted, it was found that the “Doc” had received the endorsement of the majority, and he was duly elected for the third year in succession. Other positions were filled as follows:—Senior Vice-President, Mr. H. A. Kingsbury (re-elected); Vice-President, Mr. T. C. Fairley (re-elected); Treasurer, Mr. M. Anderson; Secretary, Mr. D. Elliott; Executive: Messrs. F. H. Burrows, Tradman, Anderson, Vallender, Finch, Shepherd, Laycock, Col. Edwards, Manners, Frankish, J. T. Williams, Blundell, Taylor, Cook and Mort.

The President, in his annual report, thanked all members for their hearty cooperation during the previous 12 months. Many new members had been enrolled, but owing to the waning population on the Goldfields, the departures from the Branch had exceeded the arrivals, nevertheless the enthusiasm evinced by the returned soldiers in the affairs of the Branch proved that the League was still a solid body and the average digger recognised it was incumbent upon him to belong to the organisation. The finances were in a healthy state, but owing to the avenues of raising funds in the town being somewhat limited, strict economy would have to be exercised in the disbursement of funds. During the year many cases of distress had been dealt with by the Executive, and work had been found for many men who had been on the unemployed list. The control of the Soldiers’ Institute was still in abeyance, but it was anticipated the negotiations with the Red Cross would prove successful, and that in the near future the League would assume control under terms which would be acceptable to the Branch. Preference matters in connexion with returned soldiers had been fought and it was pleasing to report that in every case the Branch had been instrumental in obtaining prior rights for the returned soldiers. This was more pronounced in the Commonwealth Railways, where there had been an inclination to overlook the pledge of the Bruce Government.

Subsequent to the meeting, the members adjourned to the main hall and participated in a social evening. The toasts of the newly elected officers were proposed and responded to.

Splendid was the general opinion of members after the Anzac Dinner held on Saturday, the 24th April. Never before had there been such an assembly in the Institute for a similar function. For weeks a strong Ladies’ Committee, with Mrs. Elliott, the wife of the Secretary, as their O.C., worked hard to ensure the success of the evening, and they have every reason to feel proud of their labours, and judging by the complimentary remarks passed the good ladies must indeed feel rewarded for their untiring efforts on behalf of the digger. When Doc. Stacy took the chair he was faced with 163 cheery Aussies. Amongst the guests were the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, the Bishop of Kalgoorlie (Dr. Elsey), Mr. Schroder
Wellstead.

J. Leslie, and Rev. Sullivan. The usual toasts were honoured, and a high tribute was paid to the work of the A.I.F. by Mr. Ben Leslie, who proposed in an eloquent speech, “The Day We Celebrate.” The Mayor of Kalgoorlie was entrusted with the toast of the R.S.L., and eulogised the work of the League. His remarks being supported by Mr. E. J. Wellstead.

A splendid musical programme was arranged for the day’s proceedings. The following gentlemen were among the speakers: Messrs. Fuller, Sumners, Paddick, Sharpe, Frankish, Chapman and Sholl.

Anzac Day.

The 25th April saw all returned men muster in full force at the Memorial in front of the Railway Station, where the Anzac Memorial service was held. Thousands turned up to pay homage to the “Glorious Dead,” and the speeches were brimful of sincerity and patriotism. “Doc” Stacy represented the League, and added his quota to the day’s proceedings. Subsequent to the Memorial Service the Branch entertained 1400 young Aussies in the Town Hall. Speeches were delivered by Dr. Stacy and Messrs. Fairley and Kingsbury on the ideals of Anzac Day (not the horrors of war), after which every child was handed a bag of “good things.” The ceremony was an undoubted success, and was much appreciated by parents and children alike.

Anzac Ball.

The Anzac Ball took place on Friday, the 30th April, in the Town Hall. And a great night it was. About 100 couples graced the floor, which presented quite an animated appearance. The decorations were in the hands of Messrs. Ernie Laycock and M. Anderson, and were much admired.

The Ladies’ Committee, with Mrs. Fairley at their head, worked hard to ensure the success of the supper arrangements, and much credit is due to the ladies for the success of the evening.

Financially the League will benefit to the extent of about £50.

WEST PERTH SUB-BRANCH.

“Some people achieve greatness, others have greatness thrust upon them.” In the March number a reference was made to our Publicity Officer being censured by the President, Mr. Thrush. Since then there has been a profound silence as to the doings of our Branch in the press. At the Committee meeting held recently, Mr. Robert Tyler was appointed to the onerous duties of Publicity Officer, which accounts for the quotation (or portion of it) at the head of this article.

Since our last report the Branch lost the services of their Secretary, Mr. Morrell, who has left the West, and is now residing in Victoria. Fortunately for all concerned, Mr. McMinn, of the Lands Department, has stepped into the breach, and the Branch is indeed fortunate in securing such a capable man. Mr. Morrell’s departure was the occasion of a social evening, which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. He was the recipient of a framed Certificate of Merit of the League, also a cheque; and the speeches made eulogising his past work, were of the highest order. He will be of great assistance to the Branch over East, and has several weighty matters in hand. We are hopeful of recording his efforts in the next issue.

Mr. Thrush put forward a suggestion to the Committee, which was unanimously agreed to, that we endeavour to inaugurate a series of evening lectures delivered from time to time at the Institute, from well-known men who may be visiting this State. A referendum is going round through the Departmental Secretaries to test the feelings of the Branch. If possible a resume of each lecture will appear in the “Listening Post” for the benefit of our country members and others. It is a bright idea, and providing the right men are obtained, should prove a great success.

It is perhaps late in the day to give a list of the Officers of the Sub-Branch, but as they have never appeared, it may be of interest to our “outback” members if we append them here:—President, Mr. A. D. Thrush (Federal); Vice-Presidents, Messrs. McAdam (State) and Tyler (Federal); Secretary, Mr. McMinn (State); Treasurer, Mr. Fingland (State). Committee: Messrs. Parks (State), Scott (State), Morris (State), Beckley (Federal), Pinnell (Federal), Millar (Federal), Williams...
The Amelioration Fund is strong, and is always open for the assistance of the needy. The writer will welcome any matter that will interest members and benefit the Branch for inclusion in this journal, and also in the daily and weekly press. The loss of such good men and such ardent workers as Mr. H. S. Humphreys, Mr. Morrell, and Mr. Williamson in one year has been great, but with Mr. Thrush as President, and Mr. McKinnon as Secretary, the members need have no fear of the usefulness of the Branch continuing, and their efforts will continue towards getting every digger in both Federal and State Departments as an active member of the Branch. We want to see the 600 mark passed this year, so fellow members all—worry the non-members to such an extent that they will join us. Remember the greater the number the greater the weight.

BOULDER SUB-BRANCH.

Although Boulder is not the thriving town it was a few years ago, returned men have left the district—the Branch has a larger membership than it had three years ago. Many of the boys are only just beginning to realize what a big factor the League is, and what it has done for the returned men.

The past few months have been very busy ones and the Branch is out to capture the Newdegate Cup this year. The Art Union on the Sydney Cup recently conducted showed a profit of £125 0s. 8d., which is equally divided between the Branch Distress Fund and the Rest Rooms Fund. On Saturday, April the 24th, the members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps, who had been working hard for weeks previously, provided a grand re-union social to all returned soldiers in the district.

Best thanks are tendered to the ladies who provided such a splendid repast free of charge. The guest of honour was Dr. H. O. Irwin, the popular Boulder medic, for whom the Branch had been successful in securing the League's Certificate of Merit. Following the loyal toast, President Ernie Bosworth submitted the toast of the “Day We Celebrate,” which was replied to by the Mayor of Boulder (Mr. G. R. Rainsford). Secretary Vic. O'Grady excelled himself in submitting the toast of the “Returned Soldiers' League,” which was responded to by Jimmy Cornell, M.L.C., in a most eloquent and enlightening speech on the activities of the State Executive, and the League throughout the State. Mr. W. Deering proposed the toast “Friends and Supporters,” and thanked the people of Boulder for their loyal support of the Branch and for the hospitality always shown them. Cr. P. Darrington responded, “Fallen Comrades” was honoured in silence at the instigation of the Rev. B. F. B. Saunders. Mr. Cornell, proposed the toast of the “Ladies' Auxiliary,” and Mrs. E. Buck, in response, said that although they all hoped and prayed for peace, she held that if there was another war there would be men to fight and women to help. A fine musical programme was provided and a most successful function was brought to a finish by the singing of the National Anthem.

A most interesting and able address was delivered by the Rev. B. F. B. Saunders at the Boulder Anzac Day Celebrations, which we would be proud to publish, but lack of space prevents us. The League and the residents of Boulder excelled themselves on their Anzac Day celebrations.

Mr. Harvey, the Subiaco President, extended to all Mt. Lawley members who care to attend, a hearty invitation to the Subiaco Sub-Branch meeting on Monday evening, 24th May.

Anzac Concert.—The concert held on Anzac night at the Lyceum Theatre proved highly successful, and as a result of this entertainment, the Mt. Lawley Amelioration Fund will benefit to the extent of something over £30.

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An effort was made by the Committee to obtain the services of Dame Clara Butt for the evening, but a previous engagement precluded her from attending. In lieu of an item, however, this lady very generously donated a cheque for £10 10s. on behalf of herself and her husband, Mr. Kennerley Runford.

R.S.L. SPORTS AT BRIDGETOWN.

Each year the Bridgetown R.S.L. members hold a sports gathering for the entertainment of the children; school championships are contested and the most coveted prize is the Willmott Shield.

The Showground was the scene of a good attendance of school children from the local State School, Bridgetown Convent, Greenhouses and Mocadillup Schools. In the morning the two Bridgetown schools competed for marching and the pennant for marching was gained by the State school with 5 points.

The Mocadillup school won the Willmott Shield and a fine athletic type of boy named H. Regan won for the school 13½ points of the total of 15½ points and in so doing secured the gold medal awarded to the champion athlete.

Local columns congratulate Mr. T. Wyer and his committee on the manner of the organisation and commend the Red Cross ladies for their valuable services.

During the afternoon, toys, fruit, and lollies were freely distributed among the little ones and generally the success of the enterprise rewarded those who undertook the arrangements. The Branch is certainly worthy of commendation for including this annual fête in its routine, which is the type of thing which not only is useful, but serves to popularise the League.

A TRAVELLER’S IMPRESSIONS.

(First “Sparks.”)

President Jack Barron and Secretary White ruled the page of progress for Narrogin. They have a splendid soldiers’ hall at this centre, State Secretary Benson and Executive Delegate Bader were well received and treated here.

The Wilkepin Branch is re-forming, and a centre of live diggers are making ready for the first meeting, Dr. White, Capt.

RETURNED SOLDIERS’ MONUMENTAL WORKS.

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Forke, Medicine King Lyons, and Solicitor Gibson are among the good workers.

President Laurie and Secretary Adams of Kulm are ardent battlers in the cause of the digger. Messrs. Benson and Bader received volumes of good advice on land problems which will come in useful.

Ten months ago Corrigin Sub-Branch had seven members; to-day there are more than seven times seven, which calls for more than a mede of praise for President Branksten and Secretary White. Corrigin think that the winning of the Newdegate Cup for 1926 is for them “home and dried on the bit.” (Will Collie papers please copy.) The H.Q. visitors were right royally entertained here, and the Chairman of the Road Board (Mr. C. Murphy) spoke highly of the League and guaranteed all possible help.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT BRIDGETOWN.

The gathering at the memorial monument, Bridgetown, numbered about 200 and an impressive ceremony took place, being conducted by Revs. F. Davis and W. S. Freeman. Mr. W. L. Freeman presided at the organ and the assemblage sang “Onward Christian Soldiers,” Rudyard Kipling’s “Recessional,” “Lest We Forget,” “For All the Saints.”

Mr. Davis in the course of his impressive address reminded his hearers that although it was in January, 1901, that the States of Australia were formed into a Commonwealth, that Commonwealth’s birthday was on April 25, 1915, when she became known to the world as a nation and since then her representatives have sat on various world councils. There was nothing good enough for the widows and children of those who lost their lives for they had suffered the sacrifice. The indomitable spirit of comradeship of Anzac should not be forgotten. It was the spirit that should be instilled into the minds of the younger generation—the development of the spirit of brotherhood. An example before them was the R.S.L., which opened its ranks in a brotherly manner to their Imperial comrades.

A number of beautiful wreaths were placed at the foot of the monument, following on which the National Anthem was sung. All arrangements were conducted under the auspices of the Bridgetown sub-branch of the R.S. League.

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On Saturday, 15th inst., a Smoke Social was tendered to the returned men of Osborne Park by the leading non-soldiers, residents of the district. The function, which was in the nature of a return for a "Smoke" tendered some little time ago to Osborne Park residents, was well organised by a number of leading residents, chief among them being Messrs. W. E. Robinson and J. O'Malley. The former occupied the chair; on his right being Mr. C. Sherwell, President of the Sub-Branch. The Agricultural Hall, where the function was held, was well filled and amongst those who occupied seats at the top table were Mr. Sundercombe, late Master of the Perth Hunt Club, Mr. Brenton, Vice-President of Sub-Branch R.S.L., Lt.-Colonel FitzGerald (member of the State Executive), Mr. Chantler, and other prominent residents of the Park, while the energetic Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. Godfrey, was here, there and everywhere, attending to the liquid and solid requirements of guests.

With Mr. Hunt at the piano, some excellent vocal items were given by Messrs. Evans, Hancock, Hodge, Gladstone, Franklin, Wing and Durand, the last-named contributing the "Marseillaise" in French, to which the entire company stood at attention. Mr. Hunt also contributed vocal items. It should be mentioned that most of the vocal items were well above the average, a number of the good old songs and war-time ditties being included, the occasion being reminiscent of behind-the-line concerts during the big "mix-up." After the Loyal Toast and that of "Fallen Comrades," the Chairman spoke of the good feeling existing at the Park between the Diggers and the old "cold-footers," and the spirit of co-operation that always existed. He and others were out to do their duty to the men who returned and so far as Osborne Park was concerned, the ex-soldiers would not be forgotten.

Mr. J. O'Malley spoke of the peace and harmony that existed. The Park had stuck to its returned men and would do more. There was nothing like the convivial cup to foster friendship and bring all of them together.

Mr. L. Bradley, supporting the previous speakers, said that although he considered hell had been burned out by this time, the men who fought in Gallipoli and Flanders had been through a hell and deserved the best at the hands of the community. Promises given had not been kept.

The toasting then given, Mr. Sherwell expressed his appreciation at the compliment paid to returned men by the residents of the Park. His aim as President of the local Branch of the R.S.L. was to work hand and glove with other residents for the betterment of the place they lived in.

Mr. J. Godfrey, supporting his President's remarks, referred to the good-work done by the local Branch, of which he is Secretary, for the Perth Hospital. Their aim was to work for the general good of the community they lived in. He expressed his gratitude for the night's function tendered to the returned men of the district. It paved the way for still greater efforts of co-operation.

Colonel FitzGerald expressed his appreciation on behalf of the State Executive. Although co-operative functions had been
run in other centres, Osborne Park was the first place in the State where the local R.S.L. members were entertained entirely by non-soldier residents. This splendid spirit of co-operation was what the State Executive was trying to inculcate throughout the country. Soldiers had learned much abroad and should now use their knowledge in helping forward their own localities. Unfortunately there were still many battles to fight for just common justice for the Digger, the one occupying much of their time at present being for the medical review of the cases where disabilities, caused during the war, have developed since discharge. A number of men discharged fit, are now feeling the result of hardships endured in those strenuous days, and they must get a fair deal. Diggers would fight hard where antagonism was shown against them; but where, as in Osborne Park, they were extended the right hand of good fellowship, they would recognise it and respond fully. Even at the war they recognised the fair enemy fighter and treated him accordingly, as instance those lines from "Abdul," written on Gallipoli in appreciation of the Turk:—

"And though your name be black as ink
For murder and rapine,
Carried out in happy consort with your Christians from the Rhine,
We will judge you, Mr. Abdul, by the
Way in which we can
That with all your strength, in life and death, you played the gentleman."

He concluded by enjoying all returned men to play the gentleman to their good friends in the districts they lived in, such as Messrs. Robinson, O'Malley, Bradley, Chantler, Sundercombe and others who were their hosts to-night.

Mr. Chantler, in proposing the toast of the President and Secretary of the Osborne Park Branch of the R.S.L., spoke feelingly of the good work done by the League at Osborne Park, testifying to the sterling qualities of both officials. Mr. O'Malley ably supported.

The evening brought together many old friends of the trenches, while song, recitation and anecdote, mostly supplied by the entertainers already mention, with a few volunteers, was concluded with the singing of "Old Lang Syne," and hearty cheers for the hosts.

The Omega Motor Cycle, although of comparatively recent appearance in this State, is already well on the way to popularity and the range of models leaves little to be desired. The 21 h.p. model is a machine of exceptional value, having many distinguishing features which appeal to the keen motor cyclist. The engine is the latest J.A.P., with roller bearing big-ends, and side bearings are ball, which means long life to the engine. It is fitted with M.L. magneto or B.T.H. electric lighting outfit. The rider’s comfort is considered, as the wheels are fitted with 3-inch tyres, thereby giving the efficiency of the machine its final touches. Another merit is that the sole agent for this State is a Digger, in G. W. Iles, of Hay Street, Subiaco.

If you are interested see him or drop him a line.

LEAGUE BADGE.
The Queensland Branch recently passed the following resolution which also has a local application:—

"That we re-affirm that owing to the large obsolete badge being misused by many returned soldiers and others, all possible publicity be given to the fact that the miniature badge is the only official badge of the League, and that wherever possible, the large badge be re-called."

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HOW SCROGGINS DID IT.

(By Pip Tok in 'Aussie.')

In our prisoner of war compound we hated the Hun and all his ways, but upon one of our guards, a fellow we called Scroggins, we concentrated a particular venom. To us, he was the embodiment of all that is Hunnish, and he was a Hun base-wallah in the bargain.

He was a hefty swine and never missed the opportunity of putting the boot into us both literally and metaphorically; and yet in the fullness of time, he did us a good turn.

Several of our number made unsuccessful attempts to escape, and were now lamenting their failure in solitary confinement. Nevertheless, Dilbanke and I determined to get away at all costs. How it was I shall never know, but as soon as a fellow made up his mind to take a chance, and no matter how carefully he disguised his intentions, the whole camp seemed to know about it instantly. Everybody began to say portions of their meagre rations and to suture any old thing that might be useful to the intending escapees.

One day a Tommy chap came to me and said: "I believe you are thinking of having a fly at it."

I nodded. Then he took my breath away by advising me to make Scroggins a present of some of my ComFort Funds' butter and tobacco.

"That brute?" I gasped.

"Yes: a little present of that nature to our amiable friend will prove extremely helpful."

"It will do no harm," was Dilbanke's comment. "Even if it does not get us out, it might sweeten the — up a little bit."

We made up a parcel of butter, chocolate, tobacco, and a few other things, and one day I sidled up to Scroggins, and presented it to him. He made no acknowledgment, but a few days later, just as we were beginning to think we had cast good backsheesh before a perfect swine, our surly guard was humped against me in the exercise yard. He clutched my wrist violently and blackguarded me to some order, but before he hurled me from him he had slipped a small piece of paper into my hand.

It was written in perfect English, and contained explicit instructions for our guidance once we were outside. The getting outside was up to us. There was also a reminder to give Scroggins the tip, by means of another parcel, the day before we were to make the attempt. Of course, there was a risk that he would betray us, but he knew so much now that matters could not become any worse for us.

By the middle of 1918 there was a well-established underground channel for helping escaped prisoners of war to the Dutch frontier. The night we crawled through there were, strangely, no sentries near. Once outside, thanks of Scroggins' directions, everything was easy. We were hidden, fed and even clothed, and relaxed on from point to point until we reached the frontier. Our greatest scare occurred when we were near the frontier itself, when we had to lie doggo for the greater part of a night watching a sentry that turned out to be the stump of a tree.

We got into Holland, and our interrogator there for the remaining few months of the war was just a pleasant holiday.

Then came the Armistice, and we went to Rotterdam to embark for England. Whom should we see at the boatside, swanking about in a British major's uniform, directing embarkation, but Scroggins.

I was for flattering the blighter, or denouncing him as a spy, but Dilbanke restrained me.

"After all," he said, "the beggar did help us get away."

"I went up and hailed him."

"Hello, boys," he spoke with a superb Oxford drawl, "so you made it all right."

"We could only gape."

"Yes," he continued, with a grin lighting up his harsh features, "I am really Major Bassett-Courland. That was how I did my bit during the Great War. You see, I'd done a German school and a German University. By the way, you fellows will have to forgive me for quite a lot of things. I had to do 'em."
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