The Listening Post

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DECEMBER 16, 1927

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THE YEAR—A RETROSPECT.

As we go to press the old year is drawing to its close. Already the city has assumed a holiday appearance. Beach and river are crowded with children and contributing to the throng through the streets; shops, especially those which sell toys, are gaily decorated and are a source of constant delight to young people of all ages. Schools are closing and harassed paterfamilias are figuring out how far the high cost of living will let them go in the direction of the annual holiday trip and the filling of the Christmas stockings.

Of the whole the New Year will open more auspiciously than did the Old. Early in 1927 the Chinese Civil War was in full swing and at one time it seemed as though the trouble would spread, developing into another world war. Prompt action, and the despatch of a British division to Shanghai saved the situation. The League of Nations did not function on this occasion, a point to be remembered in these piping times of peace, as Russia and Germany were so busy passing resolutions outlawing war. One British division at a threatened point is more effective in the matter of preserving peace than a ton of such resolutions.

The year saw the abortive naval disarmament conference, at which Britain and Japan declined to reduce their cruiser strengths in accordance with America's needs. At the time of writing, another disarmament conference, which promises to be equally abortive, is being held. No doubt the ethical prospect of the nations beating their swords into ploughshares and their spears into reaping hooks is a very fine one, provided all do it simultaneously. No doubt, too, as the apostles of peace suggest, mutual trust and mutual understanding between nations will tend to avert future wars. But what evidence as to their trustworthiness can be adduced by such countries as Russia and Germany? It would appear that those nations who can be best trusted with armies and navies, who are the principal strongpoints against world revolution, and who would have most to lose by civil commotion within their borders, are expected to set an example to less trustworthy and more predatory powers by rendering themselves defenceless.

The year, at home, has not been uneventful. In the political sphere, a State general election occurred and the existing government was returned to power. In the educational sphere, 1927 will be a landmark as it saw the establishment of two new professorships—Education and Law—at the local university. The Professor of Education will also be principal of the Teachers' College, a position rendered vacant by the retirement of Mr. W. J. Rooney, B.A.

But perhaps the most important feature of the year, from our point of view, is that it marks the first decade of the R.S.L.'s existence, this body having been founded in September, 1917.

It has been a year of progress and prosperity, and may the New Year bring greater joy and greater prosperity than that which is drawing to its end.

GREAT BRITAIN'S WAR PENSION LIST.

According to statistics published in the 1926 annual report of the British Legion (kindly sent to us by Mr. H. V. Morris, of the Busselton Sub-Branch) there are still enough 'reminders' of the havoc created by the Great War. There are:

- 1,792,000 Beneficiaries of the Ministry of Pensions, including 152,000 War Widows;
- 265,000 War Orphans, of which number 16,000 are totally orphans;
- 39,000 Officers and men who have lost a leg or an arm;
- 2000 Officers and men totally blinded;
- 6161 Officers and men certified insane;
- 288 Severe Neuasthenics classified as border-line cases;
- 3426 Officers and men suffering from epilepsy;
- 36,584 Officers and men suffering from tuberculosis;
- 2750 Pensioners so severely disabled that they have been granted a Constant Attendance Allowance to enable them to maintain a home;
- 7774 Officers and men still receiving patient treatment—apart from cases of insanity;
- 6183 Officers and men receiving out-patient treatment;
- 7190 Officers and men receiving home treatment.

Add to the above the fact that new claims to pension have been submitted at the rate of nearly 1000 a month and it will readily be seen that there has been much scope for work by the Legion both nationally and locally in assisting applicants to prepare their claims, ensuring that existing beneficiaries are receiving their just dues, advising pensioners how to obtain supplementary assistance and, where Government liability has been refused, putting the claimants in touch with the right organisation from which they can obtain the necessary help.

Work of this nature has been carried on cheerfully and ungrudgingly by a large army of Legion voluntary workers with very gratifying results.

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Peace and War.

It is a curious thing that the Americans, while prating loudly about disarmament and outlawing war, do not resent any suggestion that they did not win the World War.
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

23/11/27


An apology was received from Mr. Watt.

Federal Correspondence. Settlement of Ex-Service Men: A letter was received from the Federal Executive showing a copy of one from the Development and Migration Commission dealing with the settlement of ex-Service men.

Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Nye: That discussion on this matter be deferred until the next meeting, and in the meantime copies of letters be made available for delegates for perusal.—Carried.

Armistice Day Ceremonies: The Federal President forwarded a letter to the various States, together with a copy of a letter received by him from the Prime Minister's Department, in which it was stated that officers of the Commonwealth Departments would be allowed time off to attend Armistice Day Ceremonies, subject to Departmental convenience.

Invitations.—The Murray Sub-Branch extended an invitation to the State Secretary to attend their Annual Dinner on December 3rd. The State Secretary accepted the invitation.

Narembeen Sub-Branch requested the presence of the State President, Secretary, and members of the State Executive at a function to be held on the 5th or 6th of January, 1928. The matter was left in the hands of the State President.

Midland Junction Sub-Branch desired an Executive representation at their meeting to be held on December 1st. Messrs. Lennon, Shaw, and Logie accepted.

Darling Range Sub-Branch requested the presence of the State President and members of the Executive at their Annual Smoke Social to be held on the 10th of December. Messrs. Shaw, Logie, Yeates, Wells, Philip, McAdam, and Tyler accepted.

Mr. Hawthorn Sub-Branch requested Executive representation at their meeting to be held on Thursday, 24th November. Messrs. McAdam and Bader accepted.

Letter of Appreciation.—A letter of appreciation was read from Mr. H. D. Malone, who expressed his thanks to the Executive for assistance in obtaining a block of land through the War Service Homes Dept.

Federal Congress, Delegates' Report.—The Executive forwarded to the Homes Dept. a report of Congress and was supported in its recommendation to allow time off to attend Armistice Day Ceremonies, subject to Departmental convenience.

The Rev. Riley submitted an interim report of Congress and was supported in his remarks by Mr. Longmore. Moved by Mr. McAdam, seconded by Col. Margolin: That the interim report be received, and that the Executive's thanks be tendered to the delegates for their able representation of this State Branch. Further discussion of the report to be deferred until the official minutes come to hand from the Federal Executive, in the meantime those copies of the minutes in possession of the delegates be laid on the table for the information of members.—Carried.

Boy Scouts' Association.—Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. McAdam: That the necessary permission be granted to the Sports Club to circulate sub-branches in the terms of their circular submitted and further that the Trustees take into consideration the granting of a donation of £5/-.—Carried.

Reports.—State Secretary read the report of the operations of the office for the preceding month. The report was received.

Finance Committee: Mr. Tyler read the report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 9th instant. The report contained the recommendation that 25 per cent. of the Amelioration Funds be allocated to general funds to cover administration expenses of the former. Moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Tozer: That the report be adopted.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Wells: That the Finance Committee and the Trustees collaborate in order to arrive at ways and means of recouping the League funds for the expenses of administration of the Amelioration Funds.—Carried.

The report as amended was then adopted.

House Committee: Mr. Philip read the report of the House Committee held on the 17th and 21st November, dealing with the appointment of a new manageress of the dining rooms. The report was received and adopted.

Land Committee: Mr. Shaw, a member of the Land Committee, delivered a report on Re-valuation of the Torbay District.
He dealt with individual cases. The report was received and adopted.

Arising out of the report the question of expenses of the Land Committee when asked by the Agricultural Bank Officials to report, was considered.

Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Yeates: That the State Secretary be instructed to communicate with Mr. McLarty and ascertain if the expenses of the Land Committee would be defrayed by the Department when the Committee was asked to investigate cases on their behalf.—Carried.

Trustees: Mr. Philip read the report of the Trustees in connection with the granting of relief to non-members of the League. He suggested that all sub-branches be again advised of the Congrest resolution dealing with this matter. The report was received and adopted.

Katanning and Mt. Barker: The State President delivered a report of his visit to Katanning and Mt. Barker. The report was received.

Armistice Day: Mr. Philip having attended the Cathedral Service on Armistice Day, and Mr. Bader reported having attended Wesley Church.

Mr. Tyler represented the Executive at the Fremantle Smock Social.

Mr. McAdam reported having represented the State President at the Subiaco Smock Social on Armistice Night.

Westonia: Mr. Logie reported having re-formed the Westonia Sub-Branch and also on his visits to Merredin and Goonmarin.

28th Battalion Association: Mr. Tyler reported having represented the Executive at the 28th Battalion Re-union.

South African Service: Colonel Margolin reported on the South African Memorial Service at which he, with others, represented the Executive.

7/12/27.

Present: Messrs. Collett, Riley, Nye, McAdam, Philip, Watt, Friedman, Longmore, Shaw, Yeates, Lennon, Tyler, Saddler, Pady, Wells, Bader, Lover, Margolin, Tozer.

Mail Contracts, Koongup.—Mr. Philip reported that he and Mr. Wells had perused the file at the Postmaster General's Department in connection with this matter, and agreed with the report of the Assistant State Secretary at the last meeting, that the soldier concerned had received every consideration. It was decided that the Sub-Branch be informed of the Committee's finding.

Pilgrimage to France.—Messrs. Watt and Saddler had been appointed, together with the State Secretary, to draft a resolution setting out the ideas of the Executive in regard to the proposed pilgrimage to France.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Saddler: That this Branch suggests that the Federal Executive should consider the desirability of organising a monster pilgrimage of ex-service men to the battle areas of the Great War, to take effect during 1930 or 1931, on similar lines to that adopted recently by the American Legion.—Carried.

Federal Correspondence.—Migration: This matter had been deferred from the last meeting, and copy of the letter from the Federal Executive had been circulated amongst delegates.

A letter from Mr. Jas. Cornell, M.L.C., was also read, dealing with this matter.

Moved by Mr. McAdam, seconded by Mr. Yeates: That this letter be brought to the notice of the Minister for Migration, and he be asked if lands could be made available for ex-service migrants with capital.—Carried.

Membership: In connection with the enquiry received from the Merredin Sub-Branch concerning the continuation of membership within the League of a deceased member, which had been referred to the Federal Executive for a ruling, a reply was received stating that, while the attitude of the relatives of the deceased man in question was appreciated, the constitution did not permit of the desired action.

Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Longmore: That the sub-branch be notified that the Constitution does not permit of such procedure.—Carried.

Employment Grant: The Federal Executive advised that a communication had been received from the Prime Minister's Department to the effect that the present Employment Grant would be continued up to the 31st December, 1927. The letter was received.

Financial Crowns: The Federal Executive advised that resolution 80 of the 11th Annual Congress provided for the colour of the financial crown each year to be such as to make it distinguishable from those immediately preceding it. The last two numerals of the date to be used only. The colours for 1928 to be black base with figures of gold. The letter was received.

Invitations:—The Merredin Sub-Branch extended an invitation to Colonel Collett to visit their district some time in February next. The date was left open. The Colonel accepted the invitation.

Narembeen Sub-Branch communicated further concerning their invitation to the President to visit their district and stated that it was particularly desirable that a
Mt. Barker District.— The Minister for 

Moved 

Committee visit this 

Company getting— Watercarin area for 'the 

arranged to visit Darling Range on that 

date, and it was decided to split the 

party, Messrs. Philip, McAdam, and Tyler, 
	together with the Assistant State Secret-

ty, to visit Carilla.

12th Annual Congress.— As the official 

minutes of the 12th Annual Congress had 

come to hand the report of the dele-

gates was deferred.

Letter of Appreciation.— Mr. Longmore 

of Norak, expressed his appreciation and 

thanks to the Executive for their action in 

procuring for him a Massey Harris Reaper 

Thresher.

New Sub-Branch.— An application was 

made on behalf of members in the Qua- 

getting—Watercarin area for the forma-

tion of a sub-branch. The necessary 

approval was granted.

Employment.— The Perth Sub-Branch 

submitted a resolution carried at their last 

meeting which urged the Executive to 

take immediate action in connection with 

the motion from the 11th Annual Con-

gress concerning dilution of labour.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by 

Mr. Sadler: That the State Secretary be 

instructed to gather statistics in connec-

tion with this matter and submit to the 

next meeting of the Executive.—Carried.

State and Commonwealth Contracts.— 

The Workers' Homes Board communi-

cated with the State Secretary regarding 

a press report of the 11th Annual Con-

gress of the Branch, in which a delegate 

had stated that Southern Europeans were 

engaged in the erection of War Service 

Homes, and pointing out that some mis-

comprehension existed in connection with 

this matter. The delegate concerned was 

communicated with and had forwarded a 

statement in reply.

It was decided that the matter of a 

reply to the Workers' Homes Board be 

left in the hands of the Secretary.

Gallipoli Film.— The Embassy Film 

Company advised that the Gallipoli Film 

would be launched in capital cities of Aus-

tralia next April. Work for an extensive 

rnm, and sought the co-operation of the 

Soldiers' League. It was decided that 

the matter be left in the hands of the 

Federal Executive.

Mt. Barker District.— The Minister for 

Lands wrote concerning the possibilities of 

the Mt. Barker District and thanked 

the League for the suggestion regarding 

its probable suitability for Group Settle-

ment purposes. The letter was received.

Repatriation Wards.— The Secretary of 

the Perth Hospital had written requesting 

the State Secretary to interview the Chief 

Resident Medical Officer concerning the 

allotted of ex-soldiers suffering non-

war caused disabilities to Repatriation 

Wards. The Secretary reported having 

interviewed Dr. Anderson and stated that 

the two Repatriation Wards were being 

merged, and sufficient accommodation 

would not be available for other than 

war-caused cases.

Moved by Mr. McAdam, seconded by 

Mr. Yeates: That this matter be referred to 

the Visiting Committee for their action. — 

Carried.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. 

Lennon: That the Visiting Committee 

interview the Medical Section of the Re-

patriation Department concerning the 

merging of the Repat. Wards at the 

Perth Hospital.—Carried.

War Service Homes.— The Secretary 

advised that an application had been made 

by Mr. —— to the War Service Homes 

Department for assistance to install sewer-

age system at his home. The total ad-

vance the applicant had already received 

was £774, and the Department had advised 

that as a maximum advance was £800 

they could not assist beyond that amount; 

it therefore meant that the applicant 

would have to find about half the cost 

of the sewerage work. It was considered 

that a number of soldiers may be similarly 

affected, and a committee of three 

was appointed to investigate the matter 

with a view to arriving at some solution.

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D. M. Benson, State Secretary, R.S.L.

MUD AND A MILLS.

We were going into Zonnebeke, and the narrow duckboard track led over a sea of sticky, slimy mud, famous in the Ypres sector. Most of us had been in before, and although we did not actually have the wind up, we were at least prepared for eventualities.

Bill and his cobber, after discussing the law of averages at all angles, came to the conclusion that the chances of the platoon coming out even half strength were as remote as the rum issue.

"What've y' got in that sand bag, Alick? Mills bombs?" said Bill. "Yes," said Alick, "Why?" "Well," drawled Bill, "I thought I seen a pin on the duck-board jest then. There aint no holes in that bag, is there?"

I didn't wait for Alick to investigate. I dived into the good old Flanders mud and buried my face in it. What fools there were in the world! Why hadn't he examined each bomb before he placed it in the bag. Which side of the duck-board had Alick dropped that bag? Surely to Heaven the five seconds were up! I lifted my head for fresh air, and my right eye encountered the bag. I gazed at it fascinated. I thought I heard something fizzing, but it was merely Alick expelling the air from his lungs through the Flanders mud. Then Bill, sitting on the duckboards, broke the spell. "Come on, youse blokes," he said, "we'll miss the mob. Dunno whatcha wanter hav' wind up for. I jest said I thought I seen a pin. Bloke's allowed ter think, aint he?"

Walking along the track we silently scraped the mud from our clothes. Bill was a hundred yards in front. Yes, a bloke is allowed to think. We thought about Bill!

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THE MONTH.

Britain and the U.S.A.
The spectacle of a man with an unmistakable Irish name, the right hand man of the rabidly anti-British mayor of the highly Germanic city of Chicago, being converted into a fervent Anglophile by one short visit to the Old Country would be amusing were such things not offset by the general attitude of the U.S. Press towards the Old Country. The Anglo-Saxon, which has long been the dominant element in the American population, is being rapidly swamped under a flood of alien immigration. Of the non-mongrel races which have teemed into America the Germans and the Irish are by far the more numerous, and neither of these has much love for the Englishman. In all probability anti-British outbursts such as those of Chicago's Mayor and those which are featured periodically in the Hearst Press are attempts on the part of politicians to pander to these elements. The yellow press of America is the most crudely ill-informed of any country; cater for the Anglophobe and regards the "furphy" as a species of divine revelation. Such papers made the World War begin in 1917 and sent the U.S. Navy chasing the Emden through the Irish Sea.

And even in the respectable journals of the country there is an under-current of suspicious dislike towards the British Empire. The homogenity of the British race is resented. Sinister motives are attributed to the British policy. Britain's army and navy estimates, her reduction of income taxation, and other aspects of Imperial finance, are criticised, not in relation to the Old Country's financial and economic needs, but with respect to Britain's war debt to America. Post-war reconstruction, defence expenditure, relief of the over-burdened British taxpayer, are all matters which should be held in abeyance until the last cent is repaid to Uncle Shylock. Criticism of America's late entry into the war and her subsequent role of the stern creditor are alike resented; while any suggestion that America did not win the war, is as liable to occur as a lump into the throat to hear them once more. Such aspects of the presentation stimulated interest in what was otherwise a very sorry spectacle, for, judged even as a picture, "The Big Parade" was a decided falling off from that high standard which Hoyt's have hitherto maintained. Apparently the Federal Censor of Films has done good work. The vainglorious and otherwise objectionable sub-titles have been deleted and others more fitted for home consumption substituted; but the story itself was slender and commonplace, its dramatic situations banal, its pathos bathos, and its humour Hollywooden. Those irksome commonplaces of war such as the mud and the chat, were treated as hysterical experiences. They may have been so to a force like the Americans, who were not in the war long enough to accept them as mere sordid incidents, but their humour had ceased to appeal to Australians long before President Wilson grew tired of writing apologetic notes to Germany. Nevertheless, the picture has its redeeming features. It is a masterpiece of unconscious humour. The American army, as depicted in the attack on the German line was funny without being vulgar, and it is the type of show to which an elderly gentleman can take his flapper daughter without having to be continually asking her to explain the double meanings. Having seen it, we now

The Big Parade

The extravagantly advertised American "war" film has been shown at Hoyt's new Regent Theatre, and will probably go the rounds of the suburbs and country towns. The Hoyt people are to be congratulated on their presentation of the picture. The prologue, with its inevitable estaminet scene, was good in its way, and gave Miss E. Russell, Messrs. David Lyle, Roy Glenister, Archer Norwood, and Herbert Gibson, opportunities for the display of their talents which have made them so deservedly popular with Perth audiences.

The introduction of such war-time classics as "Land of Hope and Glory," "Comrades in Arms," and "My Pal Jerry," as a support to a Yankee film, in spite of their excellent rendition, seemed to sour of a descent from the sublime to the "gor blime." Mr. Harold Partington's splendid orchestra played, as incidental music to the picture, a very pleasing selection of the old war-time marching songs, and it brought a lump into the throat to hear them once more. Such aspects of the presentation stimulated interest in what was otherwise a very sorry spectacle, for, judged even as a picture, "The Big Parade" was a decided falling off from that high standard which Hoyt's have hitherto maintained. Apparently the Federal Censor of Films has done good work. The vainglorious and otherwise objectionable sub-titles have been deleted and others more fitted for home consumption substituted; but the story itself was slender and commonplace, its dramatic situations banal, its pathos bathos, and its humour Hollywooden. Those irksome commonplaces of war such as the mud and the chat, were treated as hysterical experiences. They may have been so to a force like the Americans, who were not in the war long enough to accept them as mere sordid incidents, but their humour had ceased to appeal to Australians long before President Wilson grew tired of writing apologetic notes to Germany. Nevertheless, the picture has its redeeming features. It is a masterpiece of unconscious humour. The American army, as depicted in the attack on the German line was funny without being vulgar, and it is the type of show to which an elderly gentleman can take his flapper daughter without having to be continually asking her to explain the double meanings. Having seen it, we now

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The Fremanlte Fracas.
Like the Bourbons, the German has learned nothing and forgotten nothing. This is probably why at a time when Germany is being given every chance to rehabilitate herself in the eyes of the world, not only in the Councils of the League of Nations, but in the spheres of commerce and sport, certain Hun seamen caused a riot in Fremantle. According to the evidence tendered in the prosecutions which ensued, two of the offending seamen were indulging in a dance of an obscene nature—that curious obscenity which passes for humour in the land of kultur. An attempt to eject them from Uglyland, the scene of the affair, led to a free fight. The Boches, incited by their officers, attacked the police. The members of the public present rallied to the assistance of the constables, and a piper of the Kilties' Band had his kilt torn off. The fines imposed by the Fremantle magistrate were ridiculously light. Local larrikins are dealt with far more severely for rioting and resisting the police. Of course, it is noble to forgive the enemy, but it seems to us that the Fremantle Bench, in this instance, has been too darned forgiving.

French Army Re-organisation.
The cabled account of the discussion on the French Army estimates indicates the direction being taken by France in the re-organisation of her fighting forces. It is assumed that these are to be maintained for defence, not aggression; therefore the zone of a future war will be the country's natural frontiers. The preamble to the Army estimates stresses the importance of maintaining an efficient air force. Great importance, too, is attached to the physical training of youths, and athletics and swimming will be subsidised, re-organised and guided along military channels. There is a recognition, here, that physical fitness is the basis of military efficiency. In Australia we render lip service to this creed. We maintain one physical training officer at each military base headquarters, i.e., six for the whole of the military forces and schools; so that the greater part of the physical training in schools (a mere fifteen minutes daily) is carried on by partially trained instructors.

PILGRIMAGE TO WAR AREAS.
The State Executive has sent a resolution to the Federal Executive suggesting that that body give serious consideration to the organisation of a pilgrimage to Gallipoli, France, and Palestine during the years 1930 or 1931. A tour could be arranged earlier, but only the comparatively wealthy could afford to go, whereas if three years' notice is given, a special banking scheme could be put in hand as early as possible, which would include within its scope a large number of thrifty Diggers. On the investigations already made by us, we are of the opinion that such a tour, which would take about four or five months, would cost about £150.

ECHOES OF EGYPT.
"EGYPTIAN TIMES" ANNOUNCEMENTS.
An Egyptian lady of high birth is willing to lift the veil and show her beautiful face to an Australian soldier in return for an exhibition of boomerang throwing on his part.
To Let—A number of prisons in Turkey, splendid references obtainable from any Australian who occupied these during the war period.
For Sale—A couple of pyramids. Purchaser must be prepared to take delivery and remove them within 24 hours.

Exit the Muse.
I cannot sing the old songs
I used to sing, Viola.
The instalment man came round and he
Foreclosed on our victrola.

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H. R. HARPER, Manager.

16th December, 1927.
THE LISTENING POST
Is War According to God's Plan?

(Mr. E. S. Watt states a case in the interest of readers. Padre E. H. O. Nye has promised to state his opinions on this subject, which we hope to publish in our next number.)

To be a popular writer, one has only to interpret the common mood of the people, and, with ability, portray it. "Them's my sentiments. That writer knows what he is talking about," egotistically states Mr. Mostmen. Tasty sweets are universally sought after, but unpalatable castor oil, on most occasions, has the better result on the human system. It naturally tickles the popular fancy of to-day to read of war as being the brake to a noble civilization. Our desires often guide us in our opinions, however, and we are apt, like the ostrich, to hide our heads in the sand. We fail to look to the past for our lesson. We must, if we will, learn from bitter experience, that God's laws never change and that the same fundamental laws act for the nation as for the individual. We are too apt to wrongly bracket progress with prosperity being natural affinities, when it would perhaps be nearer the truth to join the latter with stagnation. It is through suffering and tribulation that God raises us towards a sublimer nobility. To me it appears that the ethical essence of progress is sacrifice. The sacrificial impulse is the root cause of all human families; the bud dies, and dying flings its seeds on the winds to produce a wider re-creation of itself. In the animal world the sacrificial impulse of parental love endures; all suffering that its young may live. Nations rise and fall as the springs of national action are wound or allowed to be run down.

If a generation shrink from the sacrifice necessary to self-preservation, then that generation is a traitor to its past and to its future. To the noble dead who sacrificed all for country it is an ingratitude, and it is a betrayer of its own children.

The soul of a nation is found in its patriotism and if a nation neglects a patriotic duty which the claims of its history and of its posterity alike impose, it is in deadly danger of losing its soul and of incurring the wrath of God, which means destruction. The experiences of the past clearly reflect that the determining factor of human history, of a nation's success, or of a nation's failure, is the efficiency or inefficiency of its armaments in, or for, war. By efficiency, I do not mean only large and modern navies and armies; efficiency in armaments is something bigger and deeper, being also the result of spiritual quality. Self-denial, discipline, obedience, order, method, intelligence, organising power, resolution, industry, chastity, temperance, and hardihood. These are some of the individual attributes of righteousness which determine this spiritual quality and "which exal't eth a nation." In the course of the development of human society it can be shown that righteousness of national life, and efficiency, with subsequent glory in war, have invariably gone hand in hand. In other words, national success and progress achieved has been the product of a military efficiency founded on a higher morale.

The defeat of the Persians by the Greeks was the triumph of a higher civilisation and a nobler manhood. With a lowered conception of morality and a consequent decreased military efficiency, Greece's subsequent defeat by the Romans made for further progress. When the spiritual quality of the Romans failed not all the splendour of the past could overcome the corruptness of the present and save the Roman world from destruction at the hands of the Vandals and Goths. This was wrongly stated "military efficiency" of the Germans was inefficient because it lacked a spiritual quality. It was a shell only and contained no kernel. They worshipped at the altar of the false God.

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Might—but only the might of the bully. The Germans now know that such might is not right, but the lessons of the past teach us that right always tends to create might.

Throughout the ages the laws of God have never changed, and the same root causes have always tended towards the same results and the decay of the morality of a nation has always been attended with a corresponding decay of the military spirit and inexorably the law of the survival of the fittest has trampled on the corrupt. Of that law, war is the supreme instrument. Victory in war is the method by which, in God's providence, the sound nation supersedes the unsound. We like to think that war is a barbaric survival which can be abolished by international agreements. War is the machinery by which national corruption is punished and national virtue rewarded. If war were rendered impossible, henceforth, the higher would cease to supersed the lower and the course of human progress would suffer arrest. Whilst human nature remains as it has been throughout history and as it is to-day, and peoples become degenerate, wars are inevitable. If war absolutely passed away, then the terrible punishment which war provides for human degeneracy would be removed and the upward tend of human morality would terminate.

War will cease to be a necessity only when corruption ceases to be a fact. War appears to me to be God's test of a nation's soul, and is a part of His plan.

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"Blackboy": Wherever Australians, who were in Egypt, get together, you'll hear them, among other printable and unprintable things, talk about—The two battles of the Wazza; Shepherd's Hotel (officers only); The race at Geizireh; The Pyramids, the guides, the donks; The sin, sand and sun; The Dinkum Feed Joint; The Pyramid Cafe at Helapolis; The verry sweet oranges; The canal; The Inspectors' Rest, said by many a Digger to be the "best pub. in the world"; Paddy the Pig; Major (now Colonel) Margolin, whom everybody loved; What the Cairo kids used to say about Colonel —

"Gровер": As per the cables, Australia per head of the population is, with the exception of New Zealand, easily Britain's best customer, importing some £60,000,000 worth of goods annually, or £9/19/6 per head. (The United States is third on the list with £43,000,000, or 8/- per head). It is pleasing to note the increasing number of British cars in use in Australia, and users and owners are loud in their praises of the superb quality of workmanship and materials in evidence. Australia realises that British goods, if not the cheapest, are usually the best and therefore in the end the cheapest. Apart from that, sentiment, no doubt, plays a big part in this matter. The man who says there is no sentiment in business is wrong. Business is 98 per cent. sentiment.

The gospel of inter-Imperial trade is receiving a great deal of attention from the British Empire to maintain its present unique position among the nations.

Lance Batman: Your leader (Nov. L.P.) "Our Changing Mood," was, in my humble opinion, one of the best which has appeared in our journal. As an old South African veteran I know that your logic is sound. During the years immediately following the S.A. war it was very difficult to get the boys together, but later they were drawn together by the same ties which are more closely binding today ex-service men of the Great War, and as time passes and the numbers get fewer, so will the desire for old wartime comradeship increase.

A Digger writes asking if we can locate a bound volume of the war time "Aussie." He had borrowed a volume from a friend who treasured it, and it was accidentally burnt, and he is anxious to replace it. If any Digger can oblige, please write to the "L.P." stating price desired.

At a Smoke Social at Harvey tendered to the visitors from the State Executive of the League, the proposer of the toast of the evening asked for some dinkum information as to what the R.S.L. did, where its money went to, and what business occupied the office staff during the day. Particularly he wanted to know what became of the capititation fees. Some of the required information was given with great sincerity by the State President (Colonel Collett), and other details left to the State Secretary (Mr. Benson) for his reply. The proposer and others present admitted their complete satisfaction and thought that the information would do a great deal of good amongst those who kept queries hoarded up in their own minds.

At a recent meeting of the State Executive there appeared to be a good deal of perplexity and almost fear noticeable amongst delegates, who each held a paper and looked askance at each other. Padre E. H. O. Nye was the first to rise and ask if there was a dictionary present, as he had been honoured by an invitation from the State President to attend a "symposium" at the same time asking for an interpretation. Colonel Collett curtly but kindly declined to give the necessary interpretation at that stage, but a later reference to a dictionary disclosed the derivation, "symposiac: a conference of philosophers at a banquet." It is accordingly decreed that the philosophers of the 1927 Executive, together with Past Presi-
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(LATE A.I.F.)

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THE COMING OF THE BLESSED GUEST.

While the cobbler mused, there passed his pane
A beggar drenched by the driving rain;
He called him in from the stony street,
And gave him shoes for his bruised feet.

The beggar went, and there came a crone,
Her face with wrinkles of sorrow drown;
A bundle of faggots bowed her back,
And she was spent with the wrench and rack.

He gave her his loaf and steadied her hand,
As she took her way on the weary road.

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Then to his door came a little child,
Lost and afraid in the world so wild—
In the big, dark world. Catching it up,
He gave it milk in the waiting cup.

And led it home to its mother's arms,
Out of the reach of the world's alarms.

The day went down in the crimson west,
And with it the hope of the homeless street.

J.S.M. of Leederville dishes up flattery:
Allow me to congratualte you on the very excellent paper you are sending out of late. I am not in any way belittling your previous efforts by telling you that in the opinion of a number of Leagueites known to me the "Listening Post" has, like good wine, been improving with age. You have set yourself a high standard to live up to with your November issue, which was, in my opinion, highly instructive and entertaining. It is a great pity that it is not sent to eligible non-members of the League where it would, perhaps, wake a few up to the realisation that they are slacking in their duty, and also missing a great deal for themselves. I always make it a practice to pass my "L.P." on to a non-member when I have finished with it, with, in two known cases, happy results. (We thank "J.S.M." for his appreciative remarks. We feel also that we are doing better. This is largely due to the fact that the advertising public are finding out that this journal, with its 6000 circulation, is a splendid medium in which to advertise their wares. More advertisements mean that more letterpress is necessary to accommodate them. This has permitted us to enlarge our scope. Financially, the publishers are satisfied to get out of this paper just what it costs, and we must be forgiven for using J.S.M.'s eulogistic letter to tell Diggers in business that advertising in this journal should bring good results, and to remind readers that it will help if they mention this paper when doing business with our advertisers. —Ed.)

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PERSONAL.

Major-General Sir Tom Bridges, who, for the past few years, has been Governor of South Australia, returns to the Old Country this month. As a Major of the 2nd Argyle and Sutherlands, he took part in the Mons campaign, and during the retreat he revived the morale of the shattered remnants of his battalion by entering a French toy shop, securing a tin whistle and a toy drum, which he and the piper played at the head of the jaded troops. History does not record the name of the march they played, but, according to rumour, it was "Colo­nel Bogey," a march that afterwards became very popular throughout the A.I.F.

Tom McGow, late 44th, and now head barman at the Criterion Hotel, is a rotund digger with a very pretty wit. The day following the last Armistice Day a very talkative individual was holding the floor in Tom's bar. When Tom had a chance to chip in, he said to the loud speaker, "You must have had a stiff time yesterday."

"How do you mean, Tom?" the verbose one asked.

"How did you manage during the two minutes' silence?"

On another occasion Tom was in the lane leading from the Crib into Murray Street. Wally Gee, "Lofty" Larsen, and Ray Dunn (of the local C.I.D.) were passing through. Ray Dunn flicked a pebble at Tom, scoring a hit on the target "at six o'clock." "Hey!" Tom called after the retreating 'tecs. "I've got a case for you. Chaps! Find out who just Dunn that!"

The many friends of Jimmie Morgan, head teacher of the Mount Barker State school, and very active member of the Mount Barker Sub-branch of the R.S.L., will regret to learn that he has been in the Repatriation Ward suffering from a recurrence of war injuries.

Jack Delaney, after an experience of the muddy ways leading to the front line, now follows the inky way, being a member of the Sunday Times' staff. In addition to being a writer of verse, Jack is quite a bon vivant, his favourite repast being: "Some soup, a bird, and some sweets."

Sam Braham, late of England and India, is now domiciled in W.A., after trying his luck in N.S.W. The fates were unkind to him in the Mother State, so Sam packed up his traps and sailed for Home. His stay at Fremantle proved his ondying for some of the Scout Fraternity, of whom Sam is a member, induced him to try his luck here. So now you can see Sam, as king of the kids at Foy's Christmas Fair, smoothing out many a juvenile argument and seeing that the big fat boy does not get more than his fair share of slides. Sam did his bit with the Queen's Own Light Infantry during the recent argument.

This Western State is about to lose a good Christian in the Rev. Arthur Muriel, who shortly leaves Kalgoorlie for Victoria. Mr. Muriel served with the fighting forces at the war, where he was awarded the Military Cross.

All diggers who have been privileged to meet the little lady will sympathise with Miss Elsie Brickhill on the recent loss of her father. Miss Elsie worked hard during the war for the men at the front and has never failed to do her bit for the men who came back.

Arthur Terelink, who was an N.C.O. with the 28th, when that battalion was making history, is as conscientious a citizen as the next one. As chairman of the Claremont Road Board, executive member of the Boy Scouts' Association, and delegate of that body on the New Settlers' League, and active worker in the Infant Welfare Movement, Arthur is doing more than his share of public service. The firm of Brown and Dureau chose a live man in him to manage their property department, and a rapidly-increasing business is a result.

"Boss" Wells, who looks after the Wesley Trustees' valuable property in Murray and William Streets, carried a rifle with the 28th, during the late dust-up. "Boss" is connected with the Boy Scout movement, and took a party of Western Australian lads over to the Hobart corroboree last January. Many boys and young men in the State to-day have good cause to thank him for his deep and sincere interest in their welfare. Despite his great interest in other people's children, "Boss" does not neglect his own youngster.

Arrived recently by one of the Eastern State boats, Major Radclyffe, who tells a doleful story after six years soldier settler's experience near Mildura, and he is now one of the many Eastern Staters looking for land in this State. Although an Australian, the Major soldiered with the New Zealand forces, being on a visit to "God's Country" when war broke out. Like old times to hear the Major talk of Egypt and France, not forgetting the story of the New Zealanders who charged in a training stunt with full equipment across the heavy Mena sands, only to repeat the performance afterwards for a lady's entertainment, who exclaimed: "Tell them to do it again, Alex; I like to see the bayonets shine."

THE LISTENING POST
16th December, 1927.

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Recently up from "Coalopolis," Harry May and quite an army of satellites who had all been before the Land Board, striving for a bit of the golden grain soil near Morawa.

Congratulations to Digger, R. Calder-Crowther on winning the mayoral election at ye old town of Guildford on the Swan. His Worship is a Doc H enthusiast and wields a tennis racket, also a golf club, with some skill. He is well known commercially, being attorney and manager for A. W. Dobbie & Co. in this State.

Another comparative youngster to become a leading humble is Harley C. S. Colebatch, the new mayor of Northam. Harley is a League enthusiast, having served a term as a delegate to the State Executive, and is to-day vice-president of his town sub-branch.

Quite a number of other diggers were also successful in finding a place on the boards of local governing bodies, amongst them being League stalwart Jack Malquoney, of Lake Brown. Jack is a doer as well as a talker.

"The Listening Post" extends its congratulations to Colonel J. S. Denton on his advancement from the post of Organiser, New Settlers' League, to the secretarieship of that body. The new organiser (vice Colonel Denton) is Mr. W. C. Piggott, a 28th Battalion Digger who returned from the war with a commission and the Military Medal.

Lieutenant B. Watchorn, M.C., Staff Corps, has just taken up duty as adjutant of the local artillery brigade. During the war he was too young to receive a commission in the Australian Forces, so, at his own expense, he journeyed to England and joined up with the B.E.F. He belongs to a well-known Hobart family. His father, Colonel Watchorn, commanded a Tasmanian contingent in the South African War.

John Enston, of the British Imperial Oil Company, in W.A., soldiered with the 33rd Battalion. In between his trips East in the interests of the company, and his activities as publicity manager, John finds time to indulge in tennis and bridge. Although an Englishman by birth, he is a good Australian, and has an unbounded faith in the future of W.A. Who has not?

At a smoke social held by the Upper Swan Sub-Branch early in the month the members made a handsome presentation to Mr. Alf Yeates of a gold watch and chain, suitably inscribed, for services rendered to the settlers of the Swan District. Mr. Yeates feelingly acknowledged the present and thanked the donors for their generosity.

One is struck with the excellent type of Australian and New Zealand soldier arriving in this State in search of land, all of whom are in possession of some capital, many with considerable means for the purchase of improved properties. One of these called recently at the R.S.L. offices, stating that he had acquired a holding north of Burra-Burra, and being a qualified surveyor (both Civil and Marine) and in possession of a wide experience, some of that gained at Agricultural Colleges in the Eastern States, Mr.

L. J. Meiklejohn should prove an acquisition to Goomin and Burra-Burra. He has many ambitious plans for the development of his own particular estate and the district generally. It does one good to hear him speak of Western Australia and its boundless possibilities after a ten weeks' travel by motor throughout farming areas of Western Australia, in which he was accompanied by his wife. Mr. Ed. Gray, ably assisted by President Peter Jamieson, has brought about a wonderful improvement in R.S.L. matters at Midland Junction. A few months ago not more than half a dozen financial members kept the local sub-branch gasping for life, but with two determined men at the head of affairs, backed by encouraging comrades, the sub-branch now numbers 63 financial members and 150 is confidently predicted next June. Recently a highly successful Smoke Social was held, at which League Headquarters was represented by Messrs. Logie, Shaw, and Secretary Benson. Paddy Davidson, who was Hon. Secretary in 1919, told some stories of the early days of the League, whilst Councillor George Kennedy proved a wonderful entertainment in himself with song, story, and piano items.

One of the first Presidents of Midland, whilst the toast of the Visitors, proposed by P. E. Doig of the 11th Battalion, was responded to by Mr. Cleaver of Dalwallinu.
The BALLAD OF ABEN'S ASS.

By Ernest Raymond.

When David's House on every road
Came seeking Bethlehem,
Old Peddler Aben slung his load
And made him one of them.

His limping ass, he took him, too,
And both they bore their packs
(As mighty Caesar bade them do,
All for to pay the tax).

Full many a league they travelled o'er,
Until they came to town,
Where Aben sought an inn so poor,
That he might lay him down.

In weary heart he chose his cot,
And drove the ass to stall,
And went a-sleeping, and forgot
To feed the beast at all.

But when the night was wondrous still,
And day was surely nigh,
He woke in fear, for, an you will,
A light was in the sky.

Then thought he how the stable-door
Shut in a hungry beast;
But bed was warm, and night was frore
And there he fain would rest.

"No, no," said Aben, "let me stay;
The ass can bide awhile."

Nathless he rose and took the hay,
And sought the stable vile.

And lo! the place was all aglow;
The limping ass he stood
And gazed into the manger low
To see his evening food.
### OUR PRESIDENT

*A highly respected resident. Of Perth, is our Digger President, Who led the Twenty-eighth into the fray, And who, later, held command Of the camps along the strand By Littlemoor, and Verne, and Weymouth Bay.*

Now amid the quiet nooks, Flanked by rows and rows of books, In the Public Library he holds his sway; And he scans the storied page— Of the poet or the sage— His mental bill of fare from day to day.

At the closing of the day, When more mundane mortals play, Our Colonel delves among his garden plots, And he drills the fertile ground Into line and trench and mound Of asparagus and beans or flowers in pots,

But he doesn’t shun the strife Of useful public life, And when he speaks there’s silence in the land; Full of wisdom and of fun There’s a blend for everyone That’s sure to win applause from every hand.

“Mary—Mary! Come quickly and take the parrot away—the master’s lost his his collar-stud.”

Rose: “I can’t understand why Gladys ever married a man in such reduced circumstances.”

When trouble is brewing it takes more than hot air to kill the germ of suspicion. Laughter is the sound a man hears when his hat blows off and rolls in the mud.

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### SONGS OF SOPHISTICATION

By Benjamin Buttonstick.

Hickey, slickety, Uncle Sam; For Truth and Honour you go grand slam. Prohibition and shikkerism, Cruiser construction plus pacifism. Slickety, slimy Uncle Sam, You’re the original wosser-sham.

Humpty Dumpty sat in a bar; Humpty clicked with a vaudeville star, And now all the bankers and auditing men Can’t make Humpty financial again.

Georgie Shawgley, wedding cakes, Here’s good luck for both your sakes. May your good luck never stop. Best of fortune, good old top.

Mary, Mary, cute and wary, How does your wardrobe grow? Silken hose and lots of clothes, Now I’ve got the boss in tow. Dissipation is vexation; Indulgence is as bad; The barley-bree it fuddles me, And Three Star drives me mad.

At Inglewood these is a bootmaker named Alf Priest. He should be able to save our soles.

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<td>Silk Ties</td>
<td>Neatly boxed with greeting card, splendid range—4/11.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silk Ties, broad end</td>
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*Wellington to Murray Street, Perth—Walk Through*
Chapter VI.  
THE DARK AGES.

1. The Barbarians.

The barbarian onsloughts, before which the debilitated fabric of the Roman Empire finally crumbled, came from two quarters, the north and the east. In either case the following sequence may be observed—first, a resistance to Roman expansion, then, incursions into Roman territory for the sake of plunder, and finally, organised invasions for the purpose of conquest and settlement. The northern invaders were the various Germanic tribes of whom the Goths, Lombards, Franks, and Anglo-Saxons were typical. Those from the east were nomadic hordes, pressing ever westward, and their inroads, as Rome weakened, gradually became the migration of a whole people. Inferior in civilisation to both Roman and Teuton, they left a track of devastation in their wake, until Rome and her Germanic neighbours were compelled to sink their mutual differences and combine for the purpose of confining this westward advance within definite limits.

The Huns, who carried their ravages well into what is now modern France, have been described in great detail by Ammianus Marcellinus, a Roman soldier of the fourth century. Owing to their practice of searing the faces of infant children with heated irons they grew up "without beards and without beauty." "They all have closely knit and strong limbs and plump necks," Ammianus informs us; "They are of great size and low legged, so that you might fancy them two-legged beasts, or the stout figures which are hewn out in a rude manner with an axe on the posts at the end of bridges."

"They are certainly in the shape of men, however uncouth, and are so hardy that they neither require fire nor well-flavoured food, but live on the roots of such herbs as they get in the fields, or on the half raw flesh of any animal, which they merely warm rapidly by placing it between their own thighs and the backs of their horses."

"They never shelter themselves under roofed houses, but avoid them, as people avoid sepulchres, as things not fit for common use. Nor is there even to be found among them a cabin thatched with reeds; but they wander about, roaming over mountains and the woods, and accusm themselves to bear frost and hunger and thirst from their very cradles..."

"There is not a person in the whole nation who cannot remain on his horse day and night. On horseback they buy and sell, they take their meat and drink, and there they recline on the narrow neck of their steed, and yield to sleep so deep as to indulge in every variety of dream..."

"None of them plough, or even touch a plough handle, for they have no settled abode, but are homeless and lawless, perpetually wandering in their wagons, which they make their homes" (Robinson: Readings in European History, vol. I, pp. 351-352).

The opening sentence of this description affords an excellent example of the effects of muscular habit upon general appearance. The Celtic and Germanic races who came into more intimate contact with Roman civilisation and who adopted many of the refinements of Roman life are more worthy of interest, especially those who finally wrested Britain from the Roman empire.

2. The Ancient Britons.

What little is known of the Ancient Britons we gather from the pages of Caesar. They must have had a fair degree of civilisation. They had some knowledge of field fortification and of the use of metals. The Phoenicians visited their shores and exchanged the dyed cloths of Tyre for tin and gold from the Cornish mines. Caesar describes them as a Celtic race, closely akin to their neighbours in Gaul. They were vigorous, active, and warlike, and tenacious of their native liberty. Their early education inured them to hardship and fatigue and took the form of training in hunting, leaping, swimming, chariot-driving, and wrestling, in short, in all the activities and amusements most suited to the profession of the soldier. It is noteworthy that the natives of Cornwall and Devon, of Cumberland and Westmorland, those parts of England where the Celtic strain long predominated, retain to the present day a skill in hurling and wrestling, which, according to Joseph Strutt (in Sports and Pastimes of the People of England), "may improperly be considered a vestige of British activity."

Under Roman rule the necessity for defence disappeared, and there was a corresponding decrease in virility. It was the practice of Rome to enrol troops locally in the more distant provinces. A modern ana-
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heart of the empire, the Britons, too enfeeble to defend themselves, resorted to the dangerous expedient of hiring the Germanic sea-raiders to defend them against the Celts of the north. Angles, Saxons and Jutes came into the country as mercenaries, and remained as conquerors and oppressors. The unfortunate Britons met the fate that history has shown will always be the fate of a people too nerveless to undertake its own defence. Those who were not destroyed were reduced to a very bitter and humiliating as it was brutal and merciless.

3. The Teutonic Races.

The various Teutonic races who hammered down the frontiers and finally overran portions of the Roman Empire—the Goths, the Germans who were described with such a wealth of detail by Tacitus, the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who came into Britain as military mercenaries and remained as conquerors, the Norsemen, were similar, not only in physical appearance but also as regards ideals and social institutions. A hardly vigorous race, they were noted for physical beauty and development. They approximated more nearly to the Herodians than any people before or since. With them military service was the main ideal. In fact it was elevated almost to the status of a religion. Their chief god—Odin, Woden, or Wotan, as he is variously called—was the God of War. Only proved warriors could ascend to Valhalla, the heaven of the gods, where the days were spent in hunting and fighting, and the nights in revelry. Cowards and women spent their future existence in the gloomy halls of Hel, where cold feet never had a chance to get warm.

Democratic institutions developed early in their history. Their kings, though selected from noble families and respected on account of their birth, were not so much rulers as leaders in war. His law had to be approved by an assembly of the free men—the Moot of the Saxons, and the Ting of the Norse. Such assemblies were at first made up of men bearing their arms. The right to bear arms was the exclusive privilege of the free man, and war was looked upon as the normal condition of life.

It was only natural, then, that the sports and exercises of such nations should be robust, even dangerous, in character.

The Moot or Ting was usually held in some saucer-shaped depression, which served as a natural amphitheatre, and after the elders had deliberated the youths indulged in wrestling and other contests. The main exercises were wrestling, running, jumping, skating, swimming, various ball games, and weapon training. Physical efficiency was highly regarded. The sagas and eddas devote as much space to the athletic feats of the heroes as to their exploits in battle. The old chronicle of Norway records of King Olaf Tryggeson that he was stronger and more nimble than any man of his dominions. He could climb the rock Smalslerhorn and fix his shield on top of it; he could walk round the outside of a boat upon the ears while the men were rowing; he could play with three darts, alternately throwing them in the air, and always kept two of them up, while he held the third in one of his hands; he was ambidextrous and could cast two darts at once; he excelled all men of his time in shooting the bow; and he had no equal in swimming.

The feats described were not all mere tests of strength. Skill and co-ordination entered into such matters as walking on the oars of the rowers and juggling with the darts. Juggling, indeed, formed part of the repertoire of the Anglo-Saxon gleemen who, in addition to being musicians, were acrobats and experts in the sphere of legerdemain. One of these gleemen was able to surpass the feat of Olaf Trygggeson. He could juggle with three balls as well as the three daggers. At Hastings the Norman mistrel Taillefer cast his lance into the air three times, catching it by the head so dextrously that the simple-minded English deemed that enchantment had made possible the feat.

Skating and rowing appear as new exercises during this period. The geographical and climatic conditions under which the Northmen lived necessitated an exercise for the warrior, the seafarer, the farmer who worked his ship as well as the farms, and the farther who worked his ship as well as the farms.

The English do not seem to have taken kindly to archery. Until after the Norman Conquest the normal tactical formation was the shield wall. The spear was used for throwing, the axe or long sword for close combat. The Englishman was essentially a foot soldier. When he rode he used the horse as a means of locomotion only, and not as cavalry ride in war. Behind the shield wall he was invincible at close quarters. The Normans did not win Hastings by the shock tactics of their cavalry, but by the judicious employment of their bowmen. The Normans, themselves an offshoot of the Norse race, learned equestrianism and archery from contact with the Romanised peoples of France. It was only after the Norman Conquest that the Englishman achieved that supremacy with the long-bow which made him the terror of continental chivalry.

Saxon and Early Norman England was the England of a transition period, of the period when barbarism was being gradually brought under the refining influence of Roman culture, when the various racial elements were struggling for supremacy and gradually being blended into a composite people. It was a period of chaos and turbulence, when property and even life itself depended on the possession of a strong right arm and trusty sword.

Consequently, it is not surprising "that such exercises as inured the body to fatigue and biassed the mind to military pursuits should have constituted the chief part of the young man's education: Accordingly we find that hunting, hawking, leaping, running, wrestling, casting of darts, and other pastimes which necessarily required great exertions of bodily strength were taught them in their adolescence."—(Strutt).

(To be continued)
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THEATRE NOTICES OF 1805.

The following appeared in "The Times," London, of November 7th, 1805, at the time when the nation was plunged into mourning on account of the news of Lord Nelson's death. The punctuation is as it was:

Last night, after the Comedy of "She would and she would not," in which Miss Smith acted Hypolita with admirable spirit, the Proprietors of this Theatre, ever alive to the national glory, produced a hasty but elegant compliment to the memory of Lord Nelson. When the curtain drew up, we were surprised with the presentation of the late Lord Nelson descending with the following words underwritten: Horatio Nelson, R. N., thirty-three years of age, Lord of the Bedchamber, Knight of the Bath, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, and Chief of the Navy of Britain. In the distance a number of ships were seen, and the picture was filled by Mr. Taylor and the other performers then sang "Rule Britannia," verse and chorus. The following additional words underwritten: Horatio Nelson, Ob. 21st Oct. Mr. Taylor and the other performers then sang "Rule Britannia," verse and chorus. The following additional words underwritten: Horatio Nelson, Ob. 21st Oct. Mr. Taylor and the other performers then sang "Rule Britannia," verse and chorus.

HOW SOLDIERS REPATRIATED THEMSELVES.

ANZAC TWEED.

When the work of repatriation was begun by the State War Council in 1915, several returned disabled soldiers were instructed in the art of hand weaving. Looms were built and yarn was procured from the Commonwool Woollen Mills, Geelong. In a few months the soldiers became expert weavers, and the quality of their work was such that the tweeds produced by them had a ready sale at good prices. These were the first of the Anzac Tweeds, which have since become famous throughout Australia, and are NOT UNKNOWN ABROAD. When the work of repatriation was taken over by the Commonwealth Department of Repatriation, it was thought that hand weaving would not survive competition with the power looms, and an attempt was made to close down the industry. A strenuous campaign, however, resulted in the soldier weavers being allowed to go on under the control of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League. This agreement was subsequently altered, and not long since, the Anzac tweed industry was taken over by the soldiers themselves, who are now working it as a co-operative concern. The prediction that the industry could not survive under the competition has not come true. Anzac tweeds are still being produced by the soldier weavers. They have achieved immense popularity, based on solid value, apart altogether from the sentimental fact that they are the product of disabled soldiers. These tweeds are in a class by themselves. Anzac tweeds rank with the famous Harris and Donegal homespuns of Great Britain. Being all wool, they wear better than any other tweeds, keep their shape, and the public may purchase them direct from the factory without having to pay any middleman's charges. The price for Blue or Black is 13/6 a yard, all other varieties being 12/6 per yard.

To those unable to supply the material made up, please ask for a self-measurement form to be forwarded, the suit costing £6/7s. The soldiers engaged in the industry desire the public to know that they have no travelling canvassers from door to door, and tweed offered as Anzac Tweed by vendors is not genuine. Patterns will be sent anywhere upon request. Write to the Manager, Anzac Tweed, Basement, Anzac House, Collins Street, Melbourne, who will personally attend to all correspondence.

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THE MARSEILLAISE.
A SONG OF SONGS.

The year 1792 was like the year 1918 in one aspect. It was a time when the world was stirred to its very depths. Every day wrote a page in French history. The Revolution was agitating the land. Men were inflamed and in the name of Freedom all sorts of wild deeds were done. Thoughts became vivid, feelings became intense, and action followed swiftly. It was at such a time that Rouget de l'Isle, a private in the French Army, then at Strasburg, in a moment of inspiration, wrote the finest war song that the world has ever known. It is a song of Freedom called for by the pitiful sufferings of a people groaning under the burdens of pomp and power, and in a fit of glorious frenzy this famous soldier wrote both words and music in one night. The air he picked out of an old violin. It was first sung by a band of 500 volunteers, who were tramping 600 miles from Mar­seilles to Paris to take part in the Revolu­tion; but soon every street and alley of Paris rang with the echoes of its martial strains. It is the song of the oppressed, and who knows what comfort it brought during the Great War to many an ill-used prisoner, to the down-trodden people of occupied French territory, and to the French armies fighting for the liberty of the land they all love so warmly and so bravely. The French people have a saying that when the "Mar­seillaise" dies, France will die too. By that they mean that both will live for ever. There is an English translation of the first three verses of the famous war song, which is well worth reprinting.

The Marseillaise.
Ye sons of France, awake to glory!
Hark, hark! what myriads bid you rise.
Your children, wives and grand­sires hoary;
Behold their tears and hear their cries.
Shall hateful tyrants, mischief breeding,
With hireling hosts, a ruffian band,
Affright and desolate the land,
While peace and liberty lie bleeding?

Refrain:
To arms, to arms, ye brave!
The avenging sword unsheath,
March on, march on, all hearts resolv'd
On victory or death!

With luxury and pride surrounded,
The vile, insatiate despots dare,
Their thirst for gold and power unbounded.
To mete and vend the light and air!
Like beasts of burden would they load us—
Like gods would bid their slaves adore—
But man is man—and who is more?
Then shall they longer lash and goad us?
Oh, Liberty! can man resign thee
Once having felt thy generous flame?
Can dungeons dark and bars confine thee
Or whips thy noble spirit tame?
Too long the world has wept bewailing
That falsehood's dagger tyrants wield—
But Freedom is our sword and shield
And all their arts are availing!

The Hymn of Hate.
In striking contrast is the manner adop­ted by the German poet, Herr Ernst Si­sauер, to urge the German people to vic­tory. He wrote the following "Hymn of Hate," in 1914, which proved immensely popular in Germany when the cock­sure Prussians seemed to have matters all their own way—

Hate, French and Russian they matter not,
A blow for a blow and a shot for a shot;
We love them not, we hate them not,
We hold the Weichsel and Vosgesgate;
We have but one and only hate,
We love as one, we hate as one,
We have one foe and one alone,
England!

We fight the battle with bronze and steel,
And in time the coming Peace will seal.
You we will hate with a lasting hate:
Hate by water and hate by land,
Hate of the head and hate of the hammer,
Hate of the head and hate of the crown.
Hate of seventy millions, choking down.
We have but one and only hate,
We love as one, we hate as one,
We have one foe and only one alone,
England!

OBITUARY.


Born in Queensland he became an officer of the old Administrative and In­structional Staff, and shortly before the war, spent twelve months in New Zealand as an exchange officer. He was with the Light Horse on Gallipoli and in Palestine, and had a great deal to do with the compilation of the brief history of the Palestine Campaign, which Army Headquarters has issued as an examination text book. In 1916 he went to Tid­worth to take over the command of the Second Cavalry Brigade, being the first Australian to hold such an appointment. He was to have gone to the Imperial Defence College next year for instruc­tional purposes. His untimely death will mean a great loss to the Service, and to the host of friends his attractive personal­ity had gained.
The presence of members of the State acquainted with the activities of the encouragement, besides enabling the members to become to a greater extent increases in that number were expected. Individuals forming a political body. The membership of 63. and ere long further arising condition and not, as certain persons were trying to make out recently, that they were a body of about a dozen sons were trying to make out recently, that they were a body of about a dozen members of the branch, no matter how large or needed in the future, and the banding together of the Diggers in the ranks of the League was the means of looking after the interests of all ex-soldiers. Mr. Shaw also expressed delight at the prosperity of the sub-branch. Every sub-branch, no matter how large or small, made a unit of the League, and they wanted all ex-soldiers to be members, and he trusted ere long Midland Junction would have all Diggers in the district as members of the sub-branch. At the head of the State Executive we had in the State President (Col. Collett) a leading man in Australia in League affairs, as long as he held that position we had no fear for the future. The position of a member of the Executive was no light job, and every member of that body had plenty to do, and put in a lot of work in the interests of the League and Diggers generally. Mr. Shaw gave those present some idea of the operations of the Land Committee. That Committee acted, as it were, as arbitrators between the R.S.L. and the Government, and every case was thoroughly and carefully investigated before being put forward. Mr. Benson, the State Secretary, congratulated the sub-branch on its present position, and expressed appreciation of the work done during the past 12 months. In referring to matters generally, Mr. Benson pointed out that the Mitchell Government were always sympathetic to the Digger, and the present Government were not lacking in that respect, and in

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the Premier (Mr. Collier) the Diggers had a friend. In referring to the sale of poppies before Poppy Day and at a reduced price, the State Secretary pointed out that no sub-branch had been granted permission to do such a thing, and he was sure action would be taken to prevent any recurrence.

Mr. Benson gave a lengthy review of some of the many cases dealt with by the League, and how they had succeeded in gaining consideration for Diggers and dependents of Diggers, both as regards pensions and assistance. He conveyed to the members of the sub-branch the compliments of the season, and hoped the New Year would be a prosperous one.

Mr. F. E. Doig proposed the toast of Mr. Leaver, a visitor from the Dalwallinu Sub-Branch. The members of the Sub-Branch were delighted to have a visitor from a country Sub-Branch present with them.

Mr. Leaver briefly responded and thanked the members for their kindness. He was delighted to have had the opportunity to attend the meeting, and hear the addresses from members of the Executive and State Secretary.

During the evening musical items were given by Messrs. G. A. Kennedy, C. G. Priddle, W. Gray, and G. H. Hopkins.

**NAREMBEEN.**

The Narembeen R.S.L. Committee received good support from the people of Narembeen on Poppy Day. T. Fitzgibbon and C. Messer accounted for many poppies and were ably assisted by Miss N. McKenna. The sum of £7/7/- was realised.

Copies of the second anniversary report stating the accomplishments of this sub-branch will be sent to every member.

The entertainment committee are making preparation for the reception and entertainment of Col. Collett, Mr. D. M. Benson, and other members of the State Executive. Further explanatory details relative to this matter will be sent out by the Secretary.

Diggers are reminded that the art union run by this sub-branch will be drawn on Friday, 30th December, at Narembeen Agricultural Hall. Save being disappointed and secure your ticket now.

On Saturday, November 19th, in the new district hall and in the presence of a very representative gathering of residents, the Memorial Tablet erected in commemoration of those who enlisted from this district during the Great War was unveiled by the State President (Col. Collett, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.) at the invitation of the sub-branch. The tablet is an imposing one and reflects great credit on the designer, Mr. Edward Webster (Secretary of the Road Board), who at all times is out to do what he can for the local R.S.L. At 3 p.m. returned men lined up outside the hall in charge of Frank Goundry (Lieut. 11th Bat.) and were introduced to the Colonel by the Secretary, Percy Gillam. On taking their seats in the hall, Mr. Edward Warburton (Chairman of the Roads Board) opened the proceedings by calling in Padre Penistan (C. of E.), Mr. Byleveld and Mr. Fellows (Methodist) to address a few words. Each spoke very stressfully on the aims and objects of the gathering and on conclusion of the singing of the Doxology, Mr. Warburton introduced Colonel Collett to the large gathering, who said: "I am greatly honoured by the invitation extended to me by this sub-branch to unveil this Honour Board erected in memory of those who have given their service in the Great War. It is not a pleasurable duty in a way to unveil these memorials to gallant soldiers, as they all have inscribed on them the names of some who have paid the Supreme Sacrifice. The terrible destruction on Gallipoli had seemed a waste of precious lives, although it had thrilled the nation with pride at the bravery of her sons. It was not a waste of life because the occupation of that land had kept at bay armies who might have been sent elsewhere. We are grateful that their sense of brotherhood was so strong. I am of a firm opinion that an Honour Roll will always convey far more to our children, perhaps, than to us. People said the Australians did not understand discipline. Many statements of those who knew them had been given, such as...
“Your men are splendid. Their only fault is they always want to be fighting.” My experience was that they only wanted to know what was to be done and they did it. We tried to do our duty and when called upon to do battle, found the old spirit was still there and that the pluck and heart of our forefathers was beneath the ‘khaki coat,’ whatever the facings or weapons we were opposed to. The public has in its power to make the ex-soldier popular, and when he finds the civilian appreciative, a reciprocal good feeling is engendered. This has occurred to me in several gatherings I have been connected with, and this function today also convinces me that the Returned Soldier is a potent element in the eyes and minds of the public. This gathering also teaches me that residents of Mt. Barker do things properly. This memorial will perpetuate the memory of those who served.

On the outbreak of war he enlisted, earned the Military Medal on Gallipoli, and lost the use of one arm. Early in 1916 he went back to his battalion, and in his division’s last stunt he received a severe wound; was carried to the aid post; and when lying on the stretcher recognised an old comrade to whom he remarked: ‘Thank God we were able to see it through.’ He knew his chance was remote; he had done his deed of duty, and gradually sank till evening, when he was summoned to that grand abode above with Him who lives for ever. The other example was—in 1917 a unit was coming out of the line. A youth, carrying a machine gun for which he was personally responsible, approached the road in the last stage of exhaustion. He fell and lost touch of the gun for a moment, but reaching for it managed to drag it back under his arm, as much as to say, ‘I must not lose you; it is my duty to hold on at whatever price.’ Both these instances will give you some idea of the devotion to duty, and thousands of others had the same experience, but possibly were not noticed or did not wish it to be recorded if they were seen. Men were there whose names appear on this Honour Board, and I am greatly honoured by being asked to take part in this memorable service. For some time I have been looking forward to this occasion, and am glad to have the greatest possible reverence in unveiling this Honour Board for your district.”

The Last Post was sounded by Mr. Lane (ex Canadian Forces) and after the Reveille was sounded, wreaths were laid below the memorial tablet by Mr. T. G. Sounness (President Mt. Barker R.S.L.) in memory of their fallen comrades. Others wreaths were placed by relatives, Mrs. W. Sounness (sefr.), Mrs. T. Kearsley, Mrs. C. A. Hickling, Mrs. C. A. Baesjou, Mr. Alick O’Neill, Mr. T. Skinner, Mrs. I. Williams, Mr. H. M. Spencer, Mrs. G. Thomas, and Padre Peniston on behalf of the “Rainbows,” who, with Mrs. Geo. Wall as organiser, conducted a series of concerts to raise funds for this Honour Board.

MURRAY.

The Murray Sub-Branch of the League held its annual meeting and afterwards a Re-Union Smoke Social on Saturday, December 3rd, the State Executive being represented by Messrs. Benson and Tyler. Dr. Gilb Maitland was again elected as President, with the Hon. Secretaryship going to Mr. Knight. Billy Edwards of Perth gave a couple of items before returning to the city, and other items between toasts were well enjoyed. Mr. C. Tucker, of North Dandaloo, and A. Curns, another neighbour, were there, and their presence prompted the State Secretary to remark that, although the League had not been able to accomplish what these two Diggers required, he was glad to see that they still maintained their adherence, and he promised to see if a visit from the Land Committee could be made to the holdings of these soldier settlers.
ARMSI CE RE-UNION. 
Northam Gathering.

About sixty returned soldiers attended the Armistice re-union smoke social held at the Avon Bridge Hotel by the Northam Sub-branch of the R.S.L. on Friday evening, November 11th. The President (Ven. Archdeacon R. H. Moore) was in the chair and amongst those present was Rev. Eric H. O. Nye, a vice-president of the W.A. Branch of the League, who represented the State Executive. The toast list was short, and the speeches were interspersed with musical items. Apologies for non-attendance were received from the State President (Colonel H. B. Collett) and Mr. H. D. Moseley, R.M.

After the loyal toast had been honoured the chairman proposed "The Day We Celebrate." The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918, he said, brought to everybody at home and on the battle-fronts a sense of relief that simply could not be described. After that, amongst those who were away, there was a feeling of impatience that it took so long to get back home and when they had got back more impatience at the time it took to settle down to normal conditions. Then there was the reaction one naturally felt after the war strain and the discipline one had to comply with. There came disinclination to put the same effort and sacrifice as had been made during the war, into winning the peace, a failure to realise clearly that there must be tight times and hard work to replace the awful, wasteful spending of those terrible years. Public opinion had to be educated to realise what men who had gone away had lost, not only in health, but also in missed opportunities. It had taken them, he thought, nearly all this time since 1918 to realise that their special job was to apply to civil life the qualities of discipline, service and team work which had made the great effort of the war succeed. That morning, as they kept "the silence," he had thought not only of those who never came back, and those who returned shattered in health, but also of the need to cultivate the same spirit of sacrifice and service and public-spiritedness in order that what their comrades had done might not have been done in vain. The R.S.L. was not merely a society for the defence of their rights and the rights of those less fortunately situated than themselves; it was beginning to be recognised as a moulder of public opinion on the lines of the need of public spirit in the heart of every citizen that the fruits of their hard-won victory, namely, the right to develop their country in their own way and for their own kith and kin, might not be lost. In his presidential address, Colonel Collett had suggested they should encourage all those who felt they had the ability and leisure to take part in legislative and local governing bodies. He had gone on to point out why those who had been to the war should be fitted for such positions. The fact that they had seen the world and had passed through the innumerable experiences of the war had made them highly educated, not in book-learning, necessarily, but in a harder school. He sometimes thought of the 60,000 that never came back, as a great crowd of barrackers, standing, not so far away, and watching them and looking to them to play the game in civil life. "And so, as they have died for others, we should live for others, else they have died in vain." (Applause.)

The toast of the Executive of the R.S.L. was coupled with the name of the Rev. Nye, and was proposed by Mr. W. C. Armstrong. Referring to the remarks of the chairman concerning the present position occupied by the R.S.L. in W.A., he said he believed they could fairly ascribe the League's high standing to the excellent Executives they had had as the years had passed. They were remarkably fortunate in having such men for presidents as Rabbi Freedman and Colonel Collett. (Applause.) Those of them who had been members of the 28th Battalion had not been surprised at the manner in which Colonel Collett had captured the heart of the League. Colonel Collett was one of those who, before the war, had not been afraid to serve as a peace-time soldier.

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and the result had been that when the war broke out he had been eminently qualified to take command of the 28th. To consult any of the "old originals" was to find that Colonel Collett enjoyed their highest admiration and respect. They knew him as a man who "understood the digger." And so it was understandable that at the last conference of the League there should be a unanimous call from sub-branches for another year of office from the Colonel. They were further fortunate in having as vice-presidents two padres. These men had had a very difficult part to play in the war. The padre who had not an understanding heart had been inclined to regard some of his men as a very un-Godly crowd, but if he understood human nature as it was, he soon came to realise the men possessed the fundamental principles of the Christian ideal. They knew perfectly well that during the war difficulties and trials had brought out virtues which had existed in previous years. They had a great list of successful padres in W.A. Archbishop Riley had been a padre in peace times as well as in the war and he was still a padre. Then there were Father Fabruzzi, one of the first to reach Gallipoli; Rabbi Freedman, their own president, and their guest padre. Then there were Father Fahey, one that night. He thanked Mr. Nye for his presence and hoped he would go back and tell the members of the Executive that in Northam they had a deep sense of duty was to apologise for the absence of members and in public favour. There was no man for whom he and other members of the Executive had more regard; his name stood for good conduct, upright judgment, and unbounded enthusiasm. The League stood higher to-day than ever it had done in public prestige. This had been indicated in many ways and notably by the fact that the Minister for Repatriation (Sir Neville Howse) had recently travelled from Melbourne for the express purpose of consulting with the State Executive upon pension and repatriation matters. And during his very brief visit to this State Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the British Government, had spent an hour and a half discussing Imperial questions with representatives of the League. The League was frequently being consulted by officials of the State Government departments. The fine position occupied by the R.S.L. was largely due to the fact that it stood for no political party and for no particular religious creed; they refused to discuss party politics or to permit sectarian difficulties to crop up. On the Executive there were representatives of every political party and representatives of all religious creeds; it seemed to indicate that they at least had solved the problem of true brotherhood and friendship. He believed they had shown the public they were out to do some good in the world, not only for returned soldiers, but for the community in general. Colonel Collett had pleaded most eloquently and very earnestly for ex-service men to devote themselves to public service and he knew that would have been the burden of the Colonel's message had he been present. Apart from that there was need for the R.S.L. to function in the way for which it had first been formed, for there was still a great number of returned men in want. Men who had never been sick during the war had broken down in health and in a great many cases this result could be attributed to war effects. It became their duty to stand behind those men and endeavour to secure for them pension and other rights that the authorities often declared they could not receive because it could not definitely be proved that their condition was war-caused. Those cases were increasing and increasing too rapidly. In some instances the cases that came under the notice of the Executive were Federal responsibilities, and they, were going to endeavour, to persuade the Commonwealth authorities so to regard them. They wanted all returned soldiers to stand behind them and give their financial and moral support. There were twenty-five thousand or thirty thousand returned men in this State and the membership of the R.S.L. was only between 5,000 and 6,000. The League was living not for those who were in it, but for those who were outside it, and he hoped more of them would come in and help the others who still remained outside. (Applause.)

Rev. Nye, in his response, said his first duty was to apologise for the absence of the State President, and to express his keen regret that he had been unable to attend. He was glad to be able to represent the Colonel, whose opinions, not only as the official, but as the very real head of the League, had done more than anything else during the past two years in establishing their organisation in public favour. There was no man for whom he and other members of the Executive had more regard; his
JERRY.

I first met him in 1912, at a select little club in West Street, Durban. He was just an average Australian, active, healthy, and pleasant in conversation; he liked his liquor, was an inveterate gambler and so lucky in this last respect that the sight of his roll was always enough to make one's eyes water. At the time he held a steady job at the Point Coal Wharf, where he worked all day in a white suit, spending his evenings at the club or in some Bamboo Square gaming house.

Then came the War. Being small of stature I joined the Sportmen's Battalion, while he enlisted in an artillery unit and went off to the Congo and Cameroons.

Our next meeting was not until 1916 when, on leave from France, I ran across him with a friend in Bute Road, Cardiff. He and his companion were both attired in the uniform of naval lieutenants.

"How do, Joe?" he greeted me, as casually as if we had parted the day before. "Can you stop one? I could. In fact we stopped several, and I learned that he and his young friend Snooks, were sailing next day on H.M.S. "Challenger" for Simons-town, South Africa.

Our paths did not cross again for some years. Then, last May, we again foregathered at a country race meeting in Western Australia. Owing to the ravages of malaria and rheumatism, he was the wreck of his former self. He had not bothered about putting in for a transfer, and, as he expressed it, was "jerking jarrah for a crust." We chatted over old times and then parted company, but it was from a mutual friend of the old Durban days that I got the story of Jerry's naval service.

Jerry's young friend Snooks had a pronounced weakness for the opposite sex. Family influence had brought about a transfer to the East African coast, where he would be clear of feminine society for a while. Jerry had promised his boy's sister to exercise a senior officer's control by guarding him from feminine wiles, and furthering his promotion in the service.

They were posted to Motor Launch Umpteen Five—"Marie Lloyd's Name? 7.5," as they irreverently called it—and when not engaged in patrolling the long stretch of barrier coast, numerous snug rivers and coves, lying between Lazaro Marques and Mozambique, they acted as glorified messengers' boys to the fleet in those waters. With a speed of 30 knots, a crew of 24 all told, an equipment of one six-pounder fore and aft, four Maxim quick-firers, and a wireless set, they were, as Jerry said, "as safe as a church."

At a certain small post (which we shall call "B"), on this coast was an ammunition dump from which leakages, and big ones, had been occurring. One morning, in 1916, Jerry, in pyjamas, was decoding a message that "Sparks" had brought him, when Snooks entered the cabin. "Here you are, Snooks, read this," said the senior. "Now that we must take over station at "B" and have a stab at stopping these leaks; you must keep out of trouble with the ladies, my son."

Snooks promised to be the very model of discretion, but life at "B" soon became one continuous round of gaiety for the impressionable sub. The gay sloe-eyed sen-

hioritas turned the battery of their charms on the pair. Jerry found the attractions of the local casino more to his taste, and, as he had an amazing run of good luck, his well-filled wallet was considerably enlarged. Snooks, on the other hand, became a willing victim to the wiles of the ladies. Three or four weeks had passed very pleasantly when Jerry received a telegram from the S.N.O. "M.L. Umpteen Five. Proceed to Port "A." Senior take charge of harbour. Act as D.N.O. until recalled. Sub-Lieutenant Snooks remain "B" with armed guard of six men and portable wireless."

Without Snooks as a target for his caustic wit, Jerry found life at "A" rather dull, so by way of diversion he set himself to learn the local language—a crude mixture of Spanish and Portuguese—his tutor being an old gardener. He was nothing if not thorough, and in a few weeks was able to carry on a conversation, speaking fluently and grammatically the whole. But this new accomplishment was unsuspected by anyone save his tutor, the gardener's daughter and the Jesuit Padre.

On Christmas Eve he decided he would have a little diversion, so discarding his uniform he donned a plain white suit, slipped a business-like automatic into his pocket and entered a small evil-looking cafe in search of adventure. Two Portuguese, evidently of the merchant class, were conversing in fairly audible tones at a nearby table, and Jerry pricked up his ears when he heard them mention the name of a lady at "B" who had been particularly friendly with Snooks.

"The British," the man was saying, "How easily gullied they are. Senhorita Lopez has been feasting the guard at "B" and making love to Lieutenant Snooks, whilst her servants have taken 1000 cases of ammunition. Her yacht will arrive at the rocky bay twenty miles west of Port "A" at dawn tomorrow, where it will be hidden, and..."
we must dispose of it through the tribes at our earliest convenience."

It must be noticed that "Old Letterbox," as the troops called Van Letterouw, was often supplied by the natives with ammunition stolen from the Portuguese.

"The Senhorita," the man concluded, "herself accompanies the yacht, so there will be no mistake."

"Clever girl, that," commented his companion.

"So-ho," thought Jerry. "Snooks has been having a lot of fun, and now he must pay for it."

Draining his glass he left the place, and returned on board, to the dismay of the crew who were bent on making a night of it.

At 3.30 a.m. a long grey shape stole silently down the harbour, glided over the bar, and was soon heading west at half speed. Jerry lolled over the small bridge weather cloths muttering to himself. "Poor old Snooks. Clever girl that. Too damn clever. Must be stopped."

An hour later Jerry increased speed to twenty-five knots. Through his glasses he had observed a thirty-ton motor yacht fol-

lowing the coast towards Port "A." At 5.10 a.m. Jerry lollod over the small bridge.

Jerry, muttering to himself, "Tripped up. Evidently some-thing which sounded like, "Must save Snooks," sent a code wireless to the S.N.O. Zanzibar.

"From D.N.O., Port 'A' to S.N.O. Zan-

zibar. Sub-Lieutenant Snooks wirelessed from "B" this morning. 'Found leak in backboard. Capture and arrest yacht 'Conchita' bound east towards 'A.'"

Then Jerry, muttering to himself, something which sounded like, "Must save Snooks," sent a code wireless to the S.N.O. Zanzibar.

Capture and arrest yacht "Conchita." Stop. Captured yacht's crew will be exerted by the coast."

Jerry arrived, and his guard had stepped on to the stranger's deck, sheered off, standing by to await further instruc-

tions. As Jerry approached the yacht's bridge the first per-

son he encountered was Senhorita Lopez, a vision of loveliness in kimono and slippers.

"Good morning, Senhor Jerry," she greeted him with a dazzling smile.

"Good morning, Senhorita. I have a very unpleasant duty to perform which I hope will not put you in any inconvenience. My orders are to search all vessels in these waters. Now I must find your captain. Can he speak English?"

"I am afraid not, Senhor Jerry. But I will be your interpreter."

Jerry bowed his assent. It was no part of his game to let anyone on board know he understood their language.

The Portuguese skipper vehemently protested his innocence, but it was the yacht in the place he expected to find it, and with the Senhorita on board. The search revealed the thousand cases of ammunition, so the coxswain with a prize crew of nine was ordered aboard. Senhorita Lopez was taken on to the "M.L. ?? 5" as a guest, and was soon seated at breakfast with Jerry, who was smiling and thinking deeply. Nevertheless he exerted himself to make the meal a pleasant one, and presently, the lady, somewhat reassured, asked him, "What do you intend to do with me, Senhor Jerry? It is my yacht, my crew, and the ammunition on board. It is what you would call 'a fair sop?' eh?"

"Well, that must be decided later, Senhirita. But if you give me your word to do as I tell you, I fancy nothing very serious will happen to you—except, of course, you lose your yacht. You know I could have you all shot."

"I will promise whatever you like."

"Very well. You will stay at Port "A." for one month, and return to headquarters. By this time Senhorita Lopez had been installed at the best hotel in Port "A," and her yacht's crew had been allowed to disappear under cover of darkness. Before the lady returned to "B" Snooks was ordered to proceed by H.M.S. "Fly" on transfer to Mombassa.

Four days later when a destroyer with the S.N.O. aboard arrived, Jerry gave his superior such a glowing account of Snook's ability and devotion to duty that the S.N.O. promised to find the young man a berth at headquarters. By this time Senhorita Lopez had been installed at the best hotel in Port "A," and her yacht's crew had been allowed to disappear under cover of darkness. Before the lady returned to "B" Snooks was ordered to proceed by H.M.S. "Fly" on transfer to Mombassa.

Jerry got his issue on the Zambezi River three months later.

The sequel, do I hear someone ask? Well, to-day, Snooks has a cushy job in Port Sundan or Suakim, I don't remember which, while Jerry is jerking jarrah in the south west of Western Australia. I wonder does he regret.

—Shrapnel.
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