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CONCERNING OUR UTTER LACK OF EVERYTHING.

We Australians are a very long-suffering race. Probably that is why we have patiently endured the diatribes and ill-informed criticisms of every half-baked globe-trotter who has visited our shores since Captain Cook was a little boy. J. A. Fraser, the historian, with a very biased mind, met a few eockney freedmen of the old convict regime in Sydney, and going back to London, accused Australians of having an eockney accent. Forbes Fraser, who did a sort of five-minute Carinthia tour of Australia, just before the war, repeated the assertion. Consequently, in the ears of the world we speak the dialect of Poplar. During the Boer War, all the old London "Punch" jokes about the English volunteers were fired off against the Australian troops, mainly because they were volunteers also, consequently we had to do double work in the war either. Now we are assailed by a certain (or uncertain) very hazy soi-disant bishop of an obscure sect, one G. S. Armadale, who takes us to task concerning our educational system.

If democracy has ever found anything like full expression it has done so in Australia, and an educational system under State direction, allowing full scope for private enterprise at the same time, which gives equality of opportunity for all, is the proudest achievement of the democracy that we have founded. It may not be perfect. No system ever was. But the absence of criticism is better than the way to betterment. Here the good bishop has failed lamentably. He admits that "the kindergartern and Montessori schools of the Commonwealth are well abreast of those in other parts of the world." He even goes so far as to admit that "University and secondary education in Australia have attained a high level. (By the way, is the soi-disant bishop a graduate of any recognized University? Not at all.)" He returns from an international conference about something or other in a coloured man's country, he has much fault to find with the Australian educational system. Corporal punishment in schools is discontinued from our schools. If the good bishop knew what he was talking about, he would also know that corporal punishment has been practically a dead letter in secondary schools, as well as primary schools, for the past twenty years.

Other alleged faults of ours are that we are too individualistic. We are carefully trained for professions, but little attention is given to training our young citizens for public life. The bishops' strictures all lead up to an attack on the New South Wales Government.

The League is non-political, and it is not the function of the "Listening Post" to defend any State Ministry; but the educational system of the country, which is very uniform throughout the States, is a matter of public concern. The most trenchant criticisms of the system, notably those which appear from time to time in the "Sydney Bulletin," are on the score of defects regarding vocational training and that the system is too academic and not sufficiently professional. Such criticisms have been penned by schoolmasters, politicians, professional, and business men. These criticisms have borne the heat and burden of the day, suggest that our young citizens are being turned out in what is too much of a general mould, how can the soi-disant bishop's point regarded for individual training be maintained.

After all, is the political the only aspect of life? Owing to cheap newspaper notoriety, the pushing politician plays his little part and enjoys a spurious prominence. If the services rendered to the public by a great scientist, a great explorer, of men like Professor David or Sir Douglas Mawson, who combined both activities? What of the services of Professor Harvey Johnston, late of Sydney and Queensland, now of Adelaide, who did such valuable researches on the eradication of the prickly pear? Has the soi-disant bishop ever heard of the late Professor John Hunter, who, at the age of twenty-four, became professor of anatomy at Sydney, and whose untimely death, two years later, was a definite loss to the world of science? There was also the even greater anatomist, Professor Grafton Elliot Smith, of several English universities. What also of Professor Gilbert Murray, the eminent Greek scholar? At his recent distinguished brother, Terence Murray, the Administrator of Papua? Then, too, there was Chinese Morrison, the great "Times" correspondent; the other great, and recently deceased, journalist, Martin Donoughue, not to mention mere soldier-men like Chauvel, Monash, Brand, and a host of others. Hang it all, one could go on for pages. Surely no one will be so purblind as to consider that the public is receiving good and useful public service. They are all products of our Australian educational system, and most of them State school boys at that. But possibly this itinerant theologian's idea of greatness and public service is a politician of the T. J. Hughes type, or a gala day for "gallant little Montenegro."

Perhaps, also, our chief defect is that we are a little too cosmopolitan. It is one of the idiosyncrasies of every age that the young must be strafed in season and out of season. Old gentlemen with bulging eyes and adipose brains, matrons with pearl-white combinations, be- stirred souls, travelling bishops whose tongues have outstripped their mental content, and ascetics who beat forth a public condemnation of the sins they dare not commit, all combine to raise the voices to high heaven and find fault with us for not being as they would like us to be. Nevertheless, the world belongs to youth. The young will possess it when we have departed from it. The numerous examples previously quoted were once young, and did their best work while they were young. The next generation will make all the progress from our falling heads, and improve the world that we leave. Public spirit? The digger who understood the glorious mateship of Gallipoli, of France, of Palestine—his kids, and those who are charged with the education of his kids, can well afford to laugh, very, dervishly, at the cheap platitudes of the soi-disant Bishop, G. S. Armatule.
EXECUTIVE MEETING.
JANUARY 19, 1927.


The President explained that a letter had been written to the Committee, pointing out that he was unable to attend, but that an invitation had been accepted by the State Secretary, who would be present at the function.

Collie.—The President reported that Messrs. McAdam, Bader, and Ferguson were accompanying him to Collie, to attend a meeting on the 22nd inst.

Victoria Park.—Mr. Shaw reported that a further meeting had been held at Victoria Park, and Mr. J. Smith had been appointed Secretary, and himself Assistant-Secretary. The necessary permission was granted by the Executive.

Special Audit of the Amelioration Funds.—The President reported that, in compliance with the resolution passed at the Executive meeting of the 22nd December, 1926, Mr. J. J. Prendergast, the Auditor, had completed his official audit in connection with the Amelioration Funds. The President read the report, which contained suggestions for certain alterations.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Mellor, that the report be adopted, and that the suggestions as submitted be put into effect. Carried.

New Delegate.—The State President took the opportunity of welcoming Mr. E. Cohen as a new Delegate to the Executive.

Invitations.—Mr. Lawley Sub-Branch extended an invitation to the State President and Secretary to attend their annual smoke social, to be held in the Lyceum Theatre, on Tuesday, 25th January. The President and Secretary signified their intention of accepting the proffered invitation.

The Sub-Branch also requested that they be allowed to present Mr. Dan Dwyer with the medal he is to receive as a recipient of the League's Certificate of Merit. The State Executive had on a previous occasion decided that the balance of these medals should be presented at the Anzac Day service. On the motion of Mr. Lawley it was decided that the previous Executive resolution be adhered to.

Torbay Sub-Branch wrote, requesting that the State President and Secretary arrange to visit their district in the near future. The matter was left in the hands of the State President.

Spearswood Sub-Branch requested the presence of the State President and Secretary at their grand rally of diggers and smoke social, to be held in the Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall, on January 22.

In view of the fact that the State President will be at Collie, and the State Secretary at Albany, Mr. Pady was elected to represent the Executive on this occasion.

Corigations.—The Torbay Sub-Branch wrote, congratulating the State Secretary on obtaining the 50 per cent. reduction for ex-soldiers on the Denmark Concession. The letter was received.

Minister for Lands.—Mr. Angwin wrote that the congratulations tendered to him on his appointment as Agent-General for Western Australia.

The letter was received.

Federal Correspondence.—Royal Visit.—The Federal Executive wrote, showing copy of a letter from the Commonwealth Director of the Royal visit, in connection with the League's suggestion that an escort composed of V.C.'s, drawn from all States, accompany His Royal Highness on his Australian tour. The Director pointed out that the wishes of Congress in this matter could not be met. The letter was received. Apprenticeships Commonwealth Line of Steamers.—The Federal Executive wrote, showing copy of a letter received from the manager of the Commonwealth Line, in which he stated that the offer made by the Line to absorb sons of deceased soldiers as apprentices was definitely withdrawn.

War Service Homes.—At the last meeting this letter dealing with Resolution 49 of the 11th Annual Congress, was laid on the table for the information of members. The matter had been considered, and it was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bader, that this State Branch recommends that the suggestion contained in the letter be not proceeded with. Carried.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. G. D. Shaw moved, and Mr. H. S. Humphrey seconded, that Mr. L. D. McCarthy, V.C., be expelled from the W.A. Branch of the League under Rule 13 of the Constitution.

For the motion: Messrs. Shaw, Humphrey, Tyler, Bader, and Wedd.


Employment of Discharged Patients T.B. Hospitals.—A letter dealing with resolution 68 of the 11th Annual Congress, concerning the employment of discharged patients from Departmental T.B. Hospitals, which was deferred from last meeting, was then considered.

It was decided that the matter be referred to the State Secretary for the necessary enquiry.

3rd Biennial Conference.—The Federal Executive wrote, pointing out that arrangements were being made to hold the 3rd Biennial Conference of the British Empire Service League early in June, in London. The letter stated that it was proposed to send two delegates as hitherto. The State President then called for nominations for submission to the Federal President.

Rabbi Freedman, Messrs. Humphrey, and Cornell were nominated.

Moved by Mr. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Tyler, that the election be adjourned until next meeting, to allow the consent of the nominations being obtained. Carried.

Messrs. Cornell and Watt were appointed a sub-committee to prepare items for the Agenda Paper.

Royal Visit.—The President submitted a progress report in connection with the arrangements being made by the League for the forthcoming visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of York. The report was received.

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Between Broadhurst's & Barrack St.
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The Small Shop with the Big Values
was received.

Land Settlement.—Preference—Applicants for Land: The Gutha Sub-Branch wrote, stating that a certain block of land in their district had been thrown open for selection to a number of persons, including at least two A.I.F. soldiers. The successful applicant was not a returned soldier, and the branch claimed that the preference policy in this connection was not observed. The matter had been represented to the Under Secretary for Lands, who had replied, stating that the allotment of land was a matter for the determination of the Land Board and its decision is final and cannot be questioned.

After discussion it was moved by Mr. F. C. Bader, sec. by Mr. Mellor, that the Secretary write to the Under Secretary for Lands, with a view to obtaining the full facts of the case. Carried.

Qualified Applicants for Land.—The State Secretary had written to the Minister, requesting his proposals for the setting of the 1800 men—duly qualified and in possession of qualification certificates, who had been received by the Secretary from the Minister, which did not throw much light on the subject.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bader, that this matter be left for adjustment between the Ministers for Lands and the Executive Land Committee. Carried.

No. 6 District Committee.—The Secretary of No. 6 District Committee wrote, pointing out their reason for writing in the manner set out in their previous communication, in order to save unnecessary correspondence and waste of time. It was decided that the reply be left in the hands of the State Secretary.

Soldiers’ Institute.—The Perth Sub-Branch submitted a motion carried at their annual meeting, reading as follows:

"That the attention of the Executive be drawn to the fact that gambling is being carried on at the Soldiers’ Institute on Sunday nights."

J. H. LUNNON
F.B.M.C., F.I.O.D., B.R.O.
(>BY EX.AM. LONDON<)
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shall be pleased to attend to optical work of every description and shall, willingly give special terms to members of the R.S.L.

The matter was referred to the House Committee for their consideration.

Promotion, Education Department.—The State Secretary submitted particulars of a case dealing with the procedure adopted by the Department for the purpose of promotion of school teachers. It was pointed out that, on the statement submitted, it certainly appeared that unfair treatment was being meted out to certain ex-soldiers.

Moved by Mr. Logie, seconded by Mr. Philip, that this matter be taken up with the Education Department. Carried.

Art Union Committee.—The Secretary stated that permission had been granted by the Police Department to conduct an Art Union for a Building Fund, and requested that a Committee be appointed.

Messrs. Bader, McAdam, Lenon, Mellor, and Tyler were appointed.

Reports.—The State Secretary read his report on the operations of the office for the preceding fortnight. The report was received and adopted.

Finance Committee.—The Chairman of the Finance Committee read the report of the meeting held on the 5th January. He also stated that the War Souvenirs had been displayed at the R.S.L. Co-op., in Wellington-street, but only one sale had been effected, and he requested that permission be granted to return these to the Eastern States. The report was received and adopted.

House Committee.—The report of the House Committee was deferred until the next meeting.

Club Premises Committee.—A progress report was submitted by Mr. Longmore in connection with the action being taken by this committee.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bader, that the Committee be empowered...
to add to their numbers if desired. Carried.

Midland Junction Meeting.—Mr. Shaw reported having attended a meeting at Midland Junction on January 13, and stated that the branch was at a low ebb. He moved, seconded by Mr. Mellor, that the Executive be represented at the next General Meeting of the Midland Junction Sub-Branch by either the State Secretary or Assistant Secretary. Carried.

Calingiri Sub-Branch.—Mr. Logie reported having attended the last meeting of the Calingiri Sub-Branch. The report was received.

Anzac Day.—On the motion of Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Logie, the following Committee was appointed to handle the arrangements for next Anzac Day:—The State President, Messrs. Nye, Riley, Lennon, and Fitzgerald.

FEVERBRY 2, 1927.


Apologies were received from Messrs. Mellor and Cohen.

Federal Correspondence.—Cairo British War Memorial Cemetery.—Correspondence was received from the Federal Executive, concerning the commemoration of Armistice Day at the Cairo British War Memorial Cemetery.

3rd London General Hospital.—Correspondence was received from the Federal Executive, showing letters received from Col. Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, in which it was stated that arrangements had been made to lay a wreath each year on Armistice Day on the graves of Australian soldiers now resting in Westwood Cemetery, and who died in the 3rd London General Hospital.

The Film, "The Big Parade."—The Federal President wrote, advising that the N.S.W. Branch of the League had decided not to proceed with its intention in connection with the above picture. The letter was received.

3rd Biennial Conference.—The election of the nominee for Western Australia was then proceeded with. Nominations had been received at the previous meeting as follows:—Messrs. Cornell, Freedman, and Humphrey. The election resulted as follows:—1, Cornell; 2, Freedman; 3, Humphrey.

Temporary Employees, C.P.S.—The West Perth Sub-Branch submitted a communication requesting that in future all messages desired to be sent to Melbourne for them through the League office, be sent verbatim, or referred back to the Branch for any variation.

The Secretary explained what had led up to this letter, and stated that although four questions had been submitted by the West Perth Sub-Branch some little time ago, when he desired information in connection therewith, and conferred with the Secretary of the Sub-Branch, he could not supply the desired particulars. Therefore, in collaboration with the Secretary, a wire was sent, to which a reply was received contrary to the desires of the Sub-Branch.

Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Yeates, that the State Secretary's action be endorsed, and that negotiations as desired by the West Perth Sub-Branch proceed. Carried.

W. H. Boyce.—Mr. W. H. Boyce, of Moora, had communicated with each member of the Executive, requesting their assistance to secure a Royal Commission to inquire into the administration of four soldier settlers' properties on the Waling-road, Moora.

It was moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Philp, that the matter be referred to the Land Committee for their investigation. Carried.

Reports.—Preference Committee.—The Committee appointed by the Executive to consider that portion of the State President's Annual Report dealing with preference as suggested by him, delivered its report, through Mr. Cornell.

Moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, that the report be received and adopted. Lost.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Riley, that consideration of this report be postponed, and that a copy thereof be supplied to each member of the Executive. The copy to be marked confidential. Carried.

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February 18, 1927.
State Secretary's Report.—The State Secretary read a report of the operations of the office for the preceding fortnight, sub-branches. The report was received and dealt with his visits to the various and adopted.

Finance Committee.—Mr. Tyler delivered a report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 19th January, 1927. The report was received and adopted.

House Committee.—Mr. Philip delivered a report of the House Committee meetings, held on the 11th January and 1st February, 1927. He dealt with the matter of the electrical installation of the Soldiers' Institute, and it was decided that this matter be deferred pending a further interview by the House Committee and the State President with the Trustees of the Institute.

The reports were then adopted.

Literature in Repatriation Hospitals.—With reference to the provision of literature and smokes to the Repatriation Department hospitals, the Trustees reported that they had considered this matter, but did not recommend any expenditure in that direction, as they were of the opinion that it does not come within the scope of the activities of the R.S.I. Amelioration Funds. They also pointed out that the matter had been referred to the West Perth Sub-Branch, but the Branch had stated that they did not have the necessary funds.

Rev. Riley later in the evening again brought this matter up, and discussion ensued.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, and seconded by Rabbi Freedman, that a committee consisting of Messrs. Riley, Nye, and the State Secretary investigate the question of the supply of literature to Repatriation Hospitals, and report to the next meeting. Carried.

Employment Bureau.—The Employment Officer, Mr. R. A. Sewell, submitted his report for the month of January, 1927, which was received and adopted. He dealt with the problem of placing incapacitated men in employment.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Pady, that statistics be obtained from Mr. Sewell, showing the number of incapacitated men registered for work, the degree of their incapacitation, and the trades or callings of such men. Carried.

Spearwood Sub-Branch.—Mr. Pady reported the annual meeting of the Sub-Branch having visited Spearwood and at Branch.

New Settlers' League.—Mr. Longmore reported that he had attended the last meeting of the New Settlers' League, and that a Constitution was being prepared. The report was received.

Royal Visit.—The State President informed the meeting that the Friendly Union of Soldiers' Wives had approached him with the request that a block of 300 seats be made available for them at the reception to be tendered to His Royal Highness the Duke of York. He requested the Executive to consider the matter.

After discussion it was moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Lennon, that the Committee's previous decision as contained in their report of the 7th January, 1927, be adhered to. Carried.

Archbishop Riley.—Moved by Mr. Lennon, seconded by Mr. Longmore, that this Executive approach the Metropolitan Sub-Branches with a view to tendering a social evening to His Grace Archbishop Riley on the occasion of his 73rd birthday on the 26th May next. Carried.

Messrs. Nye, Philip, and Lennon were appointed as a committee.

Maylands Sub-Branch.—It was decided that the revival meeting of the Maylands Sub-Branch be called for Thursday next, 10th inst.

Collie Sub-Branch.—The President reported that, in company with Mr. Bader and the Assistant State Secretary, he had visited Collie on the 22nd and 23rd of January, and had attended their annual meeting.

R.S.L. ART UNION.

Tickets are now available for the R.S.L. Art Union, and all Diggers are requested to become active agents to ensure that this cash consultation will again be fully subscribed. The profits of the Art Union run last year were placed in a trust account with the Commonwealth Bank, Perth, and the present Art Union profits will be added to this trust account, and later be devoted to the provision of a soldiers' club in Perth, where all League members will congregate to have their little "got" and talk of old times. This club, properly conducted, should prove a rallying point for all ex-soldiers of the Empire, and possibly in time to come will give the old Digger comfort and pleasure. Diggers are asked to talk of this Art Union and push it everywhere.

IT PAID HIM.

Advertising Man: "I tell you, Smith, advertising pays."

Smith: "You've got to prove it to me."

Advertising Man: "Well, it supports me and my family."

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MOVE OFF AND APPLY FOR TICKETS

R.S.L. ART UNION

50,000 Men and Women wanted each with 2s. 6d.

First Prize £1000  Second £500  Third £200
£25 to the Seller of the Winning Ticket
153 other Cash Prizes  Prize Money totals £3,125

THIS IS W.A.'S BEST

Profits devoted to provision of up-to-date Residential Club for League Members

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

THE GATHERING STORM.
AT PEEL ESTATE.

That the Groupers on the Peel Estate were threatened with disaster has been the oft-repeated contention of the League and a constant barrage of words and letters has been aimed at the Minister for Lands for over three years, without avail. Many times have State executive officials and delegates journeyed to the settlements and investigated grievances on the spot. The country is good enough, although the holdings are too small, but the present unfortunate state of affairs can be traced largely to the appalling lack of sympathy and understanding between the Groupers and the Administration.

A. P. overtures by the League to the late Minister (Mr. Angwin) to appoint a Royal Commission to thoroughly investigate the Estate, have been met by stubborn refusal, and more State money was thrown away in much useless endeavour.

The stream of ex-soldiers leaving the Estate should have been sufficient for the Minister to know that all was not right. Even representative politicians have not known of, or if they did, they ignored the signs of impending storm until the first gusts smote them recently, when they rushed off to indignation meetings of the settlers, and have since been displaying unusual activity.

We hope that the Premier, who is now the Minister controlling the Estate, will personally investigate the major complaints of the settlers, and thus help to bring order out of chaos.

ANZAC COMMEMORATION.

The State executive is already functioning on the arrangements for the commemoration of Anzac Day. This year's service at the capital will be similar to last, except that the commencing hour will be 10.45 a.m., on the Esplanade, instead of the afternoon, as held last year. During the year a number of unit organisations have been formed, and most of the others have shown added vigour, so it is anticipated that the number of diggers on parade will be considerably increased. Colonel Collett, the League's president, will be in charge of the parade. Brigadier-General Besseell-Browne has been asked to take charge of the artillery and mounted units, and Colonel Pope will lead the infantry. Archbishop Riley, assisted by ex-A.I.F. chaplains, will conduct the service. All Churches will be appealed to to hold commemoration services during the day or evening.

In suburban and country districts, we have noted a tendency to allow the control and conduct of the Anzac services to be drawn away from the League by governing bodies and Churches, and we have heard of a case where the local branch of the League has not even been invited to cooperate and attend. This is not as it should be. The R.S.L. should be the main spring of the commemoration, and other organisations should be asked by the League to assist, and the sub-branch president should in most cases preside at the service. Anzac is the great memorial day of the nation, made possible by the men who fought, and every returned soldier should use this great occasion to proclaim the lessons of the sacrifice of dead comrades throughout a community which is only too prone to forget. We counsel sub-branches to get busy at once and ask all men and women who "did their bit" in the World War to "fall in" and parade with their comrades of the years of stress, and thus help to force home to the people a fuller realisation of the sacrifices made, and their larger obligations.

It is a proud day. Let all who can show their pride in their service for humanity by assisting.

ARTILLERYMEN'S ANNUAL FESTIVITIES.

The annual reunion of the Artillery Comrades' Association takes place on Monday, 14th March, next. The "drop off" ground is A.N.A. Hall, Riverside, Esplanade, Perth, and gunners should make themselves acquainted with the immediate surroundings, as on the cessation of hostilities, the "ammunition" may have a peculiar effect on some of the "boys." Operations will be directed by Brigadier-General A. J. Besseell Browne, who has ordered the barrage for 8 pip emma, and it will be continuous whilst "ammo" lasts. The Association expects every gunner "this day will do his duty," and come along. Tickets, 4s., may be had from Hon. secretary Joe Smyth, Accounts Branch, Lands and Surveys Department, Perth, or Mr. S. A. McNamara, South British Insurance Co., Barrack-street, Perth.
**GIBBINGS & DEEBLE**

Fruit Case Sawmillers

Maroondah (Via Brunswick Junction)

Large stocks of dump and three-qtr. flat cases on hand

All prices f.o.r. buyer's siding

We are returned soldiers—employing returned soldiers

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**VARIA.**

James A. (Bull) McGinty, writes on his pet subject:—A recent issue of the "Listening Post" informs its readers that "McGinty of Peel Estate" has turned secessionist, and further inquires solicitously "If he desires to make Western Australia a subsidiary State, or does he want a subsidy from the Federal Government?" For the information of all in doubt, permit McGinty to explain, first of all, that he has not "turned" secessionist, as he has always been of that opinion since shortly after coming to W.A., and secondly, that it is the subsidiary position which we at present occupy in the Federation which has confirmed him in this belief. As to the hope which he, or any other Western Australian citizen, may entertain of getting a subsidy from the Federal Government, the fact that in the past four years this State has received in Federal bounties only £22,000 as against N.S.W. £879,000, Victoria £872,000, Queensland £500,000 (to say nothing of the sugar embargo), S.A. £250,000, and Tasmania £191,000, seems to make that prospect very remote.

A now familiar resolution of mine on the subject of a bull, it will be recalled, demanded, that the animal in question should maintain itself with or without subsidy. McGinty has the ambition for W.A., which is at present maintaining 100,000 people in the Eastern States, whilst her own citizens (including returned men) are looking for work.

**Benjamin Buttonstick.**—The futile agitation on the part of a number of old women of both sexes, in favour of secession, like most futilities, is bred by prejudice out of ignorance. Beyond stating that secession is a retrograde movement, and that procession should be our watchword, I have no desire to enter into a discussion of the merits or demerits of the alleged movement. Let me merely state that a mutual understanding of the difficulties under which both State and Commonwealth labour might be arrived at by closer liaison (a good word "liaison"). It acquired quite a new respectability during the war, and is now being trotted about by everyone) and by a more complete co-ordination of many of our public and social activities, both State and Federal. As a beginning, the following syllabus of lectures might be arranged:

1. For Boy Scouts: "Knitting and Lashing," by the State Hangman.
2. For the Theosophical Society: "The Split Infini[ti]," by the Director of Education.

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P.M.S. writes from Guildford:—I must heartily congratulate you on the articles appearing in your journal, written by Captain Collins on "Physical Training." They disclose a wealth of knowledge and a gift of expression in the writer. Such information should be published in book form and used as a text-book in the secondary schools. The superiority of the British race in the game of war can be traced to the true spirit of sport which permeates the nation and knowledge of the genius and history of sport and physical prowess is well worth the having.
PERSONAL

Bill Overheu, farmer of Lomos, and member of Corrigin R.S.I., has been in town, and imbuing some of the atmosphere of League Headquarters. Bill left these shores two years ago, and the Hun was still marching along the poplar lined roads to the Gay City, and did not return until Kaiser Bill was of no more account than any other mountebank who ascends a bully-beef case on Sunday afternoon.

Jack Mullergy was at the Nungarin meeting to welcome the State Secretary, and had a most encouraging tale to tell of Lake Brown Soldier Settlers this year. Jack would have liked to accompany the League official on to Narembeen and Westonia, but admitted that he had a few hundred more bags to cart, and there was to be no time off on his ranch until the harvest was completely over.

Ben Davies, who created a stir some few years ago in League circles, attended the Nungarin R.S.I. meeting. Ben has not done too well on the land, and it appeared as if fortune has been in the habit of loading the dice against him in his farming ventures.

Tom Adams, President Mukibibden R.S.I., piloted a party of diggers from the northern settlement into the Nungarin meeting, and some of the party were taken straight away from burning-off fires, not even given a chance to tip a little water into the old petrol tin for a wash and brush up before setting off. Some, however, although unwashed outside, had managed to call on "Con" and obtain a little mouth wash before the meeting started.

Gus Herba, a one-time digger of the 2nd Divvy Sigs., who has a good property south of Nungarin, and doing particularly well this year, said that his bags numbered four figures twice over, which in the early stages of wheat farming is a good foundation for dealings with the local Bank Manager.

Frank Crossley, late of the 8th Battery, and very late of Geraldton, has taken on the Secretarial duties of the re-formed Kellerberrin R.S.I. Frank is a kindly soul, and with his one optic appears to glimpse all of the good in his fellow comrades, and whilst on Agricultural Bank duties never fails to lend a helping hand, and offer friendly advice where required. F.C. boasts that given a fair season in 1927, not one digger in his large area will have any troubles at all.

Peter Lyons has undoubtedly been fortune's favourite since his return home after being an unwilling guest of our late enemy in Europe. Somehow every property this ex-digger touches improves under his hand, and incidentally brings to its owner an increased bank balance. After selling out at Bruce Rock he acquired Ockerby's property at Kellerberrin, and recently sold it at a high figure. Still loyal to Kellerberrin, however, he intends to acquire another property, and was recently appointed vice-president of the local R.S.I.

Jack Lynch, a successful soldier-setler of Carnamah, attended the Kellerberrin R.S.I. meeting, and created, by his cheery countenance and tales of success, a very happy impression.

Excellent officials have been appointed at Kellerberrin, the president, Mr. D. P. Taylor, late 8th Battalion; and afterwards of the Toe Emus, being particularly keen on League work, whilst one of the vice-presidents, Jack Grant, the local stationmaster, showed very keen enthusiasm in the soldier's cause.

Merredin sub-branch will meet the second Tuesday in every month at the Commercial Room in Paterson's Hotel.

Charlie Latham, M.L.A., the Narembeen president, was unavoidably absent from the Re-union of his sub-branch, but Mr. A. S. Webb, the vice-president, kept the large gathering in good order, whilst a lengthy toast list and programme was carried out.

Sincerity and hard work are the two outstanding characteristics of Secretary A. H. Boyes, of Narembeen. This keen League worker took an active part in the big Villers-Bretonneux scrap, and saw service in other famous places along the Western Front.

If one is in a hurry to get beyond Merredin, it is wise to make a peaceful detour rather than encounter convivial pals like Len Bourne, of the "Merredin Mercury," Jimmie Dundas, a local railway official, and Joe Keelty, organiser and bandmaster of the local band, all local Diggers, and all a fund of humour in stories of the Great Strife. The meeting place, of course, is Tom Duff's, where the fluid is cheerly dispensed by two kindly spirits of the A.I.F. If, however, the travelling Digger has ample time, and particularly a thirst, there could be no better enjoyment in Merredin than to meet one of the ex-members of the A.I.F. mentioned in this paragraph.

Arriving at Merredin recently, the R.S.I. Secretary was perplexed when told that the road adjacent to the railway-line to Narembeen was too rough, and that a guide would be required on another track, to direct the wheel-marks of his car to Bruce Rock. Eventually, after several guides had been suggested, George Brown, of Narembeen, happened along, and, scornfully confident, assured all pre-
sent that he could get the League official to Narembeen in time for the re-union, in fact he could indicate the exact minute of his arrival at the southern wheat centre. He wanted to know if the visitor was in his charge, and being assured by a chorus that this was so, and that he was now the director of the journey, George replied: "Well, if I am in command, the first order I give is for another drink." His promise, however, was fulfilled, and Narembeen was reached, but not until many incidents had been successfully encountered.

President L. S. Walder, of the Merredin R.S.L., has always been a keen and ardent worker and one does not need to spend many minutes in telling Mr. Walder of what the League has done, and what it aims at. L.S.W. is a prominent and successful farmer adjacent to the town, and should rank amongst the best presidents that the League can boast of amongst its many sub-branches.

Heartiest of congratulations to State Executive Delegate Alf Yeates, who has been re-elected by the growers as this State's delegate on the Federal Dried Fruits Board for a further period of two years.

The many friends throughout the Empire of Captain Donald Simson, the honorary secretary of the British Empire Service League, will be glad to hear of his recovery from his recent serious illness. Though still in the London nursing home, to which he was admitted on New Year's Day, suffering from arthritis and influenza, in a very virulent form, Captain Simson is making good progress and hopes, after a short convalescence, to resume his duties at Empire Headquarters.

The diggers of Boulder regretted Ernie Bosston's resolve not to stand for re-election as president of the local sub-branch. Ernie has spent practically all his life on the goldfields, where he is highly respected. He is 6ft. 2in. of the best material.

Among the returned soldiers offering themselves to the electorate shortly is R. G. Blakemore-Dawson. He has had 19 years' service in the army, and for three years has been a group settler on Group 23 at Manjimup. Mr. Dawson is standing for the Nelson seat under the banner of the Country Party.

State Secretary D. M. Benson is spending a fortnight's well-earned rest in the woods of Rottnest. It is to be hoped that he won't stay long enough in that locality to become linked up with the local secession movement there.

At the recent annual meeting of the Collie sub-branch Harry May, after five years' wonderful service as honorary secretary, would not stand for re-election. To enumerate Harry's deeds for his war comrades but more than fill this journal, and his pleasing personality and achievements are already well-known to most Leagueites in this State. Harry is one person in 10,000, and has well earned a respite from his responsibilities. He will continue to assist, however, on the sub-branch committee.

A laugh is just like sunshine
It freshens all the day,
It tips the peak of life with light
And drives the clouds away.
The soul out; usually 23/6 and
The joy of living, guaranteed wether
And feels its courage strong,
A laugh is just-like music,
For cheering folks along.
—Exchange.

Always Achieving!
The utmost in Value-Giving
BAIRD'S!

Mercury, Note Values. Big Bargains in Clothing Needs

TRUE VALUES IN
SPORTING, GROCERY,
HARDWARE, FOOT-
WEAR, FURNITURE,
ETC., ETC.

Wellington to Murray St., Perth
OUR PROMINENT LEAGUEITES' GALLERY.

MR. CARL BADER.

Born in the apple island of Tasmania, about 34 years ago, Carl Bader arrived in Western Australia four years later. He was educated at the Perth Boys School and was a student at the W.A. University when the Germans swarmed across Belgium. He served with the A.M.C. through Gallipoli and Palestine for the complete period of the war. On his return he joined the Mt. Lawley sub-branch, where, for a period, he acted as honorary secretary. For over four years he has been a delegate on the State Executive of the League. Carl's hobby is organising concerts for charity and to cheer the patients of charitable and repatriation institutions. Many of Perth's leading artists seem to be at his beck and call. Mr. Bader's other public activities are connected with the sport of swimming, he being a past president of the W.A. Swimming Association, president of the Perth Surf Club, and deputy-chairman of the W.A. Surf Council. Carl earns a crust as an electrical engineer, being in a business partnership with his father.

GENESIS OF PIESSÉ'S BROOK SOLDIER SETTLEMENT.

Bert Bevan writes from Carlisle:—
I am of opinion that the R.S.L. is too modest in that it does not give wider publicity to its achievements in the field of peaceful pursuits. Poets and historians have sung and written of the "deeds of derring do," of its members who partici-
pated in the "Great Adventure," but the good work of our history-makers in civilian life is practically unknown to the "casual Digger," and in more cases than one is used as political bait to catch the Diggers' vote by word-spinning politicians.

One case in particular of which I claim to possess first hand knowledge, is the Piessé's Brook Soldier Settlement Scheme, and if you can find space to print this, Mr. Editor, I want every Digger on the Brook to paste it up in his "dugout," and should any political gas shell burst in his vicinity claiming the credit of the scheme, to pass him a Mills bomb tout suite.

The first hopover in connection with the Scheme took place in the Carmel A.L.P. Messrs. Schunke and Littely, orchardists in that district, had a motion carried that the land now occupied by Digger settlers, and the term used as a water catchment area, be held for soldiers on their return from France. Mr. W D. Johnson, Minister for Lands in the Scadan Government, interested himself in the matter, and guided Mr. Frank Weston, of Pickering Brook, inspected the country, and passed favourable judgment.

In 1919 or 20 Mr. W. Logie, receiving information that the reserve was going to be cancelled by the Lefroy Government, brought the matter up before the R.S.L. District Council, where the matter was discussed. Result was that a deputation, consisting of Messrs. W. Logie, J. Butler, and B. Bevan waited on the Premier, Sir H. B. Lewrof, and induced him to carry on.

Surveyors were sent out to survey the blocks, and the Scheme was started. Mr. Logie's activities did not end at this juncture, for his services were requisitioned by many Diggers in search of a block. Some remember with gratitude the assistance he gave them, but few knew that if Bill Logie had not induced the R.S.L. to take the matter up, the gullies wherein their homes are situated would have been grabbed for speculative purposes. Now that the Digger has confronted the critics by making good on most of these holdings, one hears the politician saying: I, assisted by my friends, Mr. So and So, am responsible for this fine soldier settlement, etc., and that is where I bite. Others may have assisted, but the credit is due to Bill Logie, to use a familiar term, and the R.S.L.

A METROPOLITAN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

Of late there has been a concentration of effort to increase the League membership in the metropolitan area, and the response has been encouraging. A sub-branch has been formed at Victoria Park, and at the second meeting held during the month, there was an attendance of over 50 members. The Maylands sub-branch has been re-formed, with new officials, and much enthusiasm is being shown. Added vigour is also being displayed in the once flourishing Midland Junction sub-branch. South Perth is to be the next objective. This suburb has two or three times unsuccessfully tried to run a sub-branch. There are many public-spirited diggers residing in this district, and better results should be achieved than has been the case. There are other populous districts, such as Leederville, and Nedlands, which hold a large potential membership for the League.

CARRIED.

Scientific Mamma: "Do not dance all the evening, dear. Remember that the dances of an average ball cover a total distance of nine miles."

Practical Daughter: "Oh, but a girl is carried most of the way."

Who will attend to your estate after your death? Appoint this company as Executor, Trustee, and your affairs will be attended to for all time by experienced officers. The Company's charges are fixed by Act of Parliament and are very low.
Winter is Coming, Be Prepared!

We are opening our new season's stocks, and to introduce these nice goods we offer something very special in

**Pure Down Quilts**

Nothing is more essential during the chilly autumn nights than a good Down Quilt; nothing looks more beautiful during the day. Our quilts are the product of many years striving for excellence. The result is a glorious quilt that is cozy without being unnecessarily heavy. They are durable because only the best materials are used in their construction. All filling is of a superior grade and is guaranteed "PURE DOWN." Unlike inferior quality quilts, the down is not mixed with kapok or other foreign, harmful, unclean, substances. Every quilt is "DOWN PROOF." The fabrics used as coverings are of the finest quality in a wide range of lovely designs that will conform perfectly with any decorative scheme. And above all, our prices are remarkably low. We assert you will have to pay considerably more elsewhere.

In ordering, please state the color you favor most. Let us send you one on appro.

Note these wonderful prices for Double Bed Quilts:
- 32/6, 34/6, 39/6, 45/-, 47/6, 55/-, 59/6, 69/6, 79/6, each

Every one guaranteed Pure Down. We know you'll be pleased.

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**WE PAY FREIGHT. TERMS CASH**

MONEY REFUNDED OR GOODS EXCHANGED IF DISSATISFIED.

WHAT COULD BE FAIRER?

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

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CHAPTER IV. PHYSICAL TRAINING IN ANCIENT GREECE.

Most historians have paid their tribute to the keenness of the Greek intellect. W. E. H. Lecky has even gone so far as to assert that it was the greatest dynamic agency in European civilization, and that, except the blind forces of nature, nothing moves in this world that is not Greek in its origin. While one might disagree with the latter part of the statement in its entirety, it is substantially correct as far as physical training is concerned. First among the world's peoples to arrive at a conception of unified life, they understood the close connection between the physical and the mental life, and from the very earliest times it was recognised that exercise, apart from its military value, helps to develop certain mental qualities that can be carried over into the sphere of citizenship. Thus, gymnastics had a twofold aim which the Greeks themselves described as—

*Euxen*, that is, the attainment of a good condition of the body and its general well-being, by means of training and hardening; and *Eutaxen*, the discipline of the individual, and his general good conduct, both as a warrior and as a member of society.

In short, there was a conscious effort to instill into his mind the ethical and moral remote effects of the training. Such an attempt would have detracted from the value of the system. His mind would have been distracted from the immediate aims of the exercise—the game for its own sake, the striving for victory over a competitor, and so on. Becoming too introspective, he would not expect himself to the full extent of his physical powers. An example of what is meant may be found by considering the system in vogue in Germany immediately prior to the war. The Germans believed that the efficiency of the British Army is due, in no small measure, to the Briton's general devotion to athletics and field sports, and that the discipline of the playing fields brings out the qualities that make for leadership in a more marked degree than the discipline of the barrack square. The German Government formulated a scheme of recreational training for schools and the army. But the system was a grafting rather than a growth, and everywhere there was an insistence upon military ends. What should have been sport became a mere drill. The corollary supplanted the principle. The principle, the aim, being the production of the spirit of sport. The whole scheme proved as futile as carrying out range practices with dummy ammunition.

The factors which militated against Helia's attainment full political unity prevented the Greek city states from achieving a uniform degree of culture, and educational ideals varied, not only with periods of history but with locality. In the earlier stages of their social development, in that Heroic Age which is described in the Homeric poems, the physical aspects of life were predominant, and in consequence, education was mainly physical, the aim being the production of the skilled and courageous warrior. As society became more highly organised, other needs were acquired, and the training became less utilitarian, and broader in its outlook. It was in the Ionic States, of which Athens was the chief, that Greek culture found its fullest expression, while the Dorians, for a considerable period, continued a greater degree of military efficiency. Sparta was the typical Dorian State, and it is to Sparta that we must look for an example of the older Greek training in its most pronounced form.

**The Spartan Training.**

Until the end of the Second Messenian War, Sparta was confronted with the twofold problem of keeping a conquered people in subjection, and of maintaining a state of defence against outside enemies. The Spartan overlords were in a position somewhat analogous to that of the Normans in England after the Battle of Hastings. Sternly repression on the one hand, unceasing vigilance on the other, were the conditions vital to the maintenance of their position. The State comprised three social classes—the Spartans themselves; the Perioeci, probably the residue of some preceding wave of conquest, who survived as a species of tenant farmers; and who accompanied the Spartans on their campaigns in the capacity of armed batmen; and the Helots, whose condition was one of abject serfdom. Required by the labours of the subject classes from the necessity for engaging in agriculture or industry, the Spartan had ample leisure to fit himself for the duties of citizenship.

Never did a State demand more arduous service. The constitution promulgated by Lycurgus, the great Spartan legislator, during the 9th Century B.C., emphasised the domination of the State over the individual. Individual desires were everywhere subordinated to public ends. The family almost ceased to function as a social factor, and became merely the medium for reproducing the species. The Spartan system was an extreme instance of practical eugenics, and of absolute Government control of education. The State itself became one large school of instruction, in which every free-born Spartan received teaching, and in which every adult member of the community was obliged to participate in the training of the young. It was a training in morale, in fortitude, endurance, and in the use of arms which aimed at the production of an individual whose physical hardihood and courage, whose prompt and unquestioning obedience to the laws of the State would render him an ideal soldier in battle, and, therefore, the ideal citizen. State supervision commenced with birth. The newly-born babe was examined by Government inspectors, and if not deemed sufficiently healthy, it was taken out on to the hills and left to die of hunger and exposure. For the first seven years of its life, the child remained under the care of its parents. The natural spontaneous play movements of early childhood, excepting parental attention to the laws of health, were suppressed by the physical training considered necessary during that period. The Spartan mother was noted for the careful nurturance of her infant, and, as a result, one-quarter of the Spartan women were in great demand as nurses throughout the States of Hellas. At the age of seven, the boy was taken from his home, and his
serious education commenced.

The Spartan Government, which consisted of an aristocratic Senate, and a democratic Assembly, of all free citizens, appointed an official Director of Education, the Paedonomus, who with his assistants, superintended the training of the young. The whole of the boys' education was carried out by the State, and at public expense. Removed from the immediate care of their parents, the boys were housed in public barracks, under the control of the assistants of the Paedonomus. They were organised into small groups or squads, each squad having a leader selected from the groups of the older boys. This supervision of a younger class by those belonging to the class immediately older seems to have been the organisation throughout the whole system. Plutarch says of the boys over twelve years of age, "the most distinguished among them became the favourite companions of the adults; and the old men attended most constantly their places of exercise, observing their trials of wit, not slightly and in a cursory manner, but as their fathers, guardians, governors, so that there was neither time nor place where persons were wanting to instruct and chastise them."

The professional schoolmaster did not exist in Sparta. The education of the young was the business of all, and the organisation of society as a whole constituted the school. As Paul Monroe remarks, "The family, the shop, the Church, the social life of other peoples, were all merged into this one educational system." ("A Brief Course in the History of Education."—Paul Monroe, Ph.D.)

(Soldier Settlers' Conference

BUNBURY.

After considering replies received from country sub-branches, the State Executive has decided to hold a settlers' conference at Bunbury, commencing on Wednesday, April 6, at 3 p.m. Sub-branches, particularly those of the South-West, are requested to thoroughly consider the position of their members and frame suitable resolutions for the agenda, these to reach the State Office not later than Saturday, March 26.

The drastic writing-down of values on soldier settlers' estates in the South-West has not materially altered the settlers' position, and it should be for this Bunbury conference to point the way to a permanent solution of the oft-mentioned query: "How am I going to meet future interest payments?" It is hoped that Colonel Collett (State President) will find it convenient to preside at Bunbury, and that several executive members will accompany him to the southern port, whilst perhaps the Controller of Soldier Settlement (Mr. E. A. McLarty) and Board members may be induced to also make the trip.

A mystery surrounds the disappearance of Howard Wilson Kearns, a member of the Boulder sub-branch. This branch was instrumental in securing a war pension for him some months ago, and a considerable amount of money is now awaiting collection. Many efforts made to locate Kearns have been fruitless, and secretary Vic O'Grady, of Boulder, would be pleased to hear of the whereabouts of this poor fellow. Kearns stands about 6ft. tall, and has a slight stoop; has deep set blue eyes, and a hawk-like nose. He has had "queer" periods since his return from the war.

A Scotsman in London could not find accommodation for the night, and was put up by a friendly Englishman whom he met.

Next morning, after breakfast, his host said:

"Well, did you sleep comfortably?"

"Like a top," said the Scotsman.

"Did you like the supper last night?"

"It was grand."

"Did you find your breakfast all right?"

"Yes; splendid."

"Well—er—what about a pound?"

"Man," said the Scotsman, beaming; that would be a godsend."
UNCLE EGBERT'S COLUMN.

Uncle Egbert has recently offered his services to the "Listening Post." Uncle Egbert is one of those dear old gentlemen so emblazoned by Charles Dickens, you know the type, those dear old aunts who used to pat kids on the head and give them pennies, and to whom desperate virgins confided their love affairs, and who were well and truly acquainted with the intimate details of old ladies' ailments. If you are in any trouble or difficulty, just consult your Uncle Egbert. In the words of the New York poet, "He'll put you right." "Amaryllis."—Amaryllis is in doubt about her boy. She has an idea that her dear Strephon drinks, but she is too timid to ask him about it. Why not be frank with him, dear Amaryllis? Confidence beggars confidence. Just call him aside one evening and ask him "Could you keep one down?"

"Inquirer."—(1) No; he is not related to His Holiness the Pope; (2) no; a Papal bull is a document. An Irish bull is a humorist; (3) no; a child get family altogether. Paddy McGinty is the bloke who owned the goat. The other man is the man who rode the bull through Wagga. Pedant.—Yes; but can't a Director of Education use a split infinitive in print if he wants to? He can also wear the same old grey suit—to infinity.

Flapper.—Yes, dear. All the evidence of history is in support of the theological dogma that married men make the best husbands.

SUB-BRANCH NOTES

SPÆREWOOD SUB-BRANCH.

The annual meeting was held on January 10, at which 21 members were present. Mr. Parrott, who has been president for two years, would not stand for re-election, and Mr. F. Dayman was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Parrott is held in high esteem in the district, and branch members intend to make him a presentation for his excellent services. The sub-branch has 36 financial members, and during the year raised £103 7s. for deserving cases, no genuine call for assistance being refused. The social committee, ably assisted by the ladies, continue to do good work. Light refreshments were partaken of after the meeting. All members are anxious to assist Mr. Dayman to make 1927 a bumper year.

SUBLÀCO SUB-BRANCH.

At the annual meeting of the Subiaco Sub-Branch, held last month, the following officers were elected to act for the ensuing twelve months:—President, Mr. John A'Hervey; vice-presidents: Mr. G. McKenna and P. Ross; hon. treasurer, W. J. Cob; hon. secretary, L. Richardson; publicity officer, Jack Myers; hon. auditors, E. Jones, F. Rogers; committee, F. Shand, H. Eastwood, O. Young.

The following are extracts from the president's report:—"It is with very great pleasure that I have to report that the past year has proved to have been perhaps the best year the branch has seen since its inception. The branch is in a sound financial position, and I am very grateful to the treasurer and secretary for the able way in which they have carried out their duties. The branch continued to be active right through the year, and I consider did a great deal to uphold the prestige of the League. The high ideals of the League, which may be briefly summarised as follows, were faithfully observed during the year:—(a) Fostering the spirit of comradeship gained on active service; (b) alleviating distress amongst our more fortunate comrades and their dependents; (c) using the resources of returned soldiers in general. I am pleased to say that the membership has increased considerably. On the 31st December, the number of financial members was 75, and the number of former years, 86, making a total membership of 133. Many cases of distress came before the branch, and my special thanks are due to the Amelioration Committee for their work. Every applicant was given consideration, and immediate assistance was never denied if the case was genuine. During the year the sum of £26 6s. 2d. was expended in this direction. During the year a great deal was done in helping Diggers and their dependents to obtain their rights. When a soldier's widow obtained a substantial pension. Other Diggers have been helped by advice, while others have been found employment. The branch, as in former years, joined with the citizens in observing Anzac Day. Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding, a service was arranged by the executive in Perth at the same time, but notwithstanding this, the attendance at An.
zac Day service last year was the largest that ever attended the service. On December last, the branch held the annual commemoration service in honour of fallen comrades, at the tree planted at King's Park. The ceremony was well attended by citizens, and was very impressive. My thanks are due to the clergy of Subiaco for their help at our services. My special thanks are also due to Mr. Gardener, at King’s Park, who has kindly undertaken to attend to the trge. I regret to say that death took from us during the year two of our most, earnest members in Messrs. H. Giles and Bill Bailey. Their funerals were attended by the members and myself, and in each case a wreath was sent by the branch. Early last year a launch picnic was held, to which the members of the Women’s Auxiliary were invited. The picnic was a great success, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. During the year official visits were paid to Mt. Lawley, North Perth, and Leederville branches. Return visits were paid by Mr. Lawley and North Perth branches. I trust that this friendly system will be maintained, in order to obtain funds for amelioration purposes, Mr. Cobb organised a grand concert at the King’s Hall. His Excellency the Governor was present, and the artists contributing were the best in the State. The concert was voted as being one of the finest given in Subiaco, but I regret that the public did not attend as it was anticipated. Nevertheless, a substantial sum was paid over to the Amelioration Fund.

Armistice Night, 1926, was a red letter day in the history of the branch, the unanimous vote of all attending the social was that it was splendid. A visiting member of the executive stated in his report that it was the finest soldier stunt he had ever attended. A concert party was organised to visit Lemnos in December last. The concert was very much appreciated by the inmates.

Poppy Day.—Poppy Day last year was a record, a very large sum being paid into our Amelioration Fund. My thanks, and the thanks of the branch, are due to the members of the Women’s Auxiliary for their splendid effort in this direction. In conclusion, I must express my sincere thanks to the officers of the branch who have worked so well during the year, and who have assisted me so splendidly. I have also to thank the members of the branch who have at all times extended to me every courtesy and consideration. I am proud to say that right through the past year no discord has entered the branch, and I sincerely trust that the year before us will be still brighter, and that the Subiaco Sub-branch of the League will continue to flourish.

The Sub-branch held their annual picnic on Sunday, the 30th. There were in all 150 persons on board that beautiful motor launch Dauntless. There was plenty of fruit, soft drinks, on ice, and sweets, including 20 quarts of lemonade for the children and ladies. Bicton was chosen for lunch, then the picnic proceeded to Mosman’s Bay for tea, after which a concert was held, which was provided by the branch concert party, to the delight of the many passengers, and a real good audience on the wharf. Messrs. Cobb, J. Strong, W. Swayne, and Jack Myers were the artists.

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Secure your fruit supply from
A “Jack” Michael
(Lots 11th Batn.)
Barrow
In front of east end Boos Ltd.
Wellington Street
Perth

OSBORNE PARK SUB-BRANCH
During the month, following in the footsteps of the local R.S.L., the local governing bodies have been holding functions. The market gardeners celebrated the passing of the Marketing Bill, when several M.S.L.A. were entertained, returned soldier J. Durnford being secretary. Following on, the local agricultural society gave a smoke social to the members of the “busy-bee” and voluntary workers who had materially assisted in running the show. Funds were also raised for an annual scholarship in the name of one of the members. The local Amelioration Fund was augmented by a substantial sum, and was voted as being one of the finest given in Subiaco, but I regret that the public did not attend as it was anticipated. Nevertheless, a substantial sum was paid over to the Amelioration Fund.

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At the last meeting it was decided not to take up any cases of complaints of members, who have not been financial members for the preceding twelve months.

Several cases have been investigated by the president, West Perth Branch (Mr. A. D. Turush) in conjunction with President and General Secretary of the C.S.A. during the past fortnight, and also interviews with P.S.C. and Commonwealth Inspector, and although not successful in every case the atmosphere was cleared with the unsuccessful ones.

Mr. G. P. McKenna, of the Wire Netting branch of the Lands Department, has been appointed to the committee of the West Perth sub-branch, vice Mr. G. H. Philp, resigned. Mac is also vice-president of the Subiaco sub-branch, and is evidently a live wire in matters concerning the digger.

Secretary P. L. Ross, of the Workers' Homes Board, would be glad if the collectors of the various departments would advise him the number of 1927 Crowns required, as he has a full supply on hand.

**MT. BARKER SUB-BRANCH.**

The show panned out a nice "divvy" for the sub-branch, and remains to be seen how this money will be spent. The "Digs" are very thankful to Mr. W. Hockley, the organiser, for his efforts.

Local diggers are all busy, and with the casual work offering, all should find employment.

This "sub" has a fair sprinkling of ex-imperial members, and a fine lot of fellows, all well worthy to be members of the branch.

The meeting has been hung up waiting for balance-sheet, but Thursday evening next (20th February) the branch will meet to discuss various items of interest.

Mt. Barker members will regret to hear that Clem Wall fell off a telephone post near Southern Cross, and at present is off duty. A case of a wall hitting the ground.

Seen in Mt. Barker, "Jock" Belford, late transport officer 11th Battalion. Jock is in a good way at Ballidu, and was at the wheel of a Pontiac. Jock is putting in his spare time at Frank Gormdry's little orchard.

"Jimmy" Moylan (11th Battalion), is back again from his holiday jaunt looking well and wiry, but still thin. Looks as if Morris-Cowley takes it out of him.

L. F. Stanley is also back after a few weeks recuperating in the big smoke, looking fit to cope with the record crop that will be refrigerated at the cool store. Several Digs lined up for the M.O.'s inspection a few days ago. It’s a pity some of the local men could not be placed on the permanent list for their few bob that they have earned.

Bill Hurd, of Larrikup, has joined this sub-branch. This is their only "stumpy" comrade, and although a member of the Limbless Association, thought he would also like to be "one of us."

Two new members, Ken Williamson and Frank Pugh, of spud fame, should be a good acquisition to the branch. Also C. Caraday, of Forrest Hill, who now has settled in that district, and is building his own home to stay. Closest neighbour is Ted Green, late 10th L.H., who has been out that way for some years.

Geo. Williamson not only had the bad luck to get a foot through his side drum a few weeks ago, but did it in properly later on when tripping per car to a social evening.

J. H. M. pulled off the big sugar at E.J.P.'s military whist drive, not a bad performance for a fellow after being out of "khaki" so long.

**RAILWAY WORKSHOPS SUB-BRANCH.**

The following officers were elected for the ensuing twelve months at the annual meeting, held on 18th January, 1927:— President, Mr. J. Kane (re-elected); vice-presidents, Mr. J. H. Miller and Mr. R. Gibbens; secretary, Mr. W. J. Lovell (re-elected); treasurer, Mr. C. A. Wells; assistant secretary, Mr. L. Tichbon; auditors, Messrs. W. M. Gould and W. Bailey; finance committee, Messrs. J. H. Millbr, R. Gibbons, P. Connolly.

It has been the habit of the branch to place 3 tablet on the graves of their deceased comrades, and rather a good move was made when it was decided to set aside annual the sum of £5 for that purpose.

The sub-branch held its annual picnic at Point Walter during the month, when the launch Valdana conveyed the happy party to the picnic ground in the morning, and returned early in the evening. After landing, the sub-branch committee immediately organised childrens' races, from which an adjournment for lunch was made at 1:30. At 12 o'clock all soldiers' children were given an issue of fruit and sweets, ice cream, etc., and after lunch the race programme was continued until 3 p.m. During the afternoon an opportunity was taken by the sub-branch President (Mr. J. Kane), to welcome the State President (Colonel Collett), State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson), and Messrs. Mellor, Sewell, and Evans, of the Perth sub-branch. Mr. J. H. Miller vice-president of the Workshops sub-branch, also, in a few well-chosen words, welcomed the visitors, and incidentally referred in appreciative terms to the work of the State executive.

On the return trip to the city, the past president of the branch, Mr. P. Connolly, and secretary, W. J. Lovell, expressed the committee's thanks to all who had helped to make the day so successful, and to the ladies who had kindly given up their time in meeting the wants of the youngsters.

It was explained by the committee men that in holding this picnic every year, the sub-branch of the Melbourne Branch decided to keep the womenfolk informed of the League's work, and also to give members' wives and families an opportunity of knowing one another better.

**NAREMBOON SUB-BRANCH.**

This sub-branch, on the 29th January, held a reunion in the interest of a smoke social. State Secretary Benson attended this meeting, and was, bombarded with many and various questions from all sides and corners. Mr. Benson gave full explanations and advice to the work of the R.S.I. with regard to the unions, appeals, pensions, soldier settlement schemes, and war reliefs. Mr. A. S. Webb presided over the gathering, and kept order to a party without suppressing freedom. A good social and musical programme was rendered. The first item was a toast "The King," by State Secre-
tary Benson. Other toasts given were "Absent Friends," by H. Boyce; "A Toast to State Secretary Benson," by A. Graham. The songs of the evening were Meassrs. R. Wilson, Gourlay, Elliot, Poole, Sharpe, and Jose. Mr. Carlson obliged with a pianoforte selection. Mr. Benson proposed the health of F. Ward, the organiser of the local sub-branch. The members regretted the circumstances which prevented their presence (Mr. C. Latham, M.L.A.) from attending the function, and everyone wishes Mr. Latham's son a speedy recovery. E. H. Ellur was desirous that Mr. Latham be thanked for the good work he had done for the branch, and settlers generally. Mr. Benson received a hearty send-off, and said before departure that he would never forget or regret his visit to Narembeen, and hoped that his duties would permit him to visit them again in the near future.

Next branch meeting is on Saturday, February 26, and all members are earnestly requested to go along with their fees on that night, or if unable to attend, to send them in with particulars, along to the secretary R.S.I., Narembeen. The object of the local sub-branch is to promote the welfare of the district generally, and the welfare of diggers settled in the district in particular, and the committee of the branch are confident that they can arrange social and educational stunts which will benefit all and sundry. Don't forget, diggers of Narembeen, February 26 is next meeting night. Become financial and strengthen your district.

MOUNT MARSHALL SUB-BRANCH.

The sub-branch has lost a good digger in the person of Malcolm Giles, who passed away early in the New Year as a result of a shooting accident at Trayning. Instead of the usual conventional way of showing respect by placing a wreath on his last resting place, it was decided at last month's meeting to send one guinea to the Soldiers' Cot for the Children's Hospital, in memory of their late comrade.

The usual quarterly social function was held on Saturday afternoon, and a hearty reception was given to the Secretary of the local branch. The meeting took the form of a social and dance. The evening proved to be successful, both from the social and financial viewpoints, everybody, seeming to enjoy themselves, and being very reluctant to leave for their homes even at 2 a.m. on Sunday morning. The total profits for the evening were £15 3s. 5d., despite the fact that the charges for admission were only 2s., for gentlemen and Is. for ladies. A departure from the usual catering arrangements proved to be a popular success. Instead of the usual supper hour, a buffet was open from 10.30 p.m. till after midnight, from which tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, and cool drinks were served at very moderate charges. The usual supper hour was cut short because of the fact that the past secretary, Frank having completed his duties in glowing terms, Frank having completed four years' service in his secretarial capacity. Musical honours having been accorded the recipient, a clamour arose for a speech, a request which Frank, after slight persuasion, complied with. He stated, inter alia, that anything that he had done in the past, whether fighting a pension case or adjusting some of the little grievances of soldier settlers, had been done without any ulterior motive whatsoever, and in his new capacity as president of the sub-branch, he would give what aid he could towards fighting the little difficulties of local comrades.

THEY SAY.

That since the "stork" brought the twin sons to the Breakell homestead (this makes three boys), Frank grants the Selectors' Guide portion as soon as "The Sunday Times" comes home. He evidently is a disciple of T. C. Chandler’s, and believes in "Farms for Boys" or "Boys for Farms."

That one look at Bill Lawler behind the buffet counter was an incentive for everyone to sample every drink on the card in the hope of getting one out of the "right" bottle.

That "Atkie" is a demon on the jazz.

That if he isn't on the floor when a jazz is announced, you can bet a quid that either the "rub-a-dub-dub" is open, or that jazzing "tablies" are "purer".

That Bill Mortimer well deserves his good harvest. Although he left one wing as a souvenir for Jerry, he is, as a farmer, an object lesson to many an able-bodied man who possesses both "mits."

That the names of movers and seconders of motions at the meetings are getting monotonous—writing to the secretary, so hop along, some of you "sleeping partners," and get your monicker on the minute book.

BRIDGETOWN SUB-BRANCH.

At the usual monthly meeting Major Whittell presided over a good gathering. It is something unusual for this branch to boast of more than six members at meetings, so when the meeting was opened with a whole dozen, one expected to hear from the chair, "any complaints." The cause of the "crowd" was some "wag" who knew that there was a "can" of "Swan" left over from the smoke-ooh, but forgot to mention it was left over at the place it was bought. Unfortunately, the annual social was held during the New Year holidays, and it goes without saying that, had some of the old identi...
been present, the surplus would have been accounted for. The president reported that during the week the State Secretary had been entertained, and taken out to interview the members of Groups 126 and 127, who are all returned soldiers. He was very much impressed by the energy and initiative shown by them. During discussion, it was resolved to obtain a list of all sub-branches on the South-West line, with a view to holding their annual meetings in sequence, to allow the State Secretary to visit each one in rotation. The above motion brought forth many amusing remarks, and it was obvious the State Secretary wouldn't want for followers on the proposed tour. The next item on the building fund programme is a concert, by the combined local troupe and returned soldiers. We can safely say that if the "boys" keep up their "annual smoke-oh" standard there is no doubt about its success, so long as Wally Bowler and his Barrack-room and initiative shown, the branch, and is the right man in the right place. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served, and a most enjoyable time was spent by all.

On Christmas Eve a bazaar and treat for the children was held in the Rest Rooms. The members of the Women's Auxiliary had worked hard for months to prepare this event, and they were pleased with the success that attended their efforts, as a result of which the branch will benefit to the extent of about £3. A beautiful crotchet board, kindly donated by Mr. Alec Holt, realised 10 4s. Alec is a good supporter, and one of the best.

Mr. Percy Derrington is another keen supporter of the branch. Percy has never missed an opportunity to help the boys, both during and since the war.

Members are all looking forward to the next Anzac dinner, which promises to be something out of the ordinary this year. The occasion will be marked by the presentation of the two gold badges to the recipients of the League's Certificate of Merit, namely Mr. Dave Donaldson and Dr. H. O. Irwin, of Boulder. The badges are beautifully designed, and will be much prized by the recipients.

During the past month a large number of members have secured employment on the Commonwealth telegraph line. Secretary Vic O'Grady has received several letters from members out there, who say that the work is O.K., but that the heat and the flies are something cruel.

SNAPSHOTS.

The two new vice-presidents, P. Wilks and G. Newnham, take a keen interest in branch matters, and never miss a meeting.

Going for a six weeks' sea trip, Ted King. Ted is an energetic worker for the branch, and as his health has been anything but good for some time past, all trust that the trip will benefit him considerably.

Tom Alderson, the popular cricket captain, is all smiles again. Tom is one of the clan of Benedicts who has been a grass widow for some weeks past. Tom says that he felt like a fish out of water.

COLLIE SUB-BRANCH.

The annual meeting was held on Sunday, the 23rd ult., when there were over 100 members present. President A. E. Anderson occupied the chair, and the State executive was represented by Colonel Collett, Mr. C. Bader, and Mr. C. Ferguson.

Secretary Harry May submitted his report, which disclosed that the year had been a useful and progressive one. Twenty general meetings were held, and 1 social events. Membership had increased from 191 to 258, and almost every member who had been unemployed had been found employment. The branch had won the Newdegate Cup for the third successive year. Many pension cases had been successfully finalised, and 40 cases of distress had been assisted. The report mentions many other features of activity. The financial statement revealed a very satisfactory state of affairs, the assets being shown at nearly £2,000.

The election of officers for the ensuing
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year resulted as follows:—President, Mr. Alex. Beange; vice-presidents, Messrs. C. E. Hutton and A. Watkins; secretary, Mr. D. Simpson; treasurer, Mr. J. S. Torrison; auditor, Mr. Alan Wilson; committee, Messrs. J. Bredahl, J. Giblett, A. Olsen, F. Thomas, H. May, and A. E. Anderson.

The proposal to present to the new Collie Hospital an operating table was finally discussed. The chairman intimated that the cost of same would be approximately £150, and pointed out that there did not appear to be any difficulty with regard to the conditions under which the presentation was intended to be made. After discussion it was resolved to purchase the most up-to-date table available as a present from the Collie branch, the order to be placed immediately.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. J. Mackay, editor and proprietor of 'The Collie Mail' for services rendered to the branch, whilst a similar compliment was conferred upon the retiring officers.

The previous evening the most brilliant and representative gathering yet held in the 'Soldiers' Hall, met to do honour to Mr. Frank Mason, captain of the 'South-Easters,' who has been presented with the League's Certificate and Badge of Merit. There were about 200 diggers present, and many representative men. Many toasts were honoured, and the speeches were interspersed with entertaining items. Mr. Mather received quite an ovation when rising to respond after Colonel Collett presented him with the certificate, and Mr. Harry May invested him with the badge. Colonel Collett, in the course of his remarks, when responding to the toast of 'The R.S.L.', expressed gratitude at being invited to attend the present function. For one reason he wanted to meet the members of the premier sub-branch of the State, for he had heard a good deal about them. One of his duties was to meet as many members as possible, but he could not visit all country branches. He drew a comparison between the way Governments of the olden days disregarded their promises to returned soldiers and how the Australian Governments had honoured them. Many of their claims had been met, and to-day there were not many outstanding claims which could not be adjusted. He joined the League the first week he returned, but it was only three or four years ago that he took office. He trusted all returned soldiers would realise that they should render the same service in peace as in war. The Collie sub-branch was the ideal of what a sub-branch should be. He was pleased to see that they had representatives in the Municipal Council, and in Mr. A. A. Wilson they had a man in Parliament who ably presented their views. He wished the Collie sub-branch continued prosperity.

GUILDFORD-WEST GUILDFORD SUB-BRANCH.

Last September an appeal was launched by this branch for funds to assist in building a home for the widow of the late Wesley Gard, a returned soldier, who met his death under tragic circumstances on the Swan Bowling Green, at Guildford. The response has been very gratifying, over £294 being subscribed. The branch operated with the bowlers and the Uglies, with the result that Mrs. Gard has been installed in a house of her own, rent free. The lists have now been closed, and the treasurer will send a copy of his balance-sheet to the editor in time for the next issue of the "Listening Post."

MAYLANDS SUB-BRANCH.

The Maylands sub-branch was re-formed during the month, and a further meeting will be held during the month, when arrangements will be made for a big reunion of Maylands diggers. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. Albert Rose; vice-president, Mr. Peter Wedd; secretary, Mr. Geo. Kilkinson; auditor, Mr. J. L. Sullivan; trustees, Messrs. H. Hart, Geo. Coutlas, and R. Clothier.

MT. LAWLEY SUB-BRANCH.

At the adjourned annual meeting of the Mt. Lawley sub-branch, the following officers were elected for the year:—President, Mr. C. G. Ferguson; vice-presidents, Messrs. H. Brown and A. Hull; secretary, Mr. J. A. Denton; treasurer, Mr. A. Chapman; auditor, Mr. G. K. Ryder; committee, Messrs. G. Dixon, E. Hull, H. O. Radford, A. N. McDonald, and R. J. Oliver.

The president's and secretary's annual report disclosed that a useful year had eventuated, but there had been a slight falling off of membership. The meeting decided on an active plan of campaign to increase the membership.

KALGOORLIE SUB-BRANCH.

Kalgoorlie general meeting, held last month, was attended by between 30 and 40 diggers, and all voted it a very interesting one. The honorary secretary dealt with the several pension cases in hand, and detailed the work that had been carried out since the last meeting. A pleasing feature was the inability of the sub-branch to supply all the demands made for unemployed soldiers. Generally the

THE BEST PAIR

Swan Lager and Swan Bitter

THEY BEAT ALL OTHERS
ex-service men are not long out of work on the fields. Congratulatory remarks were made about the caretaker, Mr. J. H. Mitchell, for his work at the Institute. December was a record month for hiring, and the increase in popularity is mainly due to his attentiveness and regard for the welfare of everyone using the Club.

At the close of the general meeting a "spot" was indulged in, at which was spent a special hour of reminiscences, and heart to heart talks for the good of the League. The scene was quite an old estaminet one; it did one's heart good to have a look around; the social side is the greatest asset, because it brings back the old spirit of comradeship, which must be fostered.

With the advent of an honorary system whereby every member is expected to help his sub-branch to the utmost, prosperity seems to be coming the way of the branch. Sixty subscriptions in six weeks is not too bad, and it is hoped to eclipse that, as there are still plenty of comrades who just need "urging".

The annual meeting will be held in April, and Kalgoorlieites are envious of the pilgrimage to Collie, so they hope that some of the State executive will honour them on this occasion. Kalgoorlie, except for the visit of the State secretary last year, has not had much opportunity of making acquaintances. We hope some can manage the trip.

One of the branch's greatest assets in the entertaining line, Mr. Ken Fuller, has departed for fresh fields, and on January 28 a send-off was arranged in the form of a harmony night. Speeches were de-barred, and it proved a night of nights. Ken entertained in rare style, while other artists kept the ball rolling for three hours, and none were voted "duds." "Snow" Bruce arranged the function in his usual splendid style.

The Anzac Day celebrations are coming on, and arrangements are being put in hand for a monster march on Anzac Day. The Anzac dinner promises to equal past occasions, while the April functions will conclude with the Anzac ball.

Many old acquaintances were renewed, during the past few weeks by meeting many diggers in from the Trans. line. Some managed to get around to the Club for the last meeting and it is always pleasing to hear how they have fared during their sojourn in the isolated regions. Most of them agree that the "life is not too bad; nevertheless, a change to town is appreciated.

"Tassie" Black, known to most Kalgoorlie soldiers, died a fortnight ago. Another soldier to pass out was George Gannaway, father of "Kid" George. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to their sorrowing ones.

Jack Williams, fate of the brewery, has had a rough spin lately, and he has had to take a spell from work. Jack was one of the 1914 men, but the war has taken toll of his strength. We hope to see him his old self again shortly.

Returned soldier Gardiner, of Erelston Station, was in town last week, and he made the R.S.L. secretary his first call. He wanted a man, and Mr. J. M. Anderson supplied him with one on the spot. It was the quickest thing put up for quite a long while. He states he may want more soon for well-sinking, and the branch is sure of the order.

Looking well and wearing a pleasing smile, Jack Campbell, a past president of the sub-branch, greeted members at last meeting. His Trans. duties preclude constant attendance these days, but his enthusiasm has not waned.

CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE

A social of this branch was held on 1st February, at which a large number of members from various branches were present. The chair was taken by Mr. E. W. Morris, a past president, and among those present was the member for the district, Mr. North, M.I.A. The most discussed item during the speeches was comradship, as engendered by smoke socials. The maiden speech of the worthy secretary was loudly applauded. The secretary desires to notify members that the nights for meeting have been changed from Wednesdays to the first and third Tuesdays in the month. Next meeting will be held on February 29, in the usual place.
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