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A NEW FORM OF SNOBBISHNESS.

Recently at an industrial conference in Victoria, a delegate was severely heckled by a section of the audience because he had the temerity to wear his R.S.L. badge in the presence of democrats who stayed at home during the war. This line of action is on a par with the howl raised by certain eastern unionists against the elevation of ex-Senator Drake Brockman to the Federal Arbitration Court bench. No one need consider as to whether the newly appointed judge’s legal knowledge and experience at the bar warranted his appointment to the judiciary. His chief offence was the fact that he had been a member of an army, the great majority of which were good unionists, and that he had fought for Australia when the Reds (who are really yellow) stayed safely at home.

The Red is an extraordinary animal. His curious mentality enables him to preach universal brotherhood, love and affection for all men, especially if they happen to be Russians or Chinese, and at the same time to hurl all the vituperous abuse of which his foul tongue is capable at those of his own countrymen who risked their lives for him while he skulked at home. His fraternal instincts compel him to form organisations which cannot meet for purposes of deliberation without the brotherly gathering degenerating into an unseemly wrangle. He professes to hate all forms of rank and title, yet he yearns to be addressed as Comrade Soandso. It is this curious inversion of snobishness, combined with the inferiority complex (a psychological term for “sour grapes”) which prompts persons like Jack Jones and Jock Garden to use the more familiar forms of their given names. It makes one feel so “good with the mob” you know, and Jack and Jock are more distinctive in these settings than plain John.

It was this same inversion of snobbishness that made the electors of a Sydney constituency think one Thomas Januarius Smith. Poor fellow, he was contesting a five seat electorate, and as there were several other Smiths opposing him he had to use his full name to avoid confusion. But there you are, a true democrat has no business to be called Thomas Januarius. At the same election a Communist candidate gave a public and very practical demonstration of his democratic principles by using his fingers instead of a pocket handkerchief.

One of the postulates of communism, a creed which pampers the inefficient at the expense of the able, is equality of opportunity for all. But this is to be interpreted as “all except those of a different political colour.” Let any “comrade” fall foul of the inner ring controlling the activities of the movement. Expulsion, the boycott, and every little annoyance that petty minds can devise, are the weapons usually employed. The Government must not use force to quell civil disorder or to coerce foreign enemies, but the whole force of the Red organisation is mobilised and employed in the most brutal way to squelch a dissentient, or to prevent a recalcitrant from even earning a living.

Contrast this “Gang of uncouth crooks” with the R.S.L. The epithet “gang of uncouth crooks” is not our own. It was originally applied to them by James Dooley, when that good Labourite was Premier of New South Wales.

With the possible exception of Cromwell’s Ironsides, the world has never seen such a perfect combination of democracy and efficiency as the A.I.F. Almost 90 per cent. of the officers were men who had, at one time of their career, soldiered in the ranks. Battalion commanders who had joined up as privates were by no means rare, and at least one man who left Australia as a digger finished up in command of a brigade. When a man was recommended for promotion no questions were asked as to his financial or social status, and his political colour did not enter into the picture at all. All that concerned the A.I.F. was whether he knew his job and could lead men in action. Even the machinery for training men for promotion was provided. All the individual was asked to supply was a reasonable amount of common sense, application and guts. Provided these requisites were present, there was equality of opportunity for all.

Since the war a good deal has been said and written by disgruntled persons—their conduct sheets were not published—about army snobishness and the officer caste, and this has been eagerly seized upon by home-keeping journalists. Yet, all who know what they are talking about will agree with the writer when he states that the outstanding feature of the A.I.F. was the grand Australian quality which Henry Lawson has called “mateship” and the spirit of camaraderie which existed always between officers and men.

The R.S.L. is the one organisation which perpetuates this spirit of camaraderie—the mateship of which the R.S.L. badge is the symbol. Scant wonder then that the “comrades” and “brothers” who missed all these things, and who cannot even agree among themselves should howl like frightened dingoes at the sight of a symbol which reminds them of their shame. The badge is a symbol of which no man need feel ashamed. It needs no apology and is worn in no vaunting spirit. But if diggers are going to allow it to be insulted by racklings of coldfooted hoodlums, then they deserve all they get.

“Dad” Fanning
Late 46th Batt. & Dingup Sub-Branch
has purchased a
Fruit Barrow
stationed in front of Commonwealth Bank in FORREST PLACE, Perth
where he sells the Best of Fruit at
The Lowest Prices
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

13/4/27.

Present.—Messrs. Riley, Freedman, McAdam, Longmore, Shaw, Pady, Watt, Tyler, Yeates, Bader, Margolin, Fitzgerald. Apologies were received from Colonel Collett and Mr. H. S. Humphrey.

Resignation.—The Secretary reported that he had approached Mr. Nye and asked him to reconsider his decision in resigning from the executive; but Mr. Nye pointed out that his duties precluded him from attending meetings, but that he would always do what he could to co-operate with the executive in any question on which his assistance was considered necessary.

Moved Mr. Tyler, seconded Mr. Pady, "that Mr. Nye's resignation be accepted with regret, and that a record of appreciation be placed on the minutes for his very valuable services during his term of office on the executive committee." Carried unanimously.

Spinal Cases.—A letter was read and received from the Federal executive, dealing with Resolution 41 of the 11th Annual Congress re spinal cases.

Employment Grant.—The Federal President advised confirmation of his wire which stated that the employment grant would be continued until the end of April.

Invitations.—Bouldar sub-branch wrote asking that Mr. Watt, their representative on the executive, attend their annual reception on April 25. Mr. Watt signified his intention of being present.

Mr. Barker sub-branch extended an invitation to the State President and Secretary to their re-union to be held at a suitable date.

The matter was left in the hands of the President.

N.S.W. Branch.—A letter was read and received from Col. Hyman, ex-President of the N.S.W. branch, giving his reasons for his resignation, and dealing with the proposition submitted to the N.S.W. branch in connection with the American picture, "The Big Parade."

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Chas. Sebo. (Late 11th Batt., A.I.F.)

It was decided that the State Secretary forward a letter through the Federal executive expressing regret at the position in N.S.W. as revealed by letters to this branch, and intimating that this State branch endorses the action of Colonel Hyman in his efforts to uphold the constitution and the decision of the Federal Congress.

A further circular was also received from the Rose Bay sub-branch, upholding the action of Col. Hyman.

Consolidation Case.—The United Kingdom Natives' Association asked for the League's co-operation in their efforts to obtain compensation for a man, who was the son of an ex-soldier within the meaning of the League's constitution.

Moved Mr. McAdam, seconded Mr. Watt, "that the U.K.N.A. be advised that the matter is outside the scope of the R.S.L.") Carried.

New Sub-Branch (Karridale).—Mr. A. L. McQueen, of Karridale, stated that it should be possible to form a sub-branch of the League at Karridale, and the matter was left in the hands of the Secretary to deal with.

Soldier Settlers' Conference.—The Secretary and Mr. Yeates reported in connection with the soldier settlers' conference and submitted resolutions for the confirmation of the executive.

Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Shaw, "that the resolutions as submitted and passed by the soldier settlers' conference be endorsed by the executive." Carried.

Colie Sub-Branch wrote requesting that a soldier settlers' conference be held again next year, that the meeting-place be Collie. It was decided to ask Colie Sub-Branch to enter the matter to the next State Congress.

Soldiers' Institute.—The President of the Soldiers' Welcome Committee wrote stating that at a meeting of the committee held on Friday, April 8, a resolution was carried, handing over the control of the Institute to the executive of the R.S.L., absolutely subject to the executive agreeing to set apart a room for meetings of the Soldiers' Welcome Committee when required. The letter was received.

W. A. Lloyd.—The Crown Law Department wrote showing copy of the coroner's finding in connection with the death of the above-named ex-soldier. A rider was added calling the attention of the R.S.L. to the circumstances of the deceased's wife and family. The letter was received and the matter left in the hands of the State Secretary.

Report.—The reports were submitted by the State Secretary, Arts and Recreation Committee, Art Union Committee, Finance Committee, Trustees, and Employment Bureau.

Mr. Pady was elected a member of the Finance Committee vice Mr. Mellor (resigned).

West Guildford: Mr. Shaw reported having visited West Guildford sub-branch since last meeting. The report was received.

Quairading Sub-Branch: Mr. Tyler reported on his visit in company with Bader to the Quairading sub-branch social on the 31st March. The report was received.

Colonel Fitzgerald was appointed as a member of the House Committee vice Mr. Nye (resigned).

27/4/27.

Present.—Colonel Collett; Messrs. Riley, McAdam, Philip, Longmore, Pady, Watt, Bader, Margolin, Freedman, Fitzgerald, Yeates and and Kane. Apologies were received from Messrs. Watt, Tyler, Yeates and Cohen.

New Delegates.—The President took the opportunity of welcoming the new delegates to the executive, Messrs. Lovell and Kane, who suitably responded.

Royal Visit.—Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Pady, "that the State Secretary ascertain if it is the intention of those responsible to appoint a returned soldier as driver to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, and if not, the necessary steps to be taken to cause the appointment of a returned soldier to such position." Carried.

Greetings.—Greetings were read from Sir Francis Newdegate, President of the Unleyonat Branch of the British Legion.

Reapiration Matters.—The Federal President wrote advising an interview he had had with Sir Neville Howe, at which Reapiration matters arising from the Federal Congress were discussed. The letter was received.

Brass Badges.—The Federal executive advised that the Defence Department had made arrangements for a limited stock of brass badges to enable returned soldiers entitled to them to have lost ones replaced on payment and on application to the Victoria Barracks.

RETURNED SOLDIERS' MONUMENTAL WORKS.

Only Address: KARRAKATTA (near Station)

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THE LISTENING POST

May 20th, 1927.

J. Bercovitch.—The Federal Secretary communicated stating that he had interviewed the British Consul at Constantinople, who was in Melbourne. He stated that it would be very difficult to trace this ex-Russian soldier without definite information on the part of the Russian forces. The letter was received.

Moved Mr. McAdam, seconded Mr. Philip "that Bercovitch be asked to furnish the necessary proof of his eligibility before he be admitted to the membership of the League." Carried.

Employment Grant.—The Executive submitted a communication stating that the Government was not prepared to continue to serve on the Employment Grant, but were agreeable for the continuance of the such grant for a period of six months for the purpose of finding employment for ex-Imperial Service men.

Moved Mr. Philip, seconded Mr. Bader "that a committee consisting of the President, Mr. McAdam, and the State Secretary be appointed to consider the contents of the letter and to meet the next meeting of the Executive." Carried.

Resignation.—A letter which should have been read at the last Executive meeting was received from Mr. E. H. O. Nye offering his services on non-administrative committees. The letter was received, and it was decided that Mr. Nye's services should be availed of on all possible occasions.

Madame Bennett-Wilkinson.—A letter was received, signed by 35 inmates of the Repatriation Ward, Perth Hospital, asking that the League's Certificate of Merit be awarded to Madame Bennett-Wilkinson. Moved Mr. Longmore, seconded Mr. Lovell, "that the letter be replied to and the signatories advised that a sub-branch of the league must forward such request to the State Congress of the league, who in turn must unanimously recommend to the Federal Congress that a certificate be awarded to any person, and that their procedure is unconstitutional." Carried.

Rail Fares.—The Secretary explained that he had approached the Railway Department with a view to obtaining reduced rail fares for returned soldiers proceeding to the country to work found by the R.S.L. Employment Bureau. A letter was received from the Minister that the Railway Department could not see its way clear to take any action, and pointed out that the State Labour Bureau has always assisted the League when requested by that body to advance fares to the men proceeding to the country.

Moved Mr. McAdam, seconded Mr. Lovell that the State Secretary be instructed to make suitable inquiries concerning fares, provided by other organisations, such as, the Ugly Men's Association." Carried.

War Memorial, Port Said.—The South Australian branch forwarded photographs of the War Memorial, Port Said.

Burning of Fire Breaks.—A letter was received from the Honorary Secretary for Lands stating that the Beverley sub-branch should apply to the Beverley Road Board for an extension of time for burning off. It was decided that the sub-branch be informed accordingly.

Reports.—The State Secretary read a report of the operations for the preceding fortnight, which was received.

Anzac Day: The State Secretary read a report of the Anzac Day celebrations. The report was adopted.

It was decided that letters of thanks be sent to District Headquarters, 13th Mixed Brigade, and the State Commandant, also to Unbehain and Johnstone, for assistance rendered on Anzac Day.

Immigration: Mr. Pady reported having met one boat, and instanced certain difficulties which presented themselves in making himself known as the League's representative.

It was decided that the British Empire Service League be written to and advised to inform all ex-Imperial soldiers migrating to Australia to make themselves known to the League's representative.

It was suggested to Mr. Pady that he wear an armband or some distinguishing mark.

Soldiers' Welcome Committee.—Concerning the League's Badge of Merit presented to the President of the Soldiers' Welcome Committee, the question was asked as to whether this should remain the property of the President, or to be handed on to succeeding officers. The matter was left over until the next meeting.

11/5/27.


Standing Orders.—Standing orders were suspended to allow Mr. McPhee to address delegates. He stated that his son had been convicted at the Children's Court and sentenced to three years in a reformatory. It was considered by Mr. McPhee that his sentence was too harsh, and he requested the Executive to take this matter up on his behalf, with a view to reduction of the sentence.

Moved Mr. Longmore, seconded Rabbi Freedman, "that a committee be appointed to enquire into this case, and if thought that the facts warrant it, they constitute themselves a deputation to wait upon the Chief Secretary, with a view to a mitigation of the sentence." Carried.

Rabbi Freedman, Messrs. Cornwell and Longmore were appointed a Committee. Standing orders were then resumed.

Chaffeur for Royal Visit.—The President reported having made inquiries concerning the appointment of a returned soldier as motor driver to His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, and stated that it was the intention of those responsible, to utilise the drivers from the Air Force. The report was received.

Employment Rail Fares.—The Secretary reported that enquiries had been connected from the Ugly Men's Association, and that they received no concession in the way of rail fares.

Soldiers' Welcome Committee.—Concerning the League's Badge of Merit presented to the Soldiers' Welcome Committee, it was moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded Mr. Yeates, "that upon the return of the Federal President to Australia, he be asked to rule as to whether the medal presented to the Soldiers' Welcome Committee and received on the Committee's behalf by Mrs. Cameron, should remain the property of Mrs. Cameron, or be handed on to her successors." Carried.

Leave of Absence.—Mr. T. P. Lehan applied for leave of absence for six weeks as he was forced to undergo an operation in the Perth Hospital. Leave was granted.

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ed and the Secretary was instructed to convey the sympathy of the Executive and its best wishes for his speedy recovery.

Mr. R. E. Tyler applied for leave of absence until the end of May, stating that business precluded him from attending. The leave, as desired, was granted.

Federal Correspondence.—Resolutions Carried at B.E.S.L. Conference: A letter from the Federal Executive showing resolutions carried at the B.E.S.L. Conference, was laid on the table for the information of members.

Federal Executive Meeting: Items for inclusion on the Agenda for the forthcoming Federal Executive meeting were laid on the table for the information of members.

Representation at Federal Executive Meeting: Wires were received from the Federal Executive and Colonel Tilney advising that he would represent this State Branch at the Federal Executive Meeting.

Removal of Federal Executive Office: A wire was received from the Federal Executive, advising that the Federal Office removed to Canberra on the 29th April.

Anzac Day.—Archbishop Riley wrote congratulating the League and its official for the good work and the excellent arrangements in connection with the Anzac Day. The letter was received.

Licensed Victuallers’ Association wrote requesting that the Executive meet members of their Association to discuss Anzac Day, and the provisions of the Act now enforced.

Merged Rabbi Freedman, seconded Mr. Cohen, that “the request be acceded to.” Carried.

Kojonup Sub-Branch drew attention to the fact that although Anzac Day is supposed to be a closed holiday, all country post offices had to open for an hour, which entails considerable work, and the day was not really a holiday at all. The State Secretary explained that he had discussed the position with Mr. Ramsay, of the Postmaster General’s Department, who stated that the post office was open for an hour to enable urgent business to be transacted. Hardship might be caused certain people if the arrangements were otherwise.

Merged Mr. Pady, seconded Mr. Watt, that the State Secretary explain his interview to the Kojonup Sub-Branch, and it be suggested to the Sub-Branch that they place the matter on the Agenda Paper for the next State Congress.” Carried.

70th Troop Boy Scouts: The scoutmaster requested representation at the next meeting and address them on “Anzac Day.” Colonel Fitzgerald was appointed.

The Minister for Railways advised that certain people had been given by Cabinet for the observance of Anzac Day, and it had been decided to adhere to the procedure carried out previously. The letter was received.

Kalgoorlie and Boulder: Mr. Watt reported on his visit to Kalgoorlie and Boulder. The President thanked Mr. Watt for representing the League at both places. It was stated by Mr. Watt that in some country districts, the complaint had been made that Anzac Day addresses had been characterised more by an attempt to arouse religious than patriotic fervor.

Merged Rabbi Freedman, seconded Mr. Watt, that the State Secretary be instructed to write to all sub-branches three months before Anzac Day and suggest to them that they organise and conduct the Anzac Day services or demonstration in their particular district. Carried.

Recipients of League Certificate of Merit.—Miss Mary Macauley wrote thanking the League for Badge presented to her on Anzac Day.

Mrs. Cameron, as President of the Soldiers’ Welcome Committee, also thanked her letter.

Mr. Bateon Welcomed.—The President took the opportunity at this stage, of welcoming Mr. Bateson, an old member of the Executive, who was on a visit to Perth.

M. A. Ormonds Sub-Branch.—The Executive confirmed the appointment of Mr. G. E. Wilkinson, as Secretary of the Maylands Sub-Branch, and approved of the change of name from the Maylands-Bayswater Sub-Branch to the Maylands Sub-Branch.

Perth Sub-Branch.—The Executive confirmed the appointment of Mr. G. B. Todd, as Secretary of the Perth Sub-Branch.

West Guildford Sub-Branch.—Mr. W. C. Guildford Sub-Branch submitted a statement of the Gard Building Fund, which was laid on the table for the information of members, and the secretary was instructed to forward a letter of congratulation to the sub-branch for their co-operation and the excellent result of the effort.

Australian Performing Rights Association.—The secretary of the Local Government Association wrote stating that a public meeting had been arranged to take place in the Town Hall on Monday, 16th May, at which a resolution would be submitted petitioning the Federal Government to amend the Copyrights Act so that public bodies and others owning halls should be exempt from the fees imposed by the Performing Rights’ Association, and asked that the League be represented at the meeting. Mr. Weid was appointed to attend.

Reports.—Reception Committee: The State President reported on behalf of the Reception Committee and detailed the arrangements made for the League’s Reception to their Royal Highnesses. The report was received and adopted.

A letter was received from the Railway Workshops Sub-Branch asking the Executive to approach the Government in order to obtain a paid holiday for May 18th. Sub-Branch Mr. Kans, seconded Mr. Lord, that a decrease be appointed to wait upon the Government and request that a paid holiday be granted to all ex-service men in Government employment on May 18th.

An amendment was moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Bader, that, in view of the fact that the Government has not proclaimed May 18th as a public holiday, this Executive appeals to the Government and all employers to grant sufficient leave of absence without pay deduction to enable ex-service men and women to attend their reception to their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess.—Carried.

Merged Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Yeates, that it is the opinion of this branch of the League that efforts should be made to permit of their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York, meeting the widows and mothers of deceased soldiers, and that if a special function be not possible, the Citizen’s Welcome on Saturday, 21st May, be afforded for such purpose. —Carried.

State Secretary’s Report: This report was deferred until the next meeting, owing to pressure of business.

Mr. Barker: The Rev. Riley reported on his visit to Mr. Barker in company with the State Secretary. The report was received.
ANZAC DAY—A RETROSPECT.

The celebration of Anzac Day was honoured this year by such a striking spirit of reverence throughout the country that it could not have failed to serve a most useful purpose to the community at large—their obligation to their dead heroes. Every where, larger numbers participated in the commemoration services which, generally speaking, were impressive and inspiring. Although there is room for improvement there is no doubt that Anzac Day 1927, was more universally and solemnly observed than ever before. The parades of ex-service men were a marked improvement on previous years, but far too many diggers watched the procession from the side walks. It is a pity that in so many country districts governing bodies and the local clergy control and dominate the celebrations. The assistance and co-operation of these good people is necessary and desirable, but the League Sub-Branch should organise and control. A.F.—padre’s or other ex-service men should be the chief speakers, as they speak with first hand knowledge and should the more greatly impress. Many of the clergy failed to correctly grasp the spirit of the occasion, which they used to preach a religious sermon. Whilst a sermon on Anzac Day is most desirable, particularly in the churches, the public national address should, in the opinion of the League, be inclined towards creating patriotic fervor in the hearts of the people. Archbishop Riley always gives a stirring address of the nature desired, taking all his illustrations from the war period.

The League should be proud of its share of the celebration of Anzac Day, and if it achieves nothing else throughout the year, this alone amply justifies its existence.

NEW SETTLERS’ LEAGUE.

On the New Settlers’ League executive are representatives of most public organisations of the State. The work of the League has recently been reorganised, it coming within the scope of the Development and Migration Commission, and fresh life has been infused into the movement. Country branches are to be reformed, and in this regard the R.S.L. delegates, Messrs. C. Longmore and E. S. Watt, recognising that the large majority of migrants are ex-service men, have counselled the League to request the cooperation and assistance of country sub-branches of the R.S.L. when re-forming branches. This course will be followed and it is hoped that sub-branches will increase the scope of their activities by giving every possible assistance.
The 32nd Battalion
The 32nd Battalion will hold their
Re-union Dinner
On the 23rd July, at 7.30 p.m., in Keough's Hall, Newcastle Street, Perth

All members are requested to turn up in great force. Tickets will be available from all members of the committee.

R. Alexander, Hon. Sec.

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THE DUCHESS VISITS WOOP-WOOP.

Scene: The interior of a country sitting-room. There is a large clock on the mantelpiece. On a table in the corner of the room is a beautiful collection of wax fruits, protected by a glass dome. Above this table is an enlarged photograph of Dad and Mumm in their wedding attire. On the opposite wall is a framed and beautifully illuminated list of the Western Australian Disabilities. The other walls bear portraits of prominent Western Australians—Lord Forrest, Charlie Malby, Dryblower, Joe Phuto, and Jim Glowrey. Dad and Mumm are entertaining the Duchess, who has evidently taken somebody's advice, and is seeing Australia as it really is. Little Stella is seated at the piano fiddling with the pages of a music book. Coffee has just been served.

Dad: Well, Duchess, we're jolly glad to have you here to-night. It was good of you to come here and wait while the Duke is up at Parliament House. He won't be long now, will he, Mumm? Although you never can tell. If he gets in with Charlie Maley and a few of the boys up there, I reckon he'll be some time coming for you. That's Charlie's game. He's down on the wall, there. By the way, Duchess, ain't Charlie some relation to the Royal family? (Faint dissent on the part of the Duchess.)

Dad: Well, now I thought he was. His name's mentioned on the Coat of Arms, ain't it? You know, "Honest suet in Maley's pants." Yes, it is right, Mumm. Now then, Stella, what are you waiting for. Play 'Yorkshire Chimes' and make the Duchess feel at home.

(Stella plays while Dad beats time with his pipe, Mumm nods ecstatically, and the Duchess looks suitably impressed.)

Dad: Ah, there's nothing like good old Yorkshire. What's the Duchess? You ain't Yorkshire? Scotch? Well, well, there's nothing like Scotch either. I suppose you'll have little Betty taught music when she's a bit older. An' how's your young Eddie been doing lately? Any more tumbles off horses? We all saw him when he was out here. By the way, Duchess, ain't it near time he was doing the trick? What, ain't he even got a girl yet? Lord, I don't know what these young fellows are coming to. Different to our time, eh, Mumm?

Mumm: We seen the King and Queen when they were out here.

Dad: Too right, we did. There's a man for you. My oath, he's got on a lot. When he was out he was only the Duke, and now he's the King of the whole British Empire. Is it true that your husband's going to knight Franklin?

Mumm: Oh, Dad, that's a rude question. The Duchess ain't got any information about that.

Dad: Oh, sorry if I spoke out of me turn. Well, any way, Duchess, I've got a little bit of information I can pass on to you. Have a few bob on Deadlegs, for the second event, at the Barrenlogs races, next Saturday.

(Note of motor horn outside. Dad goes to the door and returns with the Duke.)

Mumm: Why, here's your husband back already.

(The Duke sinks disconsolately into an arm chair.)

Duke: Don't speak to me, good people. I fear I have inflicted another disability on this State. At all events, I've perpetrated a horrible faux pas. I've gone and knighted that fellow Harold Bois in mistake for Franklin!

(Constitution, capers, and curtain.)

THE GARD APPEAL FUND.

It will be remembered that some time ago a returned soldier named Leslie Gard was accidentally electrocuted at Guildford whilst working on the bowling green, leaving a wife and family in straitened circumstances. The Guildford sub-branch, together with the Bowling Association, launched an appeal for assistance to buy material to build a house for the widow. This was successful, and a working bee built the cottage in which Mrs. Gard and her family are now comfortably housed. We are in receipt of the fund's audited balance sheet, which discloses that the sum of £206 6s. 11d. was donated, including £96 3s. from 36 sub-branches of the League, besides a few gifts of building material from merchants. We heartily congratulate the good people who organised this appeal and special mention must be made of the unstinting generosity of Mr. H. L. Kirke, the secretary of the Guildford and West Guildford sub-branch of the League.

COMRADESHP—EVEN UNTO DEATH.

Outsiders have little idea of the wonderful comradeship which exists in the League. A touching example occurred at Boulder last Anzac Day. Knowing that one of their members in Harry Tresider was being buried on the local Memorial, some members of the Melbourne sub-branch procured a car immediately after the service and paid him a visit. Although in a very low condition the sufferer relied on seeing his digger mates and asked them what time the annual re-union social was to commence that evening. On being told he said to his nurse: "Bring me a drink at 8 o'clock, please, so that I can have a drink with the boys." Harry wished to be buried from the Soldiers' Rest Rooms, and a few days later the coffin containing the dear fellow's remains was draped with the Union Jack and placed on bearers in the main hall. The burial service was read by the Rev. Mr. M, M, who served throughout the war as a digger. As such is the comradeship of the League.

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Doc. Stacy, the President of the Kalgoorlie sub-branch, has a saying which is well known to the Kalgoorlie diggers, in which he alludes to the Bolshevik and the disloyalist as being boils on the surface of humanity. At the solemn service held at the local Memorial on Anzac Day, the Doc was orating, and by warning up to his subject, he said, referring to the wreckers: Having not receptive hearts, the spirit of Anzac will pass them by; these disloyalists can only be considered as being boils on the (pause, during which 150 diggers held their breath) body (an audible sigh of relief from 150 throats) of humanity.
TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION
RE-UNION.

Entertainment of Renown Sailors.

On Thursday, May 19th, the 28th Battalion Association held its annual re-union smoke social at St. George's Hall, Hay Street, Perth. Besides being an occasion for the old "Batt." to get together and talk of the good, and had times of a decade ago, the "smoko" was so arranged to entertain the visitors from the H.M.S. Renown and H.M.A.S. Sydney, who were in port in connection with the visit of Their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of York. There must have been four hundred diggers present, while there was a fair sprinkling of the Navy boys amongst the throng.

The committee arranged motor cars to visit Fremantle and convey the "Tars" to Perth, and they were delighted at the hospitality shown. Others who had been on leave during the afternoon eventually found their way to the scene of activity, and as soon as a "tar" showed up at the door, no formal presentation was necessary to make him one of the boys. There was no chance of being nervous, and the "Tars" appreciated it. The atmosphere was just one wish on the part of every Digger to return in a small way, the hospitality which was always displayed towards them, when they were in the "Tars" homeland. And truly, Diggers left nothing undone in carrying it out.

An excellent programme was arranged and the hall and tables presented a striking appearance, being appropriately decorated for the occasion. Mr. C. Flood, the entertainment secretary, must be congratulated on his efforts, while the whole committee worked splendidly. As for the stewards—well, they knew their job!

Lieut.-Colonel Dunkley, President, was in the chair, whilst seated close at hand at the "King" table was Colonel Collett, besides other well known identities of the 28th Battalion, and representatives of kindred associations. After the 28th Bn. Band had played an overture, "The King" was honoured. The Specialty —Four then dispensed excellent harmony, and a touching remembrance was the toast "Fallen Comrades," all standing in reverent silence while the band played "Abide With Me." During the playing the "Last Post" was sounded and the combination brought back many a silent memory. It was a fine tribute to the "Royal Navy," by Captain ("Scotty") Wilson was proposed, and he welcomed the members of the senior service to their midst. Chief Petty Officer Dougan, H.M.S. Renown, and Chief Petty Officer Treanor, H.M.A.S. Sydney, struck the happy note of cutting it short, and their remarks showed elegantly how the welcome was appreciated. The Navy men had nothing but praise for the way the ex-service men had welcomed them generally in Australia. Major Shaw proposed the toast "The 28th Battalion." He was an old 28th man, but transferring to the Engineers he mentioned how safe he always felt when they were working together. The President, Lt.-Col. Dunkley,

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responded, and mentioned how pleased they were all to be together once again. Perhaps one of the best toasts was "The Patron," proposed by Captain Tozer. In an excellent speech he praised the work of their patron, Colonel Collett. The applause to his effort amply demonstrated that his words were not "laying it on too thick" and the Colonel must have felt proud of the popularity shown towards him. Colonel Collett stood up amidst deafening applause, forgot, like all good soldiers, to talk about himself, and reminisced a little. "Absolute silence prevailed during his splendid remarks, and diggers generally felt sorry he did not continue. Mr. Robinson proposed "Kindred Associations" in an appropriate manner, while Padre Riley, in his response, brought the house down by a yarn of the Palestine days.

During the evening the Band and the "Specialty Four" contributed splendid harmony, and Diggers of the 28th up country were unfortunately missing such a function. The attendance this year was a record, and shows that the tendency every year is for the ex-soldiers to welcome the opportunity to get together to renew old acquaintanceships of the war days.

A NOBLE HERO.

An American soldier tells this story of a noble, comradely deed: "It was at the Battle of Fricourt, July 1, 1916. It was a deed which I believe to be the most tender, gentle, and gallant thing I ever knew a human being to do. "We were given orders to 'go over' at 7.30 prompt, immediately following an hour's terrific bombardment by our artillery. This was the beginning of the great Somme offensive. Almost to the minute the artillery ceased its uproar, and over we went amid the ratting of German machine-guns and (shuddering) barrage fire. "Three of us were in one group—a Scot, an Irishman and myself—moving steadily towards the German lines. Arriving in Fritz's battered first line we discovered a concrete 'double-bunker,' which is the soldier's term for a two-entrance dig-out. "A dozen hand grenades were quickly tossed down the steps and we stood by, with bayonets ready, for the exit of the foe. And then it happened! "A huge German shell landed on the parapet in front of us and exploded with an ear-splitting 'crump.' "Finding myself gasping for breath, and well-nigh crushed under the weight of earth which had half buried me, I could only watch my comrades, and then I saw one of the noblest deeds ever enacted. "Now, each British soldier carries a medical kit which consists of two compressed bandages, two medicated gauze dressings, two safety pins, and a bottle of iodine in a waterproof covering. This is placed within easy reach in a special pocket at the lower right-hand corner of the soldier's tunic. The Scot had his right leg hanging from threads to his thigh, the Irishman his right arm blown completely off, both being struck by the same shell that had buried me. Both men were simply spouting blood from their terrible wounds. The Irishman was the first to rise, however, and then I heard him distinctly say: "'Where's your field dressing, Jock?' "'I haven't any. Save yourself and leave me. I won't need any help soon.' But to leave his comrade in distress was not the plan of the Irishman. Instead, he tugged weakly at his own field dressing with his arm, and placed it firmly on the Scot's gaping knee, which stopped the flow of blood. He had not the strength to fasten it securely, so he placed his head gently on the dressing and went to sleep, never to wake again.

A few moments later the regimental stretcher-bearers arrived and skillfully extricated me from my earthly prison. The Scot recovered, but he will never forget the gentle act of the gallant Irishman who laid down his life in order that another might live, the truest love which man can show."

On a road in Belgium a German officer met a boy leading a jackass, and addressed him in heavy jovial fashion, as follows:

"That's a fine jackass, you have, my son. What do you call it? Albert, I bet!"

"Oh, no, officer," the boy replied quickly. "I think too highly of my King."

"The German scowled and returned: "I hope you don't dare to call it Wilhelm."

"Oh, no, officer. I think too highly of my jackass."

A bluejacket ashore at Tient-Srin happened to see a Chinaman placing a dish of rice on a grave.

"When do you expect him to come out of his hole to eat that, Lioi?" asked the sailor.

The Celestial showed his teeth in a diabolical grin, and replied: "Same time your dam fren' come out of his hole smellsy flowers you fellows put."

Jock and Billjin were sitting in a motor 'bus in the Old Dark when a pretty girl got in and smiled at the bllek in kilts. He saluted in rare style.

"Do you know her?" asked Billjin.

"Oh, yes, very well," Jock replied.

"Well, shall we go over and sit beside her, and then you can introduce me?" asked his companion.

"Wait a bit," returned the canny Scot. "She hasna paid her fare yet."

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A MEMORABLE FUNCTION

The Prince of Wales Theatre was packed to its full capacity last Wednesday by men and women who had responded to the call to arms for the Empire, who had met to do homage to the second son of the King and his charming partner. The wonderful bond of comrade ship which exists in Australia to-day between those who fought for the Empire could almost be felt at this splendid historic gathering, and it certainly encompassed the Royal guests.

The Duke was hailed as a comrade of the Great War, and when he met his audience on common ground and referred to them as fellow diggers the thunderous applause which greeted him from about 4,000 diggers nearly lifted the roof.

We had read of the wonderful charm and the captivating smile of the Duchess, but few were prepared to behold the radiant vision which met their eyes when the girl wife of the Duke appeared. A mere masculine penman unused to the airy flights in man, B.A. (past "Betty J", this was the familiar "Lassie") this was the "I love a Lassie", the audience rose en masse and the "Mary" of the famous Scotch song was discarded for "Betty, My Scotch Blue-bell."

But the Duchess did not appear to mind. She bowed—gravely at first, and then smiled, and the Diggers knew she had accepted the spirit in which the song was sung, and made their lungs work overtime on a repeat chorus.

Then the Duke mounted the stage, and he, too, was overwhelmed by the volume of cheers. Standing in the wings, he surveyed the mighty gathering and a smile came to his lips as the audience turned its vocal attention to him, in the well-known song, "Hello! Hello! Who's Your Lady Friend?" followed by "I've seen you with a girl or two, Oh! Oh! Oh! I am surprised at you."

It was several minutes before the cheering and singing died down, "Australia Will Be There" being reeled off in great style.

When the singing and the cheering died down, the President of the League, Colonel Colett began his splendid address.

"You will note, your Royal Highnesses, began Colonel Colett, "that no spoken word is necessary to assure you of the warmest depth and sincerity of the welcome now extended."

"It was with natural delight," he continued, "that we learned of your projected tour, and we have watched your journeyings for the last few months with great interest. What has specially pleased us was your recent association with the celebration of Anzac Day (applause)—an institution which we very dearly cherish, and very zealously guard. You went further, Sir, recently in your speech at Canberra, and you disclosed that you had already absorbed the Anzac Spirit. You suggested that that comradeship which the Great War engendered should be perpetuated. You believe that the voices of our 60,000 noble dead should not go unheard, and the great ideals they fought and died for, are the ideals this country should maintain and live up to.

That is the main object of the existence of this League—to help one another, and promote the welfare of the community.

"We are meeting with success," continued Colonel Colett, and we receive help from many associations, and are grateful for their support. Here in the gathering are representatives of three great services—Australians, most of them, but many of them from the Old Country and the other Dominions. We men," proceeded Colonel Colett, "are specially pleased to see so many ladies of that branch to which we owe so much, and to which we shall ever be indebted. I mean the Nursing Service. (Loud applause.)

"In this gathering," said Colonel Colett, "are men who served Her Majesty, your great-grandmother, her son, and are still serving His Majesty to-day. I am afraid that, many of them are experiencing suffering, but all are glad to be alive to-day to take some part in this function. (Applause.) We regret, Sir, that the limitation of seats did not permit of us admitting those people who perhaps have suffered more than any others. I mean the widows and bereaved. But we know how deeply His Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen feel for them, and we know they have your sympathy also. Then again, we do not want to forget those who are too ill to be here to-day, and we do hope they will have the opportunity of seeing you and hearing your voices before you depart."

"I would like," continued Colonel Colett, breaking into lighter vein, "to mention an experience, or incident, which came under my notice during the Great War. In a London drawing room a group of elderly ladies were discussing the Australian troops. "What fine soldiers they are,' said one. "Yes,"

The doors of the theatre were opened at 1.30 p.m., and the building quickly filled.

When the seating accommodation was overtaxed, hundreds of war veterans stood in the aisles and parts of reserved seats were set aside for blinded soldiers, and serious amputation cases, hospital patients and veterans of past wars, ex-service women, Army nurses and specially invited guests. To while away the time the audience sang popular war-time songs.

The Duke and Duchess arrived at the theatre at 3 p.m., and in the portico Major-General Sir J. Talbot Hobbs, K.C.B., V.D., formally presented Colonel H. B. Collett, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., State President of the R.A., which meets at the Lindesay, State Secretary of the League, Mr. D. M. Benson, M.S.M. Members of the Executive and V.C.s were formed up as a guard of honor in the vestibule.

said the other, 'and so simple...too.'

"The Royal couple joined in the loud laughter which followed.

"It is possible that they were fine soldiers," continued Colonel Collett, "and it is also possible they were simple, too. It is also possible that the entire tour was undertaken with great courage and borne throughout with wonderful graciousness, perhaps you have had a surfeit of this perfectly excellent article. (Laughter). On the other hand, we hope somebody has told you that the house was built till the last (applause); that Western Australia, with its less than 350,000 people, supplied more men and more money in the Great War, in proportion, than any other State; that 32,000 men and women enlisted for service overseas; that Western Australians were in the van at Gallipoli, and in many of the other great battles; that—and here Colonel Collett was interrupted by a hoarse voice from the body of the theatre—

"Don't lay it on too thick," advised the voice, and once more everybody laughed heartily.

"That they were the first troops to enter Jerusalem," continued the Colonel, "and the first British troops to enter Damascus in 700 years, and receive the surrender of the city; that Victoria Crosses were conferred of 11 of our men, and general officer's rank upon six others.

"Unfortunately, all this entailed a cost, and we have had to pay, and every Anzac Day we do public homage to the 60,000 who sleep over the sea."
PERSONALITIES.

Vic. O'Grady, the capable and popular Secretary of the Boulder Sub-Branch, is unfortunately far from well these days. Vic. is a tireless worker for the League, and his speech at the Anzac social at Boulder was good propoganda, and in addition was delivered in a fluent and forceful manner.

Ernie Bosustow, after two year's activity as President of the Boulder Sub-Branch, was presented at the Anzac social with the League's Certificate of Service, suitably framed. No recipient of this honour has earned it more than Ernie, who, although not in the chair, continues to be a splendid League Officer.

Hon. Secretary J. M. Anderson, of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch, is at present holidaying in Perth. Andy's achievements for the boys at Kalgoorlie are numerous. He has been one of those level-headed men who sit a case to the bottom before arriving at a decision, and when he states that something ought to be done—well, it should be done. The success of the Anzac celebrations at Kalgoorlie, consisting of a smoke social, Anzac Day services, children's Anzac fete, a small sweep and the Anzac ball, is a tribute to Andy's organising ability.

It is pleasing to see men of the standing of Lt.-Col. (Doc.) Stanley taking a prominent part in League activities. The popular doctor who is President of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch excelled himself at the Kalgoorlie Anzac social last Saturday, at which over 160 diggers were present. The entertainment at this function was the finest that it has been the lot of the writer to enjoy, and he has been to very many similar socials.

Several Eastern States papers have written a special leading article on the fact that General Monash "came into his own" on Anzac Day, when he led 30,000 ex-service men through the streets of Melbourne. Our great A.I.F. leader is one of the foremost intellects of the day, and it is considered that Australia is not making sufficient use of his wonderful capabilities.

A live wire within the League is the Secretary of the reformed Maylands Sub-Branch, George Wilkinson. George, who served with the Second Light Horse Regiment, was recently elected to a seat on the Perth Board. Under his capable leadership, Maylands sub-branch is expected to be one of the strongest in the State.

"Dad" Fanning and his fruit barrow in Forrest Place are becoming institutions in the capital, being almost as well known, due to Dad's personality, as the town clock. When the hate was let loose, Dad and his two sons, A. A. ("Cocky") and Harry did their bit, the latter being killed in France during the big August (1918) drive. "Cocky," who served with the 10th Light Horse, is going into partnership with his father. Dad has found the selling of fruit a much more profitable business than growing it.

Practically all the soldier settlers in the Quairading district have been successful and not the least of these is the President of the local sub-branch, Mr. Fergie Reid. He is a great worker for the League, and in spare time from vegetable activities acts as a member of the local Road Board.

Ted Adamson, the Secretary of the Quairading Road Board is a very prominent and useful member of the League. Although often a sick man through being gassed at the war when serving with the 3rd Battalion, Ted finds time and energy to give in the service of others.

President Tom Lennon, of the Perth sub-branch, is again in the Repat. ward of the Perth Hospital convalescing, after another serious operation. Dear old Tom is a wonderful and patient sufferer, and it is the wish of his large circle of friends that this latest operation will be successful and that he will soon be fit to once again carry out his numerous League activities.

Often the most cheerful of diggers are those who suffered most at the hand of the Hun., Such a person is F. P. "Bonny" Forrest, who is the President of the 3rd Battalion. "Bonny," who is manager of the National Bank at Tammin, is a member of the Kellerberrin sub-branch.

Our sympathy is tendered to that popular padre of the Darling Range, the Rev. K. Halley, who sustained a couple of fractured ribs in a recent accident. May he soon be his smiling and energetic self once more.

The youngest digger in Kalamunda is John, son and heir of Jimmy Cutmore. At the time of writing John is three week's old and will be classed with the 1927 quota when he comes up for compulsory training. This was Jimmy's first offence.

There passed away at Wyalkatchem on the 2nd May, a well-known farmer and livestock manager in Horsham Q.M. Sergeant Walter A. Bearman, O.B.E. Wally, who was a powerful built man of cheerful disposition, slightly burnt his arm in the course of occupying a blacksmith's workshop, and within a fortnight died of blood-poisoning. He was specially mentioned in dispatches by General Chavnel for wonderful work with his horses during the arduous final stages of hostilities in Palestine. He leaves a widow and little daughter to mourn his loss, to whom we offer sincere sympathy.

There is no doubt about the popularity of Archbishop Riley with the diggers. The reception given to him by 4,000 returned men when he entered the Prince of Wales Theatre to attend the reception to the Royal patrol, was barerly second to that given later to the Duke. This fine old gentleman is being tendered a dinner by members of the State Executive on May 30th, in honour of his 73rd birthday.

All members of the old 28th Battalion as well as a host of others, will be pleased to learn that the recent promotion of so popular an officer as L. E. Dunkley, president of the 28th Battalion Association, who is now Lieutenant-Colonel in command of the 44th Battalion C.M.F.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The interesting series of historical articles under the above heading, written by Captain C. R. Collins, which have been interrupted for the past two issues, will be continued in our June number.

At the last Federal elections the following question was put to a Labour candidate who was absent during the abolition of Australia's altogether inadequate defence force:—"If compulsory training is cut out, how are we working boys going to get on for military boots and military clobber to wear to work?"

The teacher was taking the class in geography and the subject was the mountains of Palestine. "Now, tell me," she demanded, "the names of some mountains that were askew with the Jews in their wandering." Mt. Sinai, Mt. Horeb and Mt. Carmel were all named and then the class became dumb. Suddenly little Ikey Cohen had a brain wave. "I know another one, teacher," he exclaimed excitedly, "Vat about Mt. Lawley?"

This happened to a certain Scottish regiment while on foreign service. The Padre was on the sick list, and the Quartermaster was detailed to conduct Divine service. Now it fell out that the Quartermaster was very near sighted, and having mislaid his spectacles, he had to trust to his memory. Everything went well until he proceeded to detail the lesson for the day, which happened to be the story of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. And this is how he gave it: "And a gr-reast concour-rse of people followed Oor Loard into the wilderness, and the commissariat arrangements were none so effieicent. Then Oor Loard tured to the patron saint of Bonnie Scotland and said, Ann's on, mon, 'a hoo's the ration stat?', And Saint Andrew said, 'Oh, Lord, there's nought, but a wee bit ladder has a heavisack ration of five bannocks an twa fish'; and Oor Loard said, 'Hoots, mon.'"

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LEAGUE OFFICIALS VIST

MT. BARKER AND DISTRICT.

The whole of Mt. Barker District was depopulated by ex-service men on Tuesday night, May 3rd, for these had all foregathered at the local Road Board Hall in reply to an invitation received from Tom Sounness, President, and Percy Gillam, Hon. Secretary, of the Mt. Barker Sub-Branch, R.S.L. When word was passed along that zero hour had arrived, 98 diggers and Tommies stood up when Padre Riley, Senior Vice-President, of the State Executive, said a short grace. It was whispered that nineteen young and vigorous turkeys in the prime of life had met an untimely end that day through meeting the butcher's axe, and Percy passed the word along the three tables to do the cookhouse full justice. Seated on the right and left of the President were Rev. C. L. Riley (Vice-President of the League), Alex. Martin of the Light Horse and Mt. Barker Estate. Jimmy Morgan, one time of the A.I.F., Tommy Army, and finally of Kerensky's foot sloggers in Russia. At the left of the Presidents sat the State Secretary of the League, Mr. D. M. Benson, Flight Commander G. R. P. Wall, ex-R.A.F., and Padre Peniston, 35th C.C.S., France. Also Mr. J. T. Plumb, President of the Albany R.S.L. Mr. Wall, by the way, is a son of that famous actress, Miss Beatrice Day, who did war work in England and France during the big trouble. Amongst other notables present was Bill Armstrong (Cranbrook), Jack Johnson (ex-Lt. 16th Bn.), Eric Hitchens, taxation inspector and late 11th Bn. Frank Lew and Ken Williamson, now the potato kings of Narrabup. Herb Townsend (ex-Lt. 51st), and Sgt-Mjr. Ferry, South African Bushmen, and now well established in the Footscrap District. H. Y. Jenkins, live settler and member of the R.S.L. at Mt. Barker; E. James, Vice-President, and one time of the 10th A.L.H.; Tom Harbutt, once of

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Wellington Street – Perth

the 44th Bn., officiated at the piano and had a suitable ditty ready for every item on the toast list, which, by the way, was a lengthy one. The “R.S.L.” was proposed by the Vice-President, Mr. James, and responded by the State Secretary, who entertained those present by an interesting summary of the ramifications of the League. Padre Riley, in proposing the toast of the “Mt. Barker Sub-Branch” referred in appreciative terms to the splendid example set to other districts in the State by Mt. Barker, who were almost marching stride for stride with Collie, in the wonderful way the League's cause had been illustrated to men and women of the district elsewhere. When the toast of “League” was proposed on League affairs, the Padre said that some of them would probably be asked why they joined the R.S.L. No doubt they had been asked the same question as to why they joined the A.I.F. Their membership of both organisations was for the same purpose, that was to help others. The strong to help the weak. When the Prussian military machine began its work of destruction, the Australian soldier went in protection of the weaker nations of Europe. For the same thing to-day, the R.S.L. stood, in protection of the weak against the adverse circumstances of life, in many cases were brought about by a man's war service.

Replying for the Army to the toast of the “Navy, Army and Air Force,” Jimmy Morgan rocked the crowd by his humorous recital of what the digger owed the army and what the army could do for the digger. He said that the great strategists of the army had been out-witted by the men whom he represented in various branches of warfare, particularising strategy, tactics, wangling, lead-swinging, etc., all exploited and brought to a high state of perfection by men of 1914-1918. He further remarked on the enormous military problems solved by the digger, instancing equipment in the field and the few shortcomings reported when kit inspections were held. Personnel criticisms had said that the completeness of the digger's outfit when inspected could be traced to the fact that battalions were lying along-side and inspections were held on different days. He stated that it had been established that the Q.M.'s issues had never been heavier, nor corresponding signatures fewer than in the Great War. The army's reputation for kindness had been enhanced by the method of treating prisoners of war, who in a great number of cases had been relieved of the necessary anxiety as to the disposal of personal effects and the transportation thereof. As to the canard of the digger having no discipline, he could only refer them to the historical words of General Birdwood, spoken before Lille: “Give me ten thousand Anzacs with a month's pay, then put Lille and its cables out of bounds, and with 24 hours it is ours.” “The A.I.F.”, Mr. Morgan stated, “had been foreseen by the Prophet, who wrote of shepherds watching their flocks by night in Palestine, who surely had in mind the visit to be paid 2,000 years after by the Australian Light Horse, when no doubt the shepherds found it necessary to watch their flocks by day and night.” It was by such stories and songs that the Mt. Barker social was carried on until “Good Save the King” was sung about midnight, bringing it to a close what was stated to be the finest gathering of returned soldiers on the Great Southern Railway. The splendid manner in which affairs had been controlled could only be exemplified in the fact that the last speech was more patiently listened to and with fewer interjections than the first although there had been a good issue during the night, of both solids and liquids. The Mt. Barker R.S.L. can put itself on the back for the high standard of entertainment.

During the visit to Mt. Barker of the State Secretary and Padre Riley, the local President, Mr. Tom Sounness, very kindly motored them through the district, on the first day visiting Kendenup, and on the second day the Foreingourps of Kendenup was a very pleasant surprise to the visitors, containing as it did many excellent settlers who had worked down the old and early associations of this district and firmly resolved to battle on. Seven or eight ex-soldiers are among the “lads of the Mochians” at Kendenup, and they state that now a portion of the land is freed, they will yet win through and retrieve the fortunes jeopardised at the outset. Amongst settlers, Mr. C. Sandilands was found, who at one time was a President of the Boulder Sub-Branch, and Sgt-Mjr. Ferry, South African Bushmen of late 16th Battalion, Mr. Sandilands orchard and gardens show that Kendenup is fertile, and the settler only needs a little encouragement and assistance to put him on the high road to prosperity. It is a great pity that this Estate was not purchased by the Soldier Settlement Board, to whom we understand it was offered at 14/- or 15/- an acre. The same land afterwards was sold for £20 by the syndicate who occupied the option when the S.S.S. turned it down.


DAMNING THE DAME.

Probably less than one per cent. of the Australian people had ever heard of Dame Margaret Greville before the receipt of the cable in which it was stated that the good lady had said nasty things about Australians, and probably fewer still would have worried about her opinion in any case. Yet, the Press of Australia played up the alleged interview, giving Dame Margaret a prominence she would not otherwise have achieved, and so whether she has said nasty things with shattering effect at the placid mirror of our self-conceit.

Why, on earth, should we resent adverse criticism? Must we be forever like the Americans, running around Kvmailing the whole world to throw bouquets at us? We cannot expect the whole-world to like us and admire our ways. As we have undoubted virtues, so also we have our faults. National character, like that of individuals, is not exactly a pan to work at. Father, and it is a definite mode of reacting to varying circumstances, and the mode of reaction cannot please everybody. The defects Dame Margaret points out—that is, if she really said the things which the local Press, in spite of her unqualified denial, persists in accusing her of saying—are not purely Australian defects, but are to be found in people of every race, and in every age. The vulgarian, the Pecksniff, the corrupt politician, and the Philistine, are not racial types; they are universal, and we have existed, the cruelty of mankind has a long memory. Literary men in all countries have assumed the role of public castigator, and have vied with one another in pouring ridicule and abuse upon these types. Whilst Dickens was pillorying the Pecksniffs and the vulgarists, Matthew Arnold was assailing the English people for their philistinism as regards art, and Carlyle was decrying the soulless commercialism that was filling England with wealth while she was dying of man. Contemporary American novel, the American drama, and even the much-abused film, are at one in their tremendous indictment of American social and political life.

When such types are universal, how can we expect to escape them, or prevent them from recurring in Australia? Exposure of national and personal defects is not the surest way to achieve popularity; yet, even adverse criticism can have its salutary effects. Without criticism there can be no improvement. By criticism a nation may be purged of its faults, just as a horse must be drenched for the bolts. The remedy may be unpleasant, but it is none the less effective. If the criticism comes from an authoritative source, and if it can be upheld, let us take note of it and amend our ways. We are strong enough to do this. "Paint me as I am," said Cromwell to Lely, the portrait painter, "and if you leave out one wart or one scar, I shall not pay you a penny." If, on the other hand, the criticism is merely the vapid outpouring of some prejudiced, superficial person; of someone whose opinion on any matter would not cause the slightest ripple on the ocean of public thought, it would be more dignified to smile the smile of tolerance and adopt the spirit of Byron's lines,

"Here's a smile for those that love me, Here's a sigh for those that hate; And, whatever skies above me, Here's a heart for any fate."

Dame Margaret has repudiated the interview published in a Ceylon newspaper. The journal in question affirms the interview's authenticity. Therefore, it becomes a question of a lady's word against that of a newspaper reporter. In the words of the travelling showman, "You pays yer money an' yer takes yer choice." Most A.I.F. men know that we Australians are not popular in Colombo. In the light of this knowledge and of the fact that the canard is by no means an unusual feature in sensational journalism, our money is on the lady.

The reactions of the local Press to the alleged criticism were quite according to type. "Scrutator," of the "West," who always writes like a scholar and a gentleman, was mildly facetious, and so refrained from bestowing a spurious importance upon the affair. One squalling weekly which specialises in calumny and the juxtaposition of affluent obscurities, replied with a diatribe of cat-chatter, level mentally with the slum child's retort, "Se's yer old man," Others, the offal variety, simply hurled of{ and continued to hurl it in spite of Dame Margaret's denial. Even that delicate Ariel of modern thought, the gentle and refined "Dryblower," bored his soul in verse (his verse is becoming very much worse these days), in which he gallantly and chivalrously accuses the lady of having a double chin, and rakes up the fact that her family's fortune was derived from that potent source whence third-rate versifiers 'derive most of their inspiration—the brewery. All of which goes to support the main contention of the alleged interview, namely, that there are some very uncouth people in Australia.
UNCLE EGBERT'S COLUMN.

Sapphira: Sapphira is annoyed. The other day, while she and a few girl friends were occupying the width of the pavement in Barrack Street, a rude policeman made them move on. Sapphira wants to know if she did right in shutting her eyes at the police.

Well, dear Sapphira, provided you closed both eyes you conformed to the canons of outraged dignity. If, however, you closed only one you committed a faux pas. I know that particular policeman, and feel liable to misinterpret your action. Did you undertake whether your greeting in like manner? By the way, little girls should not stand and converse in Barrack Street. If you really want to hold up the traffic without some officious constable moving you on, just disguise yourself as S.P. bookmakers and stand in front of the Savoy Hotel. You'll then be able to obstruct people to your heart's content, without any molestation on the part of the police. Person of an S.P. bookie in Perth is as sacrosanct as that of a Herald used to be in the Middle Ages.

Pork Butcher: No; on the whole I should advise you to start in business in Mount Lawley. In any plebiscite out that way the "Nose" have it.

Litterateur: No: Robert W. Chambers is not descended from Edgar Allan Poe.

Inquirer: I'm afraid we must refrain from publishing that little collection of Vic. Newton stories. But you may send along as many as you like for private perusal.

Social Secretary: Social Secretary wants to know, apropos of a recent storm in a teacup, what is a D.B.E.?

A Dame of the British Empire is a female member of a distinguished order of knighthood which was conferred upon many eminent nobodies as a reward for playing at war work.

Amaryllis and Strephon have had another misunderstanding, and Strephon, poor boy, has poured out his sorrows in verse which he asks me to insert in the "Listening Post," in the hope that Amaryllis will read and understand. He also draws attention to the French title of his effusion. French titles and phrases lend a literary effort such an air of erudition and refinement that it is an easy matter to dig them out of any dictionary of popular phrases. Amaryllis, please read, mark and forgive!

COMPLAINT D'AMOUR.

Sweet Amaryllis, raise your head
And smile upon me, Little Lady!
I was not sorry when you
I'd like to hold the hand of Sadie,
Though pledged to you I still aver,
That one may be a connoisseur.
Twas no reflection on our love;
I'm just as keen on you as ever.
But Sadie's hand, ye stars above,
To hold it I shall still endeavor;
A hand that any swain would rush,
A dinkum royal routine—flush.

SUB-BRANCH NOTES.

FREMANTLE DISTRICT SUB-BRANCH.

Anzac Day at Fremantle.

Simple but impressive was the tribute that Fremantle paid on the occasion of the 12th Anniversary of Anzac Day. Thousands gathered at the oval in the afternoon to join in the memorial service as arranged by the Fremantle District Sub-branch of the R.S.L., and it was pleasing to note that the number of diggers and ex-service men of both branches of the service were far in excess of the number who have attended in previous years.

In contrast to the wild cheering and waving of flags that greeted the marching of our men in the war-days, an impressive silence was observed as the parade of the naval, military, boy scout and girl guide units, led by Mr. T. Lindsey, R.A.A.C., Bands, filed on the oval, and formed up in a hollow square around the dais from which the service was conducted. The service was in charge of Chaplain Collick, who was assisted by Chaplain Jenkins, both of whom have served in the service, and are members of the sub-branch.

Following the singing of the hymn, "Lest We Forget," Chaplain A. A. Jenkins offered up a prayer for the Empire; and Chaplain M. E. Read read the 46th Psalm. Major-General Sir Talbot Hobbs then gave a splendid, inspiring and graphic address to the gathering. Following the two-minutes silence, Chaplains Collick and Jenkins delivered short addresses. 

Chaplain Jenkins, during his address, made a very urgent appeal to the people present to see that the deeds of Australia's dead were not forgotten, and stressed upon them the need of their co-operation in the building of war memorials in the cities of Perth and Fremantle, which, up to the present time were practically the only two towns without suitable memorials in the State.

Perhaps the most impressive moment of the afternoon was when the clear bugle notes of the "Last Post," sounded by Trumpeter O'Brien, of the R.A.A.C., broke the silence. Following the singing of the National Anthem, the naval and military units, headed by their respective bands, marched off the oval to their depot, the salute being taken at the saluting base by the District Naval Officer, Commander Griffiths-Bowen and the Base Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Hardie. After the service the members of the branch were entertained by the president and members of the ladies' auxiliary of the Fremantle District Sub-branch, at afternoon tea. Mr. S. P. Wilson, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, read the 46th Psalm, and also appreciated the nice things that had been spoken, but she considered the ladies were entitled to them—a matter the men never disputed.

KELMSCOTT SUB-BRANCH.

There was a large attendance of residents of Kelmscott and neighbourhood at the Anzac Memorial Service, held in the Kelmscott Hall. Local officials of the R.S.L. were Mr. G. B. Cross (President), and Mr. C. L. Plessie (Secretary).

Armada sub-branch was represented by Messrs. Gordon Devereaux (President), G. J. John, and J. Smith.

Mr. G. E. Bunney, J.P. (late President of the Kelmscott sub-branch), was also present and with Mr. J. W. Turner (Secretary) represented the Armada-Kelm'scott Road Board.

The service was conducted by the Rev. S. T. Lindsey (Rector of Armada Anglican), and the address was given by the Rev. Lincoln Sullivan (Congregational Minister).

The Salvation Army Band from the Seaford Home, under Ensigin Hayes, led the singing; and three of the boys with Ensigin Hayes sounded the "Last Post" and the "Reveille .

An impressive two-minutes silence followed the first hymn.

After Mr. Sullivan's fitting address the congregation, led by the clergy, followed by the band and school children, proceeded from the hall to the Soldiers' Memorial. At the memorial a wreath was placed at the foot.

The members of the Kelmscott Women's Auxiliary began their year's work for sick and disabled soldiers, by holding a pleasant little whist drive and dance, in aid of the Tubercular Soldiers' Amelioration Fund. A lady member of the State provided, by the members, the tables being decorated with vases of beautiful dahlias.

Although the attendance was not large on account of one or two counter attractions for young people, ticket sellers had been busy beforehand, and members and friends had given liberally to keep down expenses, so the financial result should be very satisfactory.

Mrs. Price and Mr. Jack Ward were the winners of the whist drive, and Mrs. Jack Kennedy and Mr. Stadden received the consolation prizes.

QUAIRING SUB-BRANCH.

The Quairing sub-branch held their reunion recently in the local road board hall, over 40 members sitting down to dinner, Mr. Fergie Reid presiding. Messrs. Talbot and Bader represented the State executive and responded to the toast of that body, which was moved by Mr. J. T. Cross. Mr. R. A. Beale in proposing the toast of the Quairing Road Board mentioned that there were three returned soldiers and two parents of soldiers on the Board. He also supplied information as to the remarkable rise in the quantity of primary produce grown away from the Quairing station,—1915, 1,094 tons of wheat; 35 tons wool; 6,325 sheep; 1920, 15,537 tons of wheat, 134 tons of wool, 17,300 sheep; 1922, 50,979 tons of wheat, 25,000 tons wool, 7,273 sheep.

Mr. T. W. Eltridge proposed the toast of "Our President, Fergie Reid," and in doing so eulogised Mr. Reid's general services to returned soldiers, and called upon Mr. G. E. Bunney, J.P., President of the League's Certificate of Service, who had been granted by the State executive.
Mr. Reid's speech was modest and he concluded by stating that the Certificate would occupy an honoured place in his home.

Mr. J. J. McDonald, in toasting "Soldiers' Parents," stated that 107 men out of a total population of the district of 500 people had enlisted, it being approximately 97 per cent. of those eligible—a record which it is believed cannot be beaten in the British Empire. Other toasts and musical items from Miss Bray, Messrs. Bader, Clemens, Marsden and others, helped to make what was a most enjoyable and in every way successful function, the party breaking up at about 1.45 a.m.

Anzac celebrations were conducted in the Soldiers' Memorial Grounds and were both inspiring and impressive.

**BOULDER SUB-BRANCH.**

All's well with the Boulder Sub-Branch: membership is increasing and achievements are encouraging. At the last general meeting members discussed the meeting of their old friend, Mr. E. S. Watt, who was visiting the fields at the invitation of the branch to take part in the Anzac celebrations. Mr. Watt gave an instructive address on what Australian interest and answered a number of questions.

On Anzac Day the usual commemoration service was held at the foot of the monument in the Railway Reserve, a pleasing feature being the large number of returned men who took part in the march from the Town Hall to the Reserve. The men marched to a position facing the monument, and stood to attention while President Ted Lennell placed a beautiful memorial wreath on the memorial and on stepping back every man saluted smartly. As the mournful strains of the "Last Post" rang out, one's thoughts turned to other days and other comrades. Many comrades who were present at the last service have since gone west, no less than seven members having passed away during the past 12 months. One poor old lady came and spoke to the boys, saying, as the tears rolled down her cheeks, "When I saw you marching past, I missed my poor boy, who was with you last Anzac Day." The writer has just returned from the funeral of another member in poor old Harry Tresidder. Harry was one of the best and was patient and cheerful to the last.

The Annual Re-union Smoke Social held on the night of the 25th was a huge success and the hall was filled to overflowing. A much larger hall will be required in the future, as many who came along could not obtain seats at the tables. The occasion was marked by the presentation of two gold badges to the recipients of the League of Honour certificates. Messrs. D. Donaldson and Dr. H. O. Irwin were the presenters, in presenting the badges, spoke in glowing terms of the splendid service that both gentlemen had rendered both during and since the war. They stated that they were both veterans and did not look for any limelight, but the good work that they had performed for the ex-soldier and his dependants refused to be hidden. Both gentlemen, on rising to respond, stated that they had been able to do for the returned men was as nothing compared to what the soldiers had done for them and theirs.
This year the Anzac Ball beat all records and 500 dancers took the floor. The fancy dress sets and the decorations and lighting effects provided a wonderful scene, and those looking from on the stage remarked that the Grand March was one of the best they had ever seen. Spectators rolled up in hundreds but, unfortunately, after about 700 had been admitted further entrance had to be refused on account of the crowded accommodation. Financially, the ball was a great success and the Sub-Branch funds should benefit to the extent of £100. Ernie Laycock organised and was congratulated by the townspeople generally.

The monthly meeting of the Sub-Branch was held on the 10th instant, and the Honorary Secretary (Mr. J. M. Anderson) reported on the activities of the month. Several pension cases had been dealt with and work found for unemployment. There were a number of local boys in the army. The Executive of course had not decided quickly as to the future of the country branches, but the matter of cheap sale was being brought up. The ordinary meeting of the Sub-Branch at Peel Estate was also referred to that body.

A member of the Sub-Branch brought forward a private matter and it was decided to hand it on to the Executive, with a view to having a deputation formed to interview the Government Department concerned.

His many friends will be delighted to learn that "Tommy" Lennon, the popular President of the Perth Branch, came out of his recent hop over the Repat. Ward very successfully. They all wish him a speedy recovery.

It is also pleasing to learn that L. H. Buckingham ("Buck") is steadily improving and the members hope to see him about shortly.

Back among his old friends, Fred Batson was much in evidence at the last meeting of the Perth Branch and as active as ever in his endeavours to do the best for his comrades.

MOUNT BARKER SUB-BRANCH.

The ordinary meeting of this branch was held on Friday, April 8th, at the Memorial Hall. Considering the counter attractions that evening, a very good muster of members turned up. Mr. T. G. Soundess (president) occupied the chair.

The library committee decided to vote £20 towards new books and have ear-marked £10 for a try-out in the purchase of books from an English firm, the idea being to get hold of a better range of books for our readers. The branch "lickers" still continue to be a problem. At present, with the new public hall in course of erection, members are anxiously awaiting the road board's reply to enable them to decide what to do with their engine, which will not be strong enough for the new hall.

The branch membership now totals 80, and although new members have been enrolled, six have been lost through change of direction.

Returned men of Mount Barker and district will be pleased to hear that Albert Pickles, who recently met with a serious accident, has made very good progress and is now doing well; also, Arthur Quinn, under Dr. Johnson's careful hand, is again in the community. "Quinny" has a hard spin and deserves better.

Several members who had received Repat. assistance are very pleased at the reductions made recently on their properties.

Mr. Byveld, the newly-appointed Methodist minister, although among the "ineligibles," had three boys in the "big stunt." He is doing his best for the "diggers" and ex-Imperial men.

Diggers generally have had a very lively time the last "three moons." Since export started, the carriers, packers, pickers, and case-makers are very busy, and orchardists are very pleased at prices given and prices offering. They deserve it all.

Toc H has a nice little branch in Mount Barker, and several of our members are among the leading "lights." They are out to do good work and may best succeed attend their endeavors.

Back for Easter holidays—Clem Wall, of the Telegraph Constructing Department; and looks well.

CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE SUB-BRANCH.

At the annual meeting of the above
Buying by Post from Westralia's Greatest Business—

FOY & GIBSON'S

is as Satisfactory as a Personal Visit for all your Personal Home and Farm Needs

The Best Costs Less at Foy's

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Hay Street, Perth

branch the following were elected officers for the ensuing year:—President: C. Gladish; vice-presidents: H. Lindell, M. Brown; treasurer: S. V. Barwood; secretary: A. Brown. A good working committee to take charge of the various entertainments for the year has been formed and it is anticipated that a successful year will result.

Secretary Brown is as active and useful as ever; nothing deters him—he lives for the branch.

Meetings, first and third Tuesdays in the month.

DARLING RANGE SUB-BRANCH.

A meeting of the Darling Range sub-branch was held at Kalamunda recently, Dr. John Stewart Yule presiding. Business on the agenda paper referred to the formation of a Women’s Auxiliary League, and the unveiling of the Honour Board, which is now completed, and will hang in the Kalamunda Agricultural Hall. At the close of the meeting a social evening was held. Both padres were present. Padre K. Halley (C. of E.) and Padre Saunders (Methodist) are popular members of the sub-branch, and both have this in common—they went through the war as fighting men. The principal items of the evening were guitar selections by Mr. Cliff Watkins, a very dramatic item by Mr. Jack Savage, and a couple of rattling stories by Padre Hall and Mr. Jim Watson. Other stories of the same kind were told after the two padres had left.

WEST PERTH SUB-BRANCH.

It has been suggested by the branch, owing to the large number of unjustified and unwarranted grievances brought before its notice, that, in the future, whenever possible, the injured member must be prepared to support his appeal in person before the committee. Much time has been wasted by “moon-chasing,” and it is hardly fair to monopolise the valuable time of the Secretary and President on such errands.

Mr. H. P. Clark has been appointed treasurer, vide the resignation of Mr. N. Fingland, which was accepted with much regret. Mr. Clarke is well-known throughout the musical world on account of his “Silver Baritone.”

A motion will be placed before the next general meeting, which will be held in July, to place the major portion of the amelioration fund on fixed deposit, with the branch’s bank. Whilst the fund is healthy the time is opportune for it to be supplemented on every possible occasion. The time is not far distant when those of us who were past middle age at the outbreak of the Great War will be on the retired list, or worn out, and may need some help from the League. Night cometh when no man can work. In some respects, such a view might be pessimistic, but the ultimate position will be severer.

The position of departmental collector for the Public Works Department, which has been vacant for so long, has been filled by Mr. E. C. M. Kinsella. The P.W.D. should now be one of the strongest sections of the branch, as the Main Roads Board comes under its jurisdiction.

Mr. “Bill” Eddy, of the Customs Department—a tiger for his household duties—is going off this spring. When we say “going off” we don’t mean “explode”—far from it. Bill is going to take unto himself a wife.

J. E. Casson, of the Group Settlement Scheme—not forgetting McGinty’s Bull—has been granted leave of absence from the West Perth Branch Committee so that he might nurse the twins. Quite a little family to ask “What Daddy did in the Great War.”

Joe Sweeney, Todd’s Tenth, sufficient address, Kununoppin.

Our contemporary, “The Civil Service Journal,” published a prospectus wherein Peter Ross, the West Perth’s secretary, contemplated opening a poker school. We believe he is a past master.

NAREMEEN SUB-BRANCH.

On 23rd April, the sub-branch entertained the local public to a concert and dance. The evening was most enjoyable, the carelessness and failure being twin.

If you have half an hour to spare, don’t spend it with someone who hasn’t. When in a fix, sweating will get you further than swearing.

Let mules do the kicking. Honking your horn doesn’t help so much as steering wisely.

Defeat is often a spur to victory.

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BE SURE YOU GET

WATSONIA
BRAND REG.

HAMS and BACON

THE LISTENING POST

May 20th, 1927.

items being of a high standard, and there
was a record attendance. Arace called
"The Election of an M.I.A.,” which was
organised by Mr. J. H. Pollett, was most
amusing and clever. The branch is indeed
grateful to the artists, the donors of gifts,
and the many good workers who did so
much to make the entertainment a success.
The profit, amounting to £23, was handed
over to Mr. Anderson, the secretary and
treasurer of the local hospital fund, by
sub-branch secretary H. A. Boyes. Mr.
G. A. Brown, in a sincere and charming
speech, thanked the branch for their
splendid support.

On Anzac Day the commemoration ser-
vice was conducted in the Agricultural
Hall, at 11 a.m., by Methodist Missioner
Mr. Blackwell, who spoke beautifully and
simply of the sacrifice of our fallen
comrades. Branch Vice-President A. S.
Webb also spoke feelingly and made suit-
able reference to the Empire’s Unknown
Warrior, quoting “This warrior is every
man who died in the war, every mother’s
son who did not come home from the
war.” A substantial collection was taken
up in aid of the branch’s charities. Anzac
afternoon was spent with the children at
a picnic on the Waiddern’s ground. After
refreshments, Mr. Pollett suitably address-
ed the gathering. Once again local resi-
dents came to the assistance of the branch
with refreshments, toys, the loan of motor
cars, etc., and the afternoon was victed a
great success. It was pleasing to see so
many Mount Walker residents present at
the Anzac functions.

The monthly meeting of the branch was
held on April 30th, President C. G. Latham
presiding over a good attendance. Mr.
Latham was re-elected president, Messrs.
A. G. Webb and H. Curral as vice-presi-
dents, and Mr. H. A. Boyes as secretary.
The next general meeting will be held in
Barlow’s old bakehouse, which was re-
cently acquired by Vice-President A. S.
Webb, and generously given as a tempo-
rary club to the sub-branch. Meetings are
held on the last Saturday of every month,
and as many have not come forward with
their subscriptions they are advised to ad-
tend the next meeting and pleasantly pay
up.

BRIDGETOWN SUB-BRANCH.

The branch is making its presence felt
in the district. Under the leadership of
Major Whittell, prestige and membership
are increasing. The new offices are en-
deavouring to make this one of the most
progressive branches in the South-West.
A ladies auxiliary has been formed, and
just to show what the ladies can do, they
presented the branch with a sum of over
£7 from the sale of tea on the occasion
of the children’s sports, and that within
one week of their formation, the worthy
organiser being Miss M. Day, a diligent
local Red Cross worker. The branch
held the annual children’s sports on Sat-
urday, 23rd April, which was an unquali-
ﬁed success. Bridgetown Convent School
won the Willmot Shield outright, while
J. Robson won the gold medal as cham-
pion athlete, and J. Blechynden the silver
medal as runner-up. Financially, they
came out square, but only through the
efforts of the ladies’ auxiliary, and a
 cigar-box handed in by Wally Bowler,
who was responsible for its contents,
which counted out over ten pounds.

On Anzac Day the branch had the big-
gest and best turn out at the service
this district has yet seen. The display
of medals was remarkable. One could see
rows of "sixes” and "fives,” and the old
soldier with a mere "three,” refused to fall
in on parade. Truly, the Australian sol-
dier still maintains the same care-free at-
titude which was in evidence during the
war. It was noticed that 98 per cent.
of the medals worn on parade were adorn-
ing the breasts of overseas comrades.
One Aussie, whose name commences with
Archie, did actually wear a bit of general
service ribbon as a buttonhole. During
the service, a lament was played on the
bagpipes by ex-Pipe Major Richardson,
which was generally appreciated, and was
followed by the sounding of the "East
Post” and "Reveille” by Mr. Long.

After the service there commenced a
general "pow-wow."
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TO ANZACS, TOUCHING REINFORCEMENTS.

(This rhyme written during the war, will vividly recall to memory many of the names jealously given to the various "reinjers." In spite of the "hard" humour of the older hands, the new chums were always welcomed, and taken under the protecting wings of the veterans.—Editor.)

O Anzacs, who have fought from the beginning
And dowered your country with eternal praise;
A word to those who come to share your winning—
The reinforcements of these later days.
They came because they saw that they were needed;
It was not fame nor fortune, that they sought.
Deep thinkers? Yes; but as the war proceeded,
So has there been the food for deeper thought.
When, in '14 you hungered to be in it
And, high of hope, prepared yourself to go,
Did you conjecture for a single minute
One half the evils you were soon to know?
You had the keen allure of things uncertain,
Travel, adventure, and the chance of fame;
Perhaps (you could not see beyond the curtain!)
The easy winning of a splendid game.
But they who join now have no illusion
No dream, no hopes. For two long years and more
They watched the horror and the stark confusion,
The gaunt and grey monotony of war.
Older than you by half a generation,
More tied, perhaps, by health or home or kin,
They did not barge into the desolation
Until they felt that duty called them in.
So when another draft blows in: from Blighty—
And reinforcements lbg into the line,
Don't make the Anzac touch too high and mighty.
Don't think of them as frozen-footed swine
Don't ask them when they heard that you were fighting,
Or who let out the secret of the war:
They bring a spirit too resolved for slighting;
A cheery welcome would benefit them more.
Late, but not cravenly, they crossed the water:
Too late for fame, full, early for mischance:
Knowing full well the bitter toll of slaughter,
The equalor, blood and misery of France.
So, when the Auditor writes up his story,
And sets on every man his final price
By one of
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