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THE AGE OF MECHANIZATION.

One of the outstanding characteristics of the present age is the ever-increasing employment of mechanical devices to meet the needs of everyday life and the modern employment represents a vast improvement as regards economy and efficiency.

In military circles the tractor is replacing the horse in artillery work, and the development of the one-man tank has allowed the reduction in infantry personnel. The latter is perhaps the most striking example of mechanization that has occurred since the war. These one-man tanks can do twenty miles an hour on good roads, and ten miles an hour across country. They occupy a very small space, and are very handy. They can climb very steep slopes, cross ditches and narrow trenches, and the narrowness of their structure permits them to negotiate wooded country and pass between trees. What is also important is the fact that they can travel 100 miles on one fill of petrol. The Morris type, an experimental model built by the manufacturers of the Morris Cowley car, is well-armoured, and is turned out at a cost of £750, though they can be manufactured at a considerably reduced figure if large numbers are ordered.

The saving of man-power and horse-power thus made possible enabled Britain to reduce her army estimates last year by nearly a million pounds. Every invention that can be done without, for instance, reduces the army bill by some £120 a year.

In civil life, too, mechanical contrivances have made for increased output and greater economy. The aeroplane has knitted the world more closely together. The growth of civil aviation, wireless, improvements in machinery, and their effects upon business are too well known to require comment. But what of their effects upon the individual and the race?

For every forward step humanity achieves, nature exacts something by way of compensation. Professor Arthur Keith, in his excellent monograph, The Human Body, points out that the risk of hernia is the price paid by mankind for assuming the upright posture, and defective teeth for our addiction to cooked and more easily digestible foods. Such defects are not irreparable and given sufficient time, the body can adapt itself to changes in habits of living. Nerve strain will probably be the price exacted of us for the mechanization of our ordinary activities.

The business man, with his telephone, his dictaphone, and wireless set, is capable of performing a far greater amount of work in a given time than his predecessor of a generation ago. One would expect that added leisure for recreation would be the corollary of all this. Instead, the result appears to be increased competition, and further expenditure of nervous energy. The motor car, once a rich man's luxury, has become a business man's necessity, with the result that walking, one of the healthiest and most pleasant forms of exercise, is almost a lost art. How many of us ever walk more than a hundred yards or so at a time?

Mechanical contrivances, typing machines, adding and computer machinery and the like, have necessitated intensive and highly specialised training, both in their use and manufacture. It is the age of the specialist; specialised work tends to become monotonous, and monotonous is the parent of fatigue. As Pember, one of the greatest authorities on muscular work, points out, the industrial worker has now become a mere annex to the machine. Researches into industrial fatigue show that fatigue results in a loss of neuro-muscular co-ordination, and that the greater number of accidents with machinery occur towards the end of a shift. Work that is lacking in variety engenders monotony, the excessive using up of nervous energy, and the consequent need for increased leisure for recreation. Humanity seems to have all its reserves of nervous energy in the front line, and one wonders whether industrial disputes are not due more to nerve strain than to the human cunningness some people imagine lies at the root of such things.

Let us degenerate into a neurotic race we require more leisure for recreation, using the word recreation in its literal sense of the re-building of worn-out nerve and muscle tissue, and when the worker agitates for a shorter working week, he is only giving more or less articulate expression to his own physiological needs.

Let us disarm the economist and the politician by stating that the argument is from a purely physical standpoint. Increased leisure for recreation, and the mental exhilaration resulting from the reconstruction of worn-out tissue, will make the world a better and a happier place, provided, of course, that such recreation is sought upon the football field, the tennis courts, the golf links or the bowling green, according to one's age and capabilities, and not in the debased atmosphere of the racecourse, nor amid the spurious gaiety of the cabinet.

THE VERMIN TAX.

The Director of Agriculture (Mr. Sutton), in reply to a resolution passed at the Bunbury Soldier Settlers' Conference, regarding Vermin Tax, stated that the tax being collected by the Taxation Department is to be paid into a fund from which liberal uniform bonuses will be paid for the destruction of wild dogs, foxes, and eagle hawks, as from July 1. The store, during next year it will not be necessary for the vermin boards to rate for this purpose.

"You will, I am sure, understand that it was necessary to collect the tax before the bonuses could be paid out, but I wish to inform you that my Honourable Minister has decided that the boards that have rated for this purpose this year will be refunded the amount, provided that the money is refunded to the settlers who have paid their rates."

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.
22/6/27.

Present.—Messrs. Collett, Riley, McAdam, Philp, Longmore, Shaw, Cornell, Pady, Watt, Tyler, Yeates, Weld, Bader, Margolin, Freedman, Fitzgerald, Lovell. Apologies were received from Messrs. Cohen, Kane and Nye.

Prime Minister's Visit.—The State President explained that he was unable to arrange a soldiers' reception to the Prime Minister.

Federal Correspondence.—"Lemnos" Hospital: A letter was received from the Executive, in connection with a resolution forwarded by this State Branch, asking that "Lemnos" should be open to all mental ex-soldiers. The letter explained the conditions between the State and Commonwealth Government under the existing agreement.

League History: The Federal Executive advised forwarding copies of the League History, and stated that they could be procured at a cost of 2s. each.

Resolution 40 (11th Annual Congress): The Federal Executive said that the Repatriation Commission had agreed to give effect to this resolution, according to the time limit in connection with Section 33 (4) of the Act. It was decided that this matter be deferred pending the submission of the resolution to delegates.

Resolution 43 (11th Annual Congress): This resolution dealt with the definition of "widowed mother" under the Act, and the matter was deferred for further consideration to be brought up at next meeting.

Resolution 95 (11th Annual Congress): This resolution dealt with pensions payable to widows with children, and asked that the pension be not reduced upon the youngest child reaching the age of 16 years. The Commission, in a reply, stated that this could not be agreed to.

Employment of Ex-Soldiers: A letter was read from the Federal Executive, dealing with the administration of the employment grant, which had been extended to September 30, 1927. The letter was received.

Invitations: The following invitations were received from Sub-Branches, and left in the hands of the State President to arrange:—Midland Workshops Branch (date to be fixed); Midland Junction, 8th July; Beverley Branch, 9th July; Wangan Branch, 2nd July; Albany Branch (date to be arranged); Corrigin Branch, 9th July.

Group Matters:—A letter was received from the Busselton Sub-Branch, forwarding resolution carried at their last meeting dealing with group matters.

Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Yeates "that the State Secretary be instructed to take this matter up and discuss it with the Minister, and report to the next Executive meeting."

Carried.

Soldier Settlers' Conference.—Dairy Farming: A letter was received from the Director of Agriculture, dealing with the resolution carried at the last Soldier Settlers' Conference concerning dairy farming. The letter was received.

State Bulls:—The Director of Agriculture stated that it was considered advisable to lend State bulls to the settlers, as past experience had been unfortunate.

Goods Rates: A letter was received from the Minister for Railways, in which he stated that a provision is embodied in the goods rates for a rebate of 50 per cent. on the return journey for all agricultural machinery sent for repairs.

League of Nations: The Acting Hon. Secretary of the League of Nations Union stated that six public lectures on the nature and work of the League were being arranged and tickets were available at 2s. 6d. each.

Anzac Day: The Secretary to the Premier advised that the Premier would be pleased to receive a deputation on the question of Anzac Day observance, on his return from the Eastern States.

The W.A. Alliance wrote congratulating the League on the action taken in connection with Anzac Day.

New Settlers' League:—Mr. Watt read a copy of a letter addressed by the Narrogin Sub-Branch of the New Settlers' League, in response to their request for co-operation in their efforts to assist new comers. The Sub-Branch requested material for the provision of accommodation to house migrants passing through.

Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Riley "that a deputation consisting of Messrs. Longmore, Watt and the State Secretary wait on the Ugly Men's Association and request a donation of the material required as suggested in the letter from the Narrogin Branch." Carried.

Women's Auxiliaries: A letter was received from the Subiaco Sub-Branch, requesting the definition of the status of the Women's Auxiliaries. It was decided that the letter be replied to in accordance with the terms of the constitution.

Reports.—Art Union Committee: The chairman of the Art Union Committee read a report on behalf of the Committee, expressing the hope that the financial report and balance sheet would be submitted to the next meeting. The report was received and adopted, and the thanks of the Executive were extended to the Committee and staff for bringing the art union to such a successful conclusion.

Case of Westergaard: The report was submitted by the committee appointed to investigate this case, and the matter was ultimately left in the hands of the State President for his action.

House Committee: Mr. Philp reported on behalf of the House Committee that the billiard room had been broken into and the sum of £5 13s. 11d. had been stolen. The matter was in the hands of the C.I.D.

Archbishop Riley's Dinner.—It was decided that a letter of appreciation be sent to all artists who assisted at this function.

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R.S.L. Co-operative Trading Company Limited—Mr. McAdam reported as Treasurer of the R.S.L. Co-op. and suggested that money held in trust by sub-branches should be distributed. It was decided that this matter be brought up for consideration at the next meeting and full information be advertised.

6/7/27.

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

General Correspondence.—Letters were received from the Federal Executive dealing with the Repatriation State Boards. It was decided that this matter be referred in order that Mr. Watt may explain.

Australian Blue Flag: A letter was received from the Federal Executive dealing with the flying of the Australian Blue Flag. The letter was received.

Repatriation: Letters dealing with the following resolutions carried at the last Federal Congress concerning Repatriation were received: Nos. 28, 78, 26, and 68.

Medical Benefits: A letter was received from the Federal Executive dealing with resolution 66 of the 11th Annual Congress, concerning employment. The letter pointed out that more badly disabled men who, from time to time break down and are unable to continue in positions, are dealt with by a special committee, called the Problem Cases Committee, which the Commission created in each State. As no knowledge of this Committee existed in League circles, the State Secretary was instructed to approach the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation in this State, and request information concerning the Committee.

Business Arising from Previous Meeting.—Resolution 40—11th Annual Congress: This letter from the Federal Executive dealt with section 33 (4) of the Repatriation Act, and the Commission had agreed to the deletion of the clause relating to a time limit. The Secretary explained that this matter dealt with the children of soldiers on reaching the age of 16 being unable to earn a living.

Resolution 43—Widowed Mothers: The State Secretary explained this resolution and the letter from the Federal Executive was received.

R.S.L. Co-op.—Sub-Branch Dividends: The Secretary explained that there was £210 remaining in trust for distribution amongst sub-branches, and that the balance of £90 had been paid to the "Listening Post" in 1923 as per Congress resolution 1922.

The report was received and the matter referred to the Finance Committee for investigation. The report was read from the Executive concerning the distribution of the money who would in turn instruct the Trustee.

Invitations.—The Wagin Sub-Branch advised that their Social Meeting had been postponed from the 20th July to the 6th August and requested Executive representation. The State Secretary advised that he would attend.

The Kojonup Sub-Branch extended an invitation to the President, State Secretary and Rev. Riley to attend the Reunion Dinner on the 4th August. The State Secretary and Rev. Riley signified their intention of being present.

Marylands Sub-Branch stated that they were holding a Concert on the 28th July to augment their amelioration funds, and invited the President, Secretary and members of the Executive. The President asked those members who were able to go to hand in their names to the State Secretary.

Corrigin Branch: The matter of the executive representation at Corrigin on the 9th July was left in the hands of the State President.

Perth Branch extended an invitation to the State President and Secretary to their half-yearly Smokes Social to be held on the 19th July, 1927.

New Sub-Branch:—Mr. Hocking, the newly elected President of the Goodwood Sub-Branch advised of the efforts being made to re-form the branch and requested the necessary approval, which was granted.

Film of Gallipoli:—The Embassy Film Co. were requesting the League's cooperation and assistance in connection with the filming of the Landing at Gallipoli. The letter was received.

S.S. Conference:—Resolution 32: The General Manager of the Agricultural Bank advised that the grant of £96,000 is a fund against which the State may recoup any losses consequent on the settlement of Returned Soldiers, and no properties, other than those acquired for soldier collection purposes, have been written down against the Commonwealth Grant.

Resolution 23:—A letter was received from the Director of Agriculture dealing with the provision of timber.

Establishment of Distillery:—The Minister for Agriculture advised that arrangements have been made for the establishment of a distillery on a large scale, which would be put in operation in time for next season. The letter was received.

Clover Pastures: In connection with clover pastures, the Minister for Agriculture stated that he was unable to grant the League's request owing to the fact that it would involve a subsidy of about 10/- per acre, which expense was not justified.

Group Matters:—The State Secretary reported that he had interviewed the Minister concerning the resolutions forwarded by the Busselton Sub-Branch, and stated that the Minister was generally sympathetic and appeared to be determined to do the right thing.

Letters of Appreciation.—Mr. Rust, Master of the Old Men's Home, wrote thanking the League for the luncheon extended to veterans. Mr. T. P. Hunt also wrote thanking the League for efforts on his behalf in connection with the refund of passage money. The letters were received.

Pensions:—Perth, Collie and Wagin sub-branches wrote protesting against the reductions in pensions.

Kindergarten Union Appeal. The Chairman of the Kindergarten Union wrote requesting the League's co-operation in their Annual Appeal 1927.

Moyed.—Mr. Riley, seconded by Mr. Lovell, that the State Secretary be instructed to reply and convey the good wishes of the League for the success of the appeal, but regretting that the League's constitution does not permit of extending our co-operation. Carried.

Reports.—State Secretary: The State Secretary read the report of the operations of the office for the previous fortnight. The report was received.

House Committee: Mr. Longmore read a report of the House Committee meeting.
held on the 28th June. The report was received and adopted.

Employment Bureau: The report of the Employment Bureau for the month of June was received. The Employment Officer dealt with other organisations bringing ex-service men to Australia and then expecting the League to place these men in positions.

Moved by Mr. Lovell, seconded by Mr. Bader, that the Employment Officers be requested to amplify the concluding paragraph of his report dealing with the action of other organisations. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Lovell, that a deputation wait on the Prime Minister with a view to taking steps and restricting migration of Southern Europeans.—Carried.

Immigration:-Mr. A. E. Pady reported that he had met the S.S. Ballarat and interviewed several migrants. The report was received.

WAR WIDOWS’ PENSIONS.

Representations were made to the Minister Controlling Repatriation, by the League, in the terms of the following resolution passed at the last Federal Congress:—“That the pension payable to a widow with children be not reduced upon the youngest child reaching 16 years of age.”

The Minister replied as follows:—

“I desire to point out that widows’ pensions are not reduced automatically on the youngest child reaching 16 years of age. The Australian Soldiers’ Repatriation Act, however, provides that a war widow’s pension (where the husband was a private) shall be £1 3s. 6d. per week. The Commission, however, has power to grant pensions in the cases of those widows who have dependent children up to £2 2s. per week, and where they are without children under 16 years of age, the Commission may grant pensions up to £2 2s. per week, where the circumstances are such as in the opinion of the Commission justify an increase of the £1 3s. 6d. rate as stated in the Act.

“T it is desired to draw your special attention to the fact that it is the practice of the Commission in the case of a widow without dependent children, to grant her such pension (with a minimum of £1 3s. 6d.) as will, with other income, ensure her an amount of at least £2 2s. per week. In doing this, the Repatriation Commission has stretched the provisions of the Act as far as possible.

“It might also be added that the average child on reaching sixteen years of age is earning a reasonable income, and in any case; the children of soldiers whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service are entitled, from 13 years of age, to very substantial benefits under the Repatriation Commission’s Soldiers’ Education Scheme.”

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN
Of Fallen and Incapacitated Soldiers.

Applications are invited from children of fallen and incapacitated soldiers for scholarships at the undermentioned schools:—Modern School, District High Schools, Narrigin School of Agriculture.

Candidates must have passed the sixth class in a State school, or an equivalent standard in any other efficient school. They should be over 12 years of age and under 14 years of age on the 31st December, 1927. Candidates for Narrigin School of Agriculture must be not less than 131 years of age.

Application forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary of the Soldiers’ Children Scholarship Trust, Mr. J. Garth, Box K765, G.P.O., Perth, and must be returned before the 19th August, 1927.

DESEDTED WIFE OF RETURNED
SOLDIER PENSIoner.

The last Federal Congress of the League passed the following resolution which was forwarded to the Minister in Charge of Repatriation:—“That steps be taken to amend the Repatriation Act to provide for whole or major portion of the pension payable to a soldier who deserts his wife and any other dependants and leaves them without adequate means of support being made available for such wife and any other dependants.

The Minister replied as follows:—

“I have to inform you that it is considered that the proposal contained in the resolution is not of a reasonable nature.

“It would be impossible to continue payment of an ex-soldier’s war disability pension, when, owing to his whereabouts being unknown, there could be no evidence as to whether he is dead or alive. In the event of his whereabouts being known, his pension must be paid to him as he has an unalienable right to it under the Australian Soldiers’ Repatriation Act, and it is felt that this right should not be taken away.

“In cases where an ex-soldier’s whereabouts are unknown and his disability is of a permanent nature, the pensions payable to his dependants are continued.”

THE COMMONWEALTH
GRANT.

Mr. E. A. McLarty, the General Manager of the Agricultural Bank, wrote to the League in reply to a communication sent, forwarding a resolution passed at the Bunbury Soldier Settlers’ Conference. He stated:

“I have to inform you that the Commonwealth grant of £796,000 is a fund against which the State may recoup any loss consequent on the settlement of a returned soldier. No properties other than those acquired for soldier settlement purposes have been written down against the Commonwealth grant.

“As you are aware, when departmental re disposal of properties becomes necessary, such re disposal is effected by means of public tenders, and if the best offer is below the amount of indebtedness, the loss is obviously a charge against the fund created for the purpose of safeguarding the interest of the State.

“Writing down is not done for the individual who may have taken or who may be taking over a property, but is an attempt to arrive at a fair market value and a valuation on which it could reasonably be expected that departmental liabilities would be met as due.

“The Discharged Soldiers’ Settlement Board has at heart the interests of returned soldiers, as has been evidenced by the generous measures of relief approved to date, in such numerous cases.”

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CORRESPONDENCE INVITED

PRICES QUOTED ON APPLICATION
ENTERTAINMENT OF NAVAL VISITORS.

A LISTENING POST ITEM CRITICISED.

Regarding an item "A Slur on a Sub-Branch" which appeared in our last issue, we have been sent disclaimers from Mr. R. S. Sampson, M.L.A., Chairman of the Darling Range Road Board, and Mr. Ed. Pyman, R.N., Sec. Naval Comfort and Welcome Fund. In fairness to these gentlemen we publish their letters.

Mr. Sampson writes:

"I regret the attempt on page 20 in your issue of June 24, under the heading 'A Slur on a Sub-Branch,' to cast opprobrium on those who recently made it possible for hospitality to be extended to men of the Renown and Sydney. Your statement that the entertainment 'was treated as a State secret' is untrue. The meeting at which the function was initiated was advertised by 300 handbills distributed throughout the district (copy attached), and in addition there was publicity in the West Australian' and the Swan Express. All residents of the Darling Range District were invited.

The use of doubtfully polite phrases, such as 'stay-at-home civilians,' 'Colosal exhibition of ignorance,' 'murdering of the King's English,' and 'outraging of good taste,' may be passed over. If the article in 'The Listening Post' has any effect it is to discourage entertainment of visiting naval and other returned men. That, I hope, is not desired. I am afraid, Mr. Editor, the article complained of missed your eye—and blue pencil. Perhaps you will look into the matter and make the required amendment.

Mr. Pyman's letter is as follows:

"It is with regret that I have read in your last issue, strictures upon the entertainment offered by the Kalamunda Roads Board and ladies of that district, to the Officers and men of H.M.S. Renown and H.M.A.S. Sydney. This was no hole and corner affair. The programme was published in the daily press. This committee undertook the entertainment of the ships companies at the request of the Royal Reception Committee. Kalamunda having generously acted as hosts on similar occasions in the past, I, in May last wrote asking if the Board and local ladies would receive a party of 80 on this occasion. This they did. The party, as did similar parties to West Swan and Kelmscott, travelled to a timetable set by myself. This was strictly adhered to and no curtailment occurred. Under no circumstance could it be stated correctly that the party was corded. On the contrary, every man in the party, and also the car owners, were delighted, and without exception, expressed their surprise at the welcome and local arrangements. At Fremantle, only a few minutes before the Renown cast off, one of the officers came ashore and stated his regret that members of the party could not in some way personally thank the Kalamunda people. He was there. This committee recognises its thanks to those concerned, and regrets that the statements in your journal may tend in future to in any way affect its hospitality to visiting ships, where it relies upon the assistance of the outer districts for assistance. The committee appreciates the help given by the R.S.L. at West Swan, and the Parents and Teachers' Association at Kelmscott, where naval parties were received and splendidly welcomed on the same day.

Our criticism was not of Mr. Pyman and his excellent committee, and in the face of the disclaimers we must acquit the people concerned as regards their publicity, withdraw the sentence: "But the whole affair was treated as a State secret," and admit we have been misinformed as far as this aspect of the matter is concerned. With respect to the remainder of the article, we have nothing to retract.

The allegedly 'doubtfully polite phrases' noted in Mr. Sampson's letter are quoted out of their context, and in a couple of cases misquoted. Where there is no evidence in rebuttal, such things may certainly be passed over. Possibly we were a little hard in our phrasing and some of the phrases applied were true enough to hurt. But we have no intention of being polite to people who slight the League or any of its Sub-Branches. When this matter was referred back to the writer of the item he exclaimed: "Polite phrases! Like Lord Clive, I stand astonished at my moderation." Indeed, as a digger, he might have used phrases more apposite and incisive even if not printable. The crux of the matter is this: Navy men were being entertained. Therefore, the thing was more or less a service matter, and the local Sub-Branch of the League should have been specially asked to participate as a matter of common courtesy. We have no desire to attack Mr. Sampson. On the other hand, our feelings towards him are the kindliest, for we realise that he has been a friend to the digger. Nevertheless, the only way to invite a Sub-Branch's participa-
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Fire Marine Accident

tion in a function is, not by distributing handbills or by general notices in the press, but by a letter from the people concerned to the Sub-Branch Secretary. Was such a letter ever sent?

It should not be necessary to stress this axiom of elementary courtesy. The "Listening Post" certainly does not wish to discourage entertainment of visiting naval or other returned men, but when such entertainments are moated, and at any other time, it will not tolerate done any slight, thoughtless or otherwise, towards the League or any of its Sub-Branches.

Letter from West Swan.

We have also received a letter from our West Swan correspondent, "Swan," which should please Messrs. Pyman, who writes—

The article in last month's "Listening Post" on the entertaining of Officers and Men from H.M.S. Renown, at Kalamunda, was read with considerable surprise by Diggers in the Swan District, and it seems only fair to the Naval Welcome Committee to say that the experience here was as different from that in the Darling Range District, as (if your report is correct), was the Reception itself.

Some weeks before the arrival of our Royal visitors, a letter from Mr. Ed. Pyman, Secretary of the above Committee, to the West Swan Sub-Branch of the League, invited the Sub-Branches in the Swan District to entertain a party of visitors from the "Renown."

The invitation was received with enthusiasm, and the R.S.L. District Committee, representing the three Swan Sub-Branches, West Swan, Upper Swan and Herne Hill, outlined a plan of campaign.

Owing to the fact that it was not possible to divide the party, West Swan was made the headquarters, and the West Swan Women's Auxiliary, of which more anon, took charge of the reception arrangements.

So far, Mr. Editor, the whole management was in the hands of the R.S.L. and here again comes an example of the difference in the mentality of the Digger and some other people we have heard of.

This was no "State secret," it was an opportunity to be proud of, and so, the invitation was extended to all residents of the district to come and help to make the welcome a fitting one.

A brief description of the proceedings, and we will leave your readers to judge if our ambition was realised.

2.30 p.m.—Arrival at Coversham.—After introductions, a pilot car took charge, and led the convoy along the beautiful West Swan road to Belhus, where, by kind permission of Messrs. Barrett-Lennard, a detour was made through this fine vineyard, the famous "overhead-trellises" being particularly admired.

As the convoy reached the gate of the famous Coverley, Mr. F. J. Ferguson and his staff, inspected the wine-cellars and gained an inside view into the wine-making side of the industry; finally, a glass of the finished product, a kindly thought on Mr. Ferguson's part, proved the quality of W.A. wines.

Lamps were now turned towards home, and a quick run made to the West Swan Memorial Hall, where afternoon tea and a warm welcome were waiting.

The hall itself had been gaily decorated, and the tea-tables with their flowers and dainty refreshments testified to the enthusiastic work of the Women's Auxiliary, and other ladies of the district.

And here our narrative must pause for a moment, while we admit that, as usual, the main credit for the success of the undertaking must go to the ladies, a fact which was universally appreciated.

To return to our time-table:

4.45-4.50 p.m.—Speeches, consisting of a short address of welcome by the Chairman of the West Swan Sub-Branch, on behalf of the District, and a brief but happy response by the representatives of the Naval Welcome Committee, followed by a few cheery words from the Chief Petty Officer.

The absence of the "welter of back-scratching speeches" (to quote your correspondent again), did not appear to lessen the heartiness of the real Naval cheer that followed the responses, and when the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem brought an enjoyable afternoon to a close, we watched the last car disappear in the direction of Perth, with very real feelings of regret that the visit had been so short.
LEMONS MENTAL HOME
Not Available for All Ex-Soldier Mental Patients.

At the 10th Annual Congress of the W.A. State Branch held last October the following resolution was carried:

"Congress considers that the "Lemnos" should be open to all Mental ex-Soldiers, irrespective of the campaign or branch of the armed forces of the Crown in which they served."

The following interesting reply has now been received from the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission:

"I have to inform you that, under the comprehensive Agreement between the State Government of Western Australia and the Commission, "Lemnos Mental Hospital was built to provide segregated accommodation, in various classifications, for discharged soldiers who served with the Commonwealth Naval or Military Forces, or any other branch of His Majesty's Forces during the Great War."

"The Agreement provides that half of the accommodation available shall be set aside for Repatriation patients, i.e., those ex-soldiers whose mental condition has been accepted under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Acts as being due to service in the Great War." The Commission's share of the accommodation is at present fully taxed. In the event of one of the Repatriation beds becoming vacant, the Commission could not allow it to be occupied by (say) an ex-Imperial soldier whose mental condition may be traceable to some frontier campaign in India, nor has it any power under the Act to provide treatment for other than "Australian" soldiers whose disabilities are attributable to service in the Great War.

"In the event of the Commission allowing such an ex-soldier to be accommodated, it would mean that on the bed being required for a Repatriation patient, it shall be necessary for him to be accommodated elsewhere than at the very institution which was established for his welfare and treatment. The State is at liberty to use its half of the accommodation for ex-soldiers who served in the Great War, but whose mental disabilities cannot be accepted as due to war service, i.e., "State" patients. If in the future it is apparent that there is accommodation at "Lemnos" surplus to requirements for the purpose aforementioned, and the State represents to the Commission that it is desirable of using such accommodation or part thereof for the purpose of accommodating other than patients who served in the Great War, the Commission will be prepared to give consideration to the request in accordance with its Agreement."

"I might add that the Commission has no power to provide accommodation by erecting additional structures or enlarging present ones, for the purpose of providing for Imperial and other Dominion ex-soldiers."

WAR PENSIONS IN W.A.

An entirely erroneous idea appears to be gaining ground in the League that the Repatriation Commission is steadily but surely reducing the pension rates paid to ex-service men in this State. In the report of the Commission for the year ending 30th June, 1926, the annual war pension commitment for the Commonwealth was £7,343,666, which, the report states, "will show an increase for some years." In this State the number of pensions (including dependants) being paid on 30th June, 1925, were 25,138. The following year the number was 25,927—an increase of 789, the Commonwealth advance being 8,064, incurring, with rate increases, an added commitment of about £165,000.

The average fortnightly rate of members has also been steadily increasing from £1 14s. 7d. in 1921, to £1 17s. 8d. in 1927.

These figures, and others which could be quoted, prove conclusively that, generally speaking, pensions are not being reduced, and that the Commission and its staff are sympathetically administering the Act. Cases have occurred in which it seemed apparent that the member was not in receipt of adequate recompense and it is here that the League has a cause for complaint, the applicant and the Commission by searching for evidence and submitting facts which have resulted in satisfactory increases being made. The problems of repatriation are big, and as time passes they are reaching larger proportions.

Extreme difficulty must be experienced in dealing with these claims for pensions submitted at this late hour. The connecting link between active service and the present ailments is often not apparent. Medical science in its highest known form is not infallible. What a little is known to-day of the ultimate effects of the poisonous gases of the war, to-day's healthy soldiers, however, the ex-soldiers cannot fairly request that the Commonwealth shall accept full responsibility for all our present-day ills of body and mind, but we can fairly ask, and expect, a sympathetic verdict on the evidence available. From the Minister controlling Repatriation, down to the caretaker, all are returned soldiers. We have the administration of the Act in our own hands. Much has been done, but there is yet much to do, and the League must continue to be the ever watchful guardian of the interests of the men who served the Empire in her hour of need—Constructive help will get us far in the future, as it has done in the past. Carrying on a destructive press criticism will avail us little.

No wonder Corrigin is a live place and looks like becoming the centre of the Eastern Wheat areas, when men like George White take an interest in the district's progress. George, familiarly known as "Whitey" to his cobbiers, is Hon. Secretary of the local Sub-Branch, which now boasts its own Soldiers' Institute, mainly through the extraordinary influence that "Whitey" has over his cobbiers, and his own ever-present desire to further the interests of the Corrigin Sub-Branch.

TRANSPORT FOR SPINAL AND DOUBLE AMPUTATION CASES.

The Acting Minister in Charge of Repatriation recently forwarded to the League the following communication:

"With reference to your letter of the 19th November, 1926, forwarding for consideration copy of Resolution No. 41, reading:

"In view of the fact that free travelling facilities are granted to seriously incapacitated returned soldiers and sailors by several State Governments, and that those men who are spinal and double amputation cases cannot avail themselves of this concession, this Congress is of the opinion, for that reason and reasons which must be obvious, that it is the duty of the Federal Government to provide and maintain motor cars for these men, to enable them to leave their homes in comfort and participate in a little outdoor or indoor enjoyment with their families."

"I regret, that, at present, I am unable to give you any further information, as the matter has not been finally considered by Cabinet."
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Wellington St. (off Forrest Place)

Padre Riley, State Secretary Benson,
and Mr. W. J. Lovell will represent the
State Executive at this function at Kojonup.

A cobbler of Jack Mulqueeny's and
resident in the same district, Secretary
Richards, of Lake Brown Diggers, has
imbibed most of Jack's enthusiasm, and
certainly some of his eloquence, which
was proved by his recent visit to the State
Secretary's office, where Mr. Richards
made a full report on soldiers' activities
in this far wheat centre, and the splendid
prospects for this year. He related,
to the pleasure of his listener, that much
wire-netting had been used in defending
the settlers' crops from the greedy rabbit,
and that he had been able to report
what he had been able to do so far.

MILITARY CHANGES.

The new military year opens rather sadly
for Western Australia, in view of the fact
that Major-General Sir J. J. Hobbs and
Colonel H. B. Collett are relinquishing
their respective commands. Also, we are
losing our Base Commandant, Lieut-Colonel
J. L. Hardie, who goes to the 2nd Military
District on transfer.

Major-General Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs,
K.C.B., K.C.M.G., V.D., entered the ser-
vice way back in 'eighty-nine, and for
the past thirty-six years he has rendered
self-denying service to his country. His mil-
tary record in peace and war is sufficiently
well known to all, and after the war, as
G.O.C. 15th Mixed Brigade, he gave the
country the benefit of the experience gained
in the battle fields of Gallipoli and France.

The LISTENING Post has not suf-
icient pages nor has the English Diction-
ary sufficient words to express our apprecia-
tion of General Hobbs, both as a soldier
and as a citizen. It takes a good soldier
to be a good citizen, and, as with Lord
Roberts, whom General Hobbs resembles
in appearance, the marvel is that one small-
frame can embody such a giant soul.

Though going on to the retired list, Sir
Talbot will still be an active force in the
public life of the state, and we hope that
he will be spared to enjoy for many, many
years that otium cum dignitate (as far as

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military matters are concerned), which the
retiring age has conferred upon him.

Colonel H. B. Collett, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
V.D., relinquishes the command of the 13th
Infantry Brigade. He also has had a long
and distinguished career, and diggers who
passed through his hands in the 28th Bat-
talion and in the depots at Weymouth, can
testify to his kindly consideration and
unfailing courtesy at all times. His succe-
sor is Lieut. Colonel C. Lamb, M.C.,
of the 44th Battalion. Colonel Collett goes
on to the unattached list, but he remains
with us as President of the State Branch
of the League.

Lieut.-Colonel J. L. Hardie, D.S.O.,
O.B.E., takes up duty next month in Syd-
ney, as A.Q.M.G., 2nd District Base. This
completes his second tour of duty in the
West, for he was here as a captain in the
days when General Irving was State Com-
mandant. One of his first acts as Base
Commandant was to join up with the
League, and though a senior officer, he
was never too proud to wear the League
Badge. The LISTENING Post wishes Col.
and Mrs. Hardie sound health and bushels
of happiness in their life on the new sta-
tion.

The dual role of G.O.C. 13th, Mixed
Brigade, and Base Commandant will be
taken over by Colonel (Brigadier-General)
C. H. Jess, C.M.G., C.B.E.,
D.S.O., p.a.c. General Jess is a dinkum
digger. He gained his first commission in
the permanent forces from the ranks in
July, 1909. In 1914 he went away as

Staff Captain, 4th Brigade, A.I.F., and had
a very distinguished career in the war. He
became, successively, Brigade Major, 2nd
Brigade, G.O.C., 7th Battalion, G.O.C. (tem-
porarily), 2nd Brigade and eventually
G.O.C. 10th Brigade. After the Armis-
tice he held several staff appointments, and
before returning to Australia went through
a course at the Staff College, Camberley.
Like many of our senior officers, he com-
nenced life as a schoolmaster.

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Physical Training

Physical Training in Ancient Rome.

Rome formed a direct link between the Hellenic civilization and the modern world, and the history of the Romans falls naturally into three sections: First, the small city state struggling for existence with hostile neighbours until it had acquired sovereignty over the whole of the Italian peninsula; then, the rival of Carthage for the domination of the Western Mediterranean; and finally, Imperial Rome, the unchallenged mistress of the then known world. At each stage the type of education received by the Roman youth varied in accordance with national needs, and as these needs varied they were predominately militar, education, on the physical side, was mainly a training for the life of a soldier.

This was especially true of the earliest period. The early Roman republic was a small city state surrounded by hostile neighbours. The environment was half military and half agricultural, so it soon became obligatory for every citizen to acquire proficiency in the use of arms. The training of the young was a domestic matter, and not a matter for the state as was the case in Hellas. The Roman father was both priest and lawgiver, and had the power of life and death as far as his own household was concerned. The assembly of Roman fathers—the Roman Senate was always addressed as "Patres Conscripti" (Conscript Fathers)—made the laws, and being guided in their deliberations by precedent, and Mos majorum ("Custom of our ancestors") was the rule for guidance, both in public and in private conduct. Consequently, the Roman father determined the type of education to be given his sons, and himself supervised their training, both in his physical and intellectual aspects. Plutarch tells us that Cato would not leave any part of his son's education to slaves. "Not only did he teach him how to throw a dart," Plutarch continues, "to fight in armour, and to ride, but to box also and to endure both heat and cold, and to swim over the most rapid and rough rivers."

It is in the educational sphere that the essential differences between the Hellenic and the Roman mind are most noticeable.

While the Greek was aesthetic and definite, like the Spartan, the Roman was practical and definite. Like the Spartan, the Roman cultivated hardihood and the stern virtues, but the aesthetic ideals of Athens seemed to his more practical mind something effeminate, even vicious. As with the Spartans, education was essential for the preservation of the state, therefore the Roman father saw that his sons were well grounded in them. The ideals to be inculcated were constanza (firmness), virtus (fortitude, prudence, simplicity), and gravitas (dignity, patriotism, and punctiliousness in observance of and regard for the law) and the aim of education was fit the young man for the service of the State both, in the field and the forum. Thus Roman theories regarding physical education were diametrically opposed to those of Greece. There was no unaided conception of life, no recognition of the close relationship between mind and body, and the training, particularly during the early period, had a distinct military bias.

The Roman schools, where they existed, were private undertakings, and it is more than probable that the children of the west side were instructed, not at school, but by tutors, generally slaves, at home. Corporal punishment was employed as a recognised aid to teaching. The Stoic, Menander, goes so far as to assert that "The man who has not been flogged is not trained." As with children of all races, the Roman boy had his games and free play, ball games being especially popular, and these stimulated bodily growth and agility. He was carefully trained in the exercises most likely to render him proficient as a soldier—running, swimming, boxing, wrestling, throwing the spear, quoit throwing, hunting and horsemanship. At the age of twenty he assumed the toga virilis, the outward and visible sign of full citizenship. This was after undergoing a period of probation, during which he was expected to perform certain exercises in the Campus Martius, and generally fit himself for the obligations that full citizenship entailed. Even then his training did not cease, for at certain stated times the adult citizens were required to practise military evolutions in the Campus Martius, after which, we are told, they would swim across the Tiber and so rid themselves of dust and sweat. The weapon training of the Roman legionary was greatly improved by Marius. Marius, himself a stout old ranger, adopted the methods in vogue in the gladiatorial schools and applied them in teaching the Roman soldier swordsmanship, and a growing efficiency in the use of the sword greatly improved the morale of the troops.

It was after Rome had conquered the Macedonian Empire, that contact with Greek civilization gave an Hellenic tinge to Roman education. Aemilius Paulus, the conqueror of Macedonia, was probably the first Roman who attempted to give his son a bodily training that was more Hellenic and less purely military in character. And who engaged learned Greeks to look after the boy's intellectual welfare. Other wealthy Romans followed his example, and Roman education gradually became Hellenised, both in form and in content. Such Hellenic influences, which were strongly asserting themselves about the year 250 B.C., were well established by the time of the birth of Cicero in 106 B.C.

But while he readily adopted the outward forms, the Roman failed to capture the spirit of Greek culture. He submitted to the charms of Greece, but never became Greek nor entered into the soul of Greece. He became, not Greek, but cosmopolitan." (A Brief History of Education, H. M. Beatty.)

The Greek system of physical training never became fully acclimatised. Public contests, the Greek practice of allowing youths to wrestle, naked in the palaestra, for the love of music, and the practice of public dancing, were not consistent with the traditional Roman gravitas. All such forms of entertainment as dancing, flute playing, and the like, were duties only fit to be performed by slaves, or were associated with haunts of vice; therefore they were vehemently condemned by the conservative Roman patrician. Scipio, in a speech delivered in 133 B.C. states the typical Roman position as regards dancing:

"They are taught unseemly tricks when they go with dancing boys, and a lute and psaltery to the actors' training school. They learn to sing songs which our ancestors would have regarded as a disgrace to free-born lads. Free-born boys and girls, I say, go to a school with professional dancers. When any one told

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LADY IN ATTENDANCE
me this, I could not get myself to believe that noblemen taught their children such things; but I was taken to the dancing school, and there, upon my word, I saw more than fifty boys and girls: among them one — and this made me more sorry for my country than anything — a boy of good family, the son of a candidate for office, not less than twelve years of age, dancing with castanets — a dance which a vile slave-boy could not have danced without discredit.

Cicero says that: "To dance, a man must be either drunk or insane," and in his speech in defence of Murena, he takes Cato to task for calling the Roman Consul a "dancer." It would appear that the gentle and refined art of mud-slinging was a feature of politics even in those days. Cornelius Nepos declares, "Music does not befit a man of position, and dancing is a vice," while Sallust says of a certain Roman Lady: "She played and danced more gracefully than is necessary for a virtuous woman."

The first palaestra in Rome appears to have been built by Nero, but by this time physical training had degenerated into mere recreation. Wealthy citizens certainly built private gymnasia, but these gymnasia were, for the most part, mere adjuncts to the baths where wealthy Romans were wont to spend their time in luxurious idleness. "Mens sana, in corpore sano," demanded a return to the harder life and the sternest morality of the republican days, but they were mere voices crying in the wilderness. A system so thoroughly devalued and divorced from strenuousness, could not fail to lack the moral value that was the outstanding characteristic of the Hellenic system.

Even the public games which the Romans instituted in imitation of the Greeks, became mere spectacles, wherewith to drug the restless masses into contentment. Bread and the circus formed the ruling class's panacea for all forms of social unrest. To take part in public contests was not consistent with Roman dignity, so the games were shows, entertainments where thousands took their sport by proxy watching and gambling upon the results of chariot races, gladiatorial combats, or fights between slaves and wild beasts. Even the execution of Christians and others who had offended against the imperial decrees, had to be turned into a spectacle, an entertainment for a crowd enervated by idleness and maddened by blood lust. Small wonder that such an empire fell before the onslaught of more vigorous races. The wonder is that the soundness of Roman organisation and administration enabled it to last so long.

The Roman, in spite of his reverence for law, order and custom, despite his genius for building, his capacity for organisation and administration, and notwithstanding his supreme military efficiency, was an adapter and regulator rather than an innovator. In the sphere of education in general, and of physical training in particular, he initiated nothing and though he left an indelible mark upon Western Europe, he was but the schoolmaster and the drill-sergeant, where the Greek was the philosopher and artist. Narrower and more practical than the idealistic Greek, he was nevertheless the link between Hellas and the modern world, the sieve through which Hellenic culture percolated in the direction of less favoured peoples. The main lesson we owe Rome is a negative one. Luxury, idleness, the neglect of training
and the taking of exercise by proxy are the germs of moral and national decadence, and must inevitably undermine military efficiency. So it was with Imperial Rome. The necessity for defending a long frontier line immobilised the Roman army, and led to the practice of raising local levies, for the defence of the outlying province. As this practice spread, the efficacy of Roman army, and the nation reared up a wall of barbarians filled the ranks of the legions, barbarians led them, and there were even instances of barbarians wearing the imperial purple. Like the England of Carlyle's criticism, Rome was full of wealth, but dying of inanition. The empire too luxurious and nerveless to defend itself cannot continue to exist. It does not deserve to, and must eventually fall, giving place to harder and more vigorous races. Bodily exercise is the basis of military efficiency, and the cornerstone of a vigorous national life, an antidote to luxury, and a stimulant of that mentality without which true morality cannot exist. Let either an individual or a people neglect it and that individual or people will crumble as Rome did, mentally, morally and physically, and fall, never to hope again.

(To be continued)

CLOVER PASTURES.

Mr. Millington, the Hon. Minister, in reply to overtures made by the League for more generous assistance by the Government, in the laying down of clover pastures, stated—

"I fully realise the importance of stimulating the establishment of clover pastures in the South-West portion of this State, and I am entirely sympathetic with your efforts to bring about the extension of same. Your request, however, involves what is, in effect, a subsidy of about ten shillings per acre for each acre laid down to clover pasture, and I regret that I am unable to grant your request, owing to the financial responsibilities which would be involved."

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TRIAL BY FURY.

It was called recently that when a French murder trial ended in an acquittal, the jury were not convinced, while the prosecutor used the doctrine of necessity. In these days when elderly gentlemen are bombarding the Press with letters advocating brighter cricket, why not let us have brighter justice? Render our Law Courts more romantic and more sentimental. Then it may come to pass that Mr. Average Citizen will open his paper one morning, and his heart may be gladdened by something of this nature.

Rex v. Brave Denson.

Before Mr. Justice Durrans and a special jury, Brave Denson, secretary, was charged with being a horse in the Criterion Hotel, in direct contravention of the Band of Hope Act of 1929, and the Blue Ribbon Statue of 1930.

The Crown Prosecutor was Mr. Hilbert Sparker, while the accused was defended by Mr. Barth Draines.

Both crown and defence freely exercised their right of challenge until the name of jurymen Joe Pluto was called. Neither seemed inclined to challenge him.

The accused, a slim, fresh-complexioned young fellow, who seemed to feel his position very keenly, in quavering tones pleaded "not guilty." He denied he was the witness called by the crown was Mr. Spilton Ale, the well-known amateur economist, and man of letters.

Mr. Sparker (Foreman of the Jury): Do I understand the witness to say "threepence a gallon"?

Witness: Perfectly, and of course.

Mr. Sparker: Yes, but what I want to know is: who gave it to you for threepence anywhere now, and if so would you oblige me with the name and address?

The witness regretted he could not. Muffled sobs from the jury, while the foremost burst into a torrent of weeping.

The Crown Prosecutor complained that someone must have strewed onions about the jury-box.

Mr. Draines objected on the score of irrelevancy.

His Honour: But, Mr. Draines, this Court is not going to allow such little matters as irrelevancy interfere with the proceedings. Mr. Ale's evidence is just as relevant as this letter.

Mr. Draines (heatedly): But, it's a vile attempt to discredit the defence. These cases are tried beforehand by the Press—

His Honour (as a learned colleague remarked in another place): "Sit down, Mr. Draines."

Mr. Sparker (To Mr. Draines): I am an expert on Australian conditions, and my only motive in writing to the Press and in giving evidence in this Court, is to educate the Australian public.

(To Mr. Sparker): Of course, I'm qualified to speak. I've been in the country five minutes, haven't I?

Constable Shock Brant gave formal evidence as to the arrest and described the accused's actions in the hotel.

Mr. Draines: Not about this horse. Was it a pony or a white horse?

Mr. Sparker interposed, suggesting that Constable Shock Brant take the jury to the scene of the crime and set up samples of ponies and white horses, so that they might learn the difference between the two.

His Honour: It's a bit early; besides, if I agree, we'll have the police union putting in for increased pay.

Lord Percy de Giblets, proprietor of the well-known stud farm, corroborated Constable Brant's evidence.

Mr. Sparker: How did you come to be there?

Witness: I was telling the tugs.

Mr. Draines did not cross-examine this witness, who, on leaving the witness box, said something, which from the press table, sounded like "Bob de lot."

His Honour at this stage intimated that he did not wish to hear any more evidence for the prosecution. The jury was looking bored. Mr. Draine's defence was bound to be more interesting, and more original.

His Honour: I suppose it will be an accident as usual, Mr. Draines.

Mr. Draines: Yes, Your Honour, but I submit Your Honour isn't giving me a fair deal. The Jury has not had an opportunity yet of hearing me slang the prosecution. I have not had a single opportunity yet of accusing Mr. Sparker of throwing mullock, or suggesting that you and he are related, telling them that you are fellow members of the Golf Club.

His Honour: Yes, you're slipping, Bartho. No wonder the jury is dull. You must apologise to the jury or I'll have to commit you.

Mr. Draines (turning to the Jury):

Were I committed, be it understood, Twoup would stop the circulation of the blood.

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Discovered long ago by Doctor Harvey. So, verily, I must amend my ways. Hear my regrets, expressed in Latin prose.

O mea culpa! Jurors! O pecus!

The jury, probably influenced by this outburst of Latinity, leaned over the jury-box, and looking in His Honour's direction, elevated their thumbs, and for several minutes nothing could be heard save the sound of tumultuous weeping.

After the luncheon adjournment, Mr. Draines opened his defence.

Mr. Draines: Your Honour and gentlemen of the jury, the whole affair was an accident. My clients are such unfortunate people. They always seem to have such regrettable accidents. When you have heard the accused give evidence in his own behalf, and the Reverend Beric Shy testify to his character, I am sure you will acquit him without leaving the box.

The accused was then duly sworn.

Mr. Draines: You are a secretary?

Accused: Yes, that is my punishment in this vale of tears. (Sounds of weeping all over the court.) The court orderly went out and returned with several buckets, which were handed up to the jury box.)

Accused (continuing): The whole affair was an accident. I did not know the police—
man was looking, and the chap who was going to prove an alibi for me died last night, and any way we weren't selling a horse, we were just having a bob in, and the brutal policeman did not give us time to make the winner shout more than three times. (At this stage the witness was overcome by a violent outburst of weeping. His Honour allowed him to take a seat.)

When the accused had recovered sufficiently to resume his evidence, he stated; I've always been a stout soldier. In fact, I've grown stout in my country's service. I'm the sole support of one wife, one family and one motor car.

His Honour (wiping his eyes with the end of his wig): How many miles do you get to the gallon?

Witness (overcome by sobs): I don't know, Your Honour. I'm not an authority on petrol consumption. My hobby's—(The remainder of this sentence could not be heard for the sobbing).

Witness: As I was saying to Major-General Sir Tabloid...

Mr. Sparkler: I object, your Honour. Senior officers should not be discussed at Mess.

His Honour: But we are in a Court of Law.

Mr. Pedd (foreman of the jury): But with all due respect, your Honour, we're in a bit of a mess, too.

His Honour: Have it your own way, then.

Mr. Draines: Have another go, Filbert.

Mr. Sparkler: Same to you with knobs on. Likewise so's your old man.

The Rev. Beric Shy deposed: I can testify that the accused is a very stout fellow.

His Honour: Did you ever eat fish and chips at midnight?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Draines: Where was it?

Witness: At an informal convocation of the clergy. There were representatives of three denominations present. Anyway, it's no crime to eat fish and chips. Man cannot live by bread alone.

The sound of weeping grew in volume till it assumed the proportions of a tropical storm. The jury intimated that it did not wish to hear any more, and unanimously acquitted the accused.

An extraordinary scene followed, both counsel embraced the accused. Women spectators mobbed him and kissed him frantically. In fact, he was more kissed against than kissing.

Mr. Draines left the court, remarking to Mr. Sparkler, "So long, Filbert. See you next murder." A fatigued party of police removed the buckets of tears, and the jury departed singing "Show Me the Way to Go Home."

TO MARRY BERYL MILLS.

FRANK K. DAVISON, M.M.

A couple of months ago we reported in this column the success of a W.A. Digger in the journalistic world of Sydney, in the person of Frank K. Davison. Frank has since won further renown for himself by winning for his future bride the lovely Beryl Mills, who not only possesses charm of feature and form, but also a beauty and depth of character.

Frank enlisted when only seventeen years of age, and served with the 4th Field Ambulance at Gallipoli and France, being badly wounded at Pozieres. He won the Military Medal for bravery in the field. Frank also has a wealth of character, and we join with thousands of others in their congratulations to the fortunate couple.

Overheard in a city hotel: "Gor blimey, he ought to be able to make good speeches to the Duke and Duchess, when he has got a blooming Doctor of Laws up at his office to write the speeches for 'im. And that is how one digger accounted for the splendid address of the State President (Colonel H. B. Collett) on the occasion of the R.S.L. reception to their Royal Highnesses.

THE EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERS AND ALLIED UNITS.

The above Association held their first annual general meeting on the 27th June at the Soldiers' Institute, Major G. D. Shaw, presiding over some 60 members. The President gave a highly satisfactory report of the year's doings and stated how pleased he was with the progress the Association had made. Some 200 names were already on the membership roll and this was being increased slowly but surely.

The Engineers made an exceptionally good showing on Anzac Day, having the second largest "parade state." The flag, which was carried on that day, was the subject of much congratulation from all quarters.

The balance sheet also showed that the Association, although only in its first year, was financially in a good, sound condition.


Eulogistic references were made to the good work done by the President, Committee and Hon. Secretary.

A smoke-oil followed, which, with excellent music, good songs, interspersed with one or two of the "dinkum" stories for which the Engineers are famed, finished off a good meeting.

The annual re-union was decided upon, the date fixed being on the Monday night in Show Week, when it is confidently anticipated a record roll will be registered. It is hoped that all country members will set that night aside to meet old comrades and "swap" the good old yarns of now-long-ago together.

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VARIA.

C. Roney, Hon. Secretary West Swan Sub-Branch, writes:

In the report of the Land Committee on the Upper Swan viticultural area, published in your last issue, it states, that during 1919 'the net return of the grower for dried fruits was about $6d. per pound', also 'the net return to growers to-day is not more than $2 per pound'. In some years has not realised $d. per pound'. My sub-branch considers the references to net returns misleading. The amount the grower receives from the packing-shed is a gross return. From this gross return he deducts his working costs, etc., and the balance remaining (if any) can then be considered as net. Unfortunately, the net return for the last few years has been a minus quantity."

Recorded: Strayed from their dugouts, sundry blokes known to themselves as successionists, Being one-eyed, are easily identified. No reward offered for capture. If seen on the offing, slam the door and let Tiger off the chain!

At country re-unions, particularly at this time of the year, it is sometimes hard to swallow the cold liquid refreshments provided, and the ladies of Corrigin sympathetically provided a substitute in hot pies and hot coffee, which were available right throughout the evening.

The members of the Midland Workshops Branch of the R.S.L. recently hurriedly bolted the hinged doors in the adjoining Institute to hear the State President (Colonel H. B. Collett) and Secretary (D. M. Benson) talk about R.S.L. affairs. The diggers of the workshops gave a very attentive hearing, and sincerely appreciated the opportunity of hearing the League's officials recount the doings of the soldiers' organisation. Vice-President Miller, in a few well-chosen words, expressed the feeling of those present in appreciation of the visit. Lord, who was present, was entertained at lunch by President Jack Kane and Secretary Bill Lovell. Of course, the gathering could not disperse until Paddy Connelly asked what was being done to bring Congress resolutions concerning Anzac Day again before the notice of Phil Collett, which query was answered by the State President that an early opportunity had been promised by the Premier to discuss Anzac Day observance.

Soldier settlement matters and the need for relief in the Swan Valley was further discussed by the Land Committee, consisting of Messrs. A. Yeates, G. D. Saw, and the State Secretary on Saturday, July 16th 1926. A number of settlers' claims were favourably brought to the notice of the Controller and staff. Most of these cases are at Pyrton and Caversham, and the resultless efforts of the past were fully appreciated by Mr. McCarty to the amount of giving further capital relief and, in every case writing off 1926 interest.

The whole question of soldier settle-

ment, and no doubt the claims of the State for further relief, will be again discussed by the Premiers' Conference at Sydney, and the R.S.L. has already taken action in making proper representations to have the needs of unsatisfied soldier settlers met, should any further advances be made by the Commonwealth to Western-Australia. Conditions in some of the Eastern States have been described as deplorable, and in contrast to the general success of the soldier settlement affairs in this State, where most of the men were placed on wheat properties, which have very greatly appreciated since the first acquisition. A very heavy writing down must occur on some of the properties of the South-West bought for dairying whilst it may be found that for some of the viticultural properties further relief to that now generously given may have to be found. On the whole, however, the position in Western Australia gives justification for more general satisfaction than what is described in the East.

At the inaugural screening of the great war film "Ypres," at His Majesty's, the enormous audience filling all parts of the theatre were hushed to silence whilst imitated booming of guns and sound of shells were provided an "atmosphere" for the picture. A sudden stop in the noise of the hurtling missiles; a pregnant hush, and the orchestra briskly rose and struck the first bars of the National Anthem, the whole theatre rising to "attention." Looking up at the box usually occupied by His Excellency the Governor they saw the guests of honour to receive the "God Save" were Military Commandant Colonel Hardie, and a well-known versifier for a weekly paper.

When the Anti-Everyjoy rushes into print he not infrequently hands out a free advertisement to the very wares that he would condemn. A contemporary of Des Moines, Iowa, U.S.A., republishes a leaflet, wherein Evangelist Carl Bassett sets forth the reasons why he does not dance. With regard to men with the premonitions of St. Paul, the same remarks are applicable. In their dancing, though at places like Melbourne and Passchendaele we often made them skip. Inter alia, the good Carl asserts:--"The dance has a secret language, by which the man can silently learn if the girl in his arms is pure or not, with-

out one word being uttered." In face of this ruling, the young men of the city will probably adopt the slogan, "On with the dance, let joy be unreasoned."

The owner of Rasvon, a rather famous thoroughbred Arabian stallion, which was recently killed in a railway accident in U.S.A., is to be immortalised by his weeping owner, one Carl Reinhardt Schmidt. By deed poll and court proceedings he himself took the horse's name. The "Listening Post" can hardly blame him. Rasvon is a good high-sounding name. Even Rastus would be a better name than Carl Reinhardt Schmidt.

They call things by their proper names in Cottesloe-on-Sandhills. The local chemist rejoices or otherwise in the name of Hoile, while a gentleman named Chipp earns an honest crust as a wood merchant. Everybody is not so appropriately named. A distinguished Presbyterian minister, and member of the House of Commons, at present visiting our State is the Rev. J. Barr. He is an ardent prohibitionist, and speaking of prohibitionists reminds me of a Queensland friend of mine who supported that side of the argument. The signature he appends to his cheques and income tax returns is E. S. A. Shick.

"The much over-rated Vilhjambur Stefansson," writing in the May issue of "The American Mercury," propounds the theory that it is judicious publicity...
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which makes the reputation of explorers and discoverers. Well, Stefansson should know if anyone does, and in our own country we have seen the self-boomed Michael Terry gazetted a F.R.G.S. for his dare-devil journey across the well-worn route padded down by generations of travelling stockmen. Stefansson concludes his article by declaring: "Thus I arrive at a heartening conclusion: the tribe of Great Discoverers will not become extinct till the Age of Advertising has passed."

From what we Australians have seen of Stefansson and Terry, we heartily agree with this assertion. Still and all, as they say in Queensland, "Shades of John Forrest!"

Stefansson in his article mentions that America had been discovered long before Columbus was born. The Irish visited what eventually became the land of Uncle Sham, and so did such Vikings as Eric the Red, and his son Leif the Lucky. Columbus happened along in a more literary, and therefore, a more talkative age. The Irishman and the Vikings had the sense to keep their mouths shut. Columbus, with all his Latin effervescence, had to run around squealing to Popes and Potentates, and look at the dreadful calamity he inflicted upon the world.

The "New York World" publishes a version of the national anthem, which children in the Argentine learned to sing as a welcome to the Prince of Wales, on occasion of his visit to that particular dago republic.

**HIMNO INGLES**

God Seiv aua Greichas Kin
Long liv aua nobel Kin
God seiv di kin.

Send jim, victorias
Japi and glorias
Long to reign over as
God seiv di Kin.

Dai choisest guits is stor
Oni jim bi nisl tu por
Long me jir rein.

Mei ji defend aua loos
And ever guir as coa
Tu sin wit jart and vois,
God seiv di kin.

As the "New York World" explains, the version naturally had to be spelled phonetically, and the journal admits that when sung by the children it sounded quite alright. Of course, it would to a Yankee editor, seeing that it compares more than favourably with the species of English spoken in New York.

Padre Halley, of Kalamunda, is a great raconteur. One of his best stories is that of the rather blantant American who was trying to scrape up an acquaintance with a British colonel, and explained, by way of introduction, "I'm an American. I suppose you've heard of us, Colonel." The Colonel replied, "American, American. Let me see now. Yes, oh, of course, I know now. You're the people that eat chewing gum and win wars."

Bill, Jim, and Joe met in Trafalgar Square. Bill was on leave from the trenches, Jim, from hospital. "What leave are you on Joe?" they asked, "ordinary leave or hospital leave?" "Neither," Joe answered. "I'm on what they call "A.W. Leave.""

The Colonel was portly and stout, and it was in the stage of the war when the higher command insisted on the men knowing their company commander's name, hobbies, and birthmarks, the name of the unit, brigadier, "divisional commander and so on. Going the rounds of the billets the corpulent colonel accosted a digger and demanded the name of his company commander. "Captain So-and-so," he was informed. "And who's the C.O. of the battalion," the colonel inquired. "You are," came the reply. "Yes, but, what's my name?" The digger did not know. "Come, come, my man," demanded the Colonel. "What do the other men call me?" And the digger stammered out: "Please, sir, 'Mudguts.'"

Mr. A. E. Pady, J.P.

Alf Pady was born in the city of Exeter, in good old Devonshire, and came to Australia, landing in Melbourne, at the age of twenty years. The gold discoveries of Bayley and Ford attracted him to this State, and he humped his bluey from York to Coolgardie, and afterwards settled down in Fremantle, where is now as well known (but more favourably) as the "house on the hill." An active member of the Fremantle Sub-Branch, Alf, has been a delegate to the State Executive ever since its inception, and has taken part in every W.A. State Congress of the League since its formation—a splendid record. Enlisting in 1915, Alf served in France, with the 28th Battalion. He is fond of out-door sports, and is regarded as a bit of an authority on cricket. Generally speaking, Alf Pady is a good and useful citizen.

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SUB-BRANCH NOTES

CORRIGIN.

The recent Annual Meeting of Corrigin R.S.L. resolved itself into a social event, after the usual business of electing office bearers for the year had been completed. The members present unanimously resolved to nominate Colonel H. B. Collett again for the position of State President of the League. Harry Brankstone was elected to the President's chair by the narrow margin of one vote, Mr. G. C. Clairs, the local Agricultural Bank Inspector, making a determined effort to secure the position from the retiring President. There was only one nomination for the job of Secretary, and likely to be whilst George White continues a resident of Corrigin, and all diggers present, irrespective of their state of sobriety, joined in the applause when "Whitey" was named up. Vice-Presidents elected were: Messrs. J. P. Christie, G. C. Clairs, W. Hill, Bert Braetz, Bill Overheu, D. H. Pemberton, and Darrick, all these diggers either representing Corrigin centre of some outlying locality for which they will act-responsible.

BOULDER.

Although the Goldfields has suffered several severe set-backs during the past twelve months so far as the mining industry is concerned, the residents are not down-hearted, and live in the hope of a brighter future for the mining industry.

On the 27th August next, the "Back to the Goldfields" Carnival will commence, during which there will be twelve days devoted to every-kind of sports. No doubt many old ex-Goldfielders will return and join in the celebrations. Old mates who have not met for many years will meet again, and revive memories of the good old days. Boulder, Kalgoorlie, and Coolgardie will come into their own again, if only for a few brief days.

It is the intention of this Branch to hold a huge Re-union Smoke Social on the 6th or 8th of September, during the Carnival. The Re-union is to be composed of Returned men only, and no doubt there will be many ex-Diggers amongst those who will return for the Carnival. A hearty welcome is extended to all "Diggers" to hop along and be with the boys on that occasion. A letter has been received from League General Secretary (Mr. E. J. Dibdin) who states that he will cause the necessary publicity to be made in Victoria with the hope that many old residents will attend the Carnival.

Members will take an active part in the celebrations. An old mule has been secured and he will be loaded up with dummy shells, etc. There will also be a Fatigue Party going into the front line, loaded up with duckboards, bar-tyre, etc., which same is sure to cause some amusement.

The Branch is conducting a sweep on the Boulder Cup, which will be run on the 27th August, and although the sale of tickets has been practically confined to their own district, very satisfactory progress has been made.

The influx of foreigners on the Goldfields is causing a lot of dissatisfaction amongst the unemployed Returned men there. A Branch member secured a few days' employment on the Kurrawang Wood line, and stated that he was the only Britisher amongst the thirty-six men comprising the gang. The boss was an Italian and could speak very little English, and things were made so unpleasant for him that he was forced to leave. On another occasion a member endeavoured to secure employment on a mine at Ora Banda, but was informed by one of the three Britishers employed on the mine, that it was useless to apply, as only foreigners were required. There is no
doubt that many of the mines employ foreigners in preference to Britishers.

Snapshots.

A very busy man these days is President Ted Lennell. Assisted by ex-President Ern Bosustow, he is hard at work turning out a device, which, when completed will prove a big asset to the Branch. "Mum's the word," Ted.

Genial Tom Alderson is a great worker in the interests of the Branch. Tom has a smile to spare for everyone he meets, and is ever ready to lend a helping hand in a good cause.

Deepest sympathy is extended to Executive member Jack Reid, who buried his only child a few weeks ago.

Secretary Vic O'Grady reports having secured permanent employment on the Trans Line for four members, who had been out of work for some time.

Has anybody seen "Kelly"? if not, then you are lucky, for to meet him will cost a bob. No! not for a pot, but for a ticket in the Branch sweep on the Boulder Cup.

It is asserted that Percy Wilkes goes pretty well for about five rounds with the gloves.

The writer wishes to take this opportunity of sincerely thanking members on the Trans Line and elsewhere for their kind assistance in disposing of sweep tickets.

**MIDLAND JUNCTION.**

That the Midland Junction Sub-Branch is a "live" concern was amply demonstrated on the evening of 8th July, when a "smoker" was held in the lesser Town Hall. The attendance was the largest the Branch has had at any function for some years and the enthusiasm shown augurs well for the continued usefulness and wellbeing of the Branch. The chair was taken by the President (Mr. P. Jamieson) and among those present were the member for the district (Mr. W. D. Johnson, M.L.A.) and the Mayor of Midland Junction (Mr. W. R. Crosbie). After the patriotic toasts the gathering indulged in community singing with a vim that was quite refreshing, and the diggers and their friends settled down to a very pleasant evening. The principal toast, of the Midland Junction Sub-Branch, was proposed by the Rev. C. Riley in felicitous terms. He commended the Branch Officers for good work done, and stressed the need of continued effort and strong organisation to maintain the ground won for ex-soldiers and the high standing of the R.S.L. generally. Mr. P. Jamieson responded and an interesting event was the presentation by Mr. Badger, on behalf of the State Executive, of ex-President's certificate to Messrs. F. J. Doig (first in office under the old R.S.A.), J. Tippling, and G. A. Jamieson, whose brief addresses were greeted with hearty applause. Many of the "dads" of returned men were present, and their health was toasted in fine style, at the instigation of the Rev. W. Webb, and replied to by Mr. Dean. The toast "The Mayor" was also honoured, and in responding, Mr. Crosbie spoke appreciatively of the R.S.L. and its benefits; also of the general principle of preference to returned men, other things being equal. Mr. Yates proposed the toast of "Parliament", which was acknowledged by Mr. Johnson. The programme was excellent in its kind, including humorous items by Messrs. Harrigan and Judge and songs by Messrs. G. Kennedy, W. Gray, and C. Priddle. The function reflects credit on the Secretary (Mr. E. Gray) and Committee.

**PERTH.**

The Half-yearly meeting of the Perth Sub-Branch was held in the Soldiers' Institute on Tuesday last, when (in the absence of the President, Mr. T. P. Lennon, who is still an inmate of the Repat. ward), Mr. Longmore presided over a good attendance of members.

The Auditor's half-yearly report was adopted and it showed that the past half year had been an exceptionally good one and that the Branch was in a very good position.

It was resolved to make a donation of £10 to the 44th Battalion Auxiliary

Several items for the 11th Annual Congress were submitted and will be considered at a special general meeting of the Branch to be held on Tuesday August the 2nd. Any member who desires to have a matter brought before Conference is requested to see the Secretary (Mr. G. B. Tofall) and submit same to him so that it may be discussed at the special meeting.

The Secretary reported that he had dealt with 43 applications for assistance under the Amelioration Fund 37, of which had been approved.

**KALGOORLIE.**

Despite the prevailing feeling of despondency existing on the Goldfields, due to the falling off of the mining industry, the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch have buoyed themselves up with the hope that even at this belated hour the main industry of the State will receive an impetus at the hands of the Commonwealth and State Governments, in the form of a grant which will give the industry a new lease of life. In fact, they are like Micawber —"Waiting for something to turn up."

The population of the Goldfields, unfortunately, continues to wane, but the sub-branch membership has not diminished to any great extent, which goes to prove that the returned men are not disheartened by current circumstances, and that spirit which characterised their activities in the big "straw" will pull them through the battle of life on the Goldfields.
During the month, the call of the digger has been answered by the Sub-Branch, and they have been instrumental in applying their influence to the benefit of the soldier in many ways. Unemployment is rife, but it is pleasing to note that at time of writing, only three returned men are awaiting employment. The principle of preference to returned men is generally being maintained amongst employers of labour. Recently, the Sub-Branch had occasion to take action with the heads of a Government department (Commonwealth) where the preference principle was being disregarded. It was an obvious case of evasion by the foreman in charge of the department; but by tactful handling, the matter by the Sub-Branch Secretary, all wrongs (righted and the men concerned (not even rejected) were "sacked" on the spot and their positions will be filled by men who are more entitled to the positions.

In several instances, sustenance has been granted to indigent cases, and several war widows have received grants from the Distress Fund Committee. The Sub-Branch decided some time ago, to concentrate their relief and assistance on financial members only, and this resolution has had the effect of eliminating the interloper who in the past was able to fall back on the League only at a time when he wanted something out of it and when his other resources were cut off.

The social side of the League has not been forgotten and the Sub-Branch Executive realise that a healthy spirit can be promoted by the introduction of social gatherings where diggers can fraternise with their friends, under congenial conditions. This feeling was amplified at a function held at the Soldiers' Institute on the 23rd of last month, when the Sub-Branch entertained the citizens of Kalgoorlie. It was, indeed, a happy innovation and a real gala night. About 300 citizens and their good ladies graced the interior of the Institute, which was gaily decorated for the occasion. Dancing, billiards, table tennis, bridge, guessing competitions and an excellent vocal programme were the bill of fare and the guests occupied their time in this direction until the wee hours of the next morning. The President (Doc. Stacey) welcomed the guests and explained to them the object of the gathering, which was to reciprocate, in a small way, the spontaneous manner they had always responded to the efforts of the League. The Mayor of Kalgoorlie (Mr. F. W. Allsop), subsequently thanked the members of the Sub-Branch for the kind spirit which prompted them to entertain the assembled that evening, it was said, he could never have been elected to the organisation. The people of the Goldfields realised that they owed a debt of gratitude to the soldiers and anything he could do to further their interests, would be done in the future. A spirit was endorsed by the ladies' committee and dispensed in true digger fashion, by members of the Sub-Branch.

Matters in connection with the forthcoming annual Congress are receiving attention by the Executive, and the Sub-Branch should have several important motions for consideration in October next.

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**PERSONAL PARS.**

Long Bob Nicholls, erstwhile of the 43rd Battalion, has temporarily knocked up the gold dust from his boots and is now in Perth, seeking the best medical advice from that quarter. Bob has been a patient sufferer for many months, and the conflict with Fritz has left his health in a bad way. Bob is one of the best and a speedy return to his former health, and, incidentally, to the Goldfields, is our wish. Gone but not forgotten—E. J. Wellstead. A soldiers' friend and true patriot. His sudden end was a shock to all. The late Mr. Wellstead was one of the first en- downed members of the Kalgoorlie Sol- diers' Institute, a loyal friend to the soldier and a man brimful of benevolence. His many acts of kindness and charity will stand as a monument to his life and actions. He could ill be spared as there was no sorrowing wife and son every digger will extend the hand of sympathy.

Congrats to Ernie Bruce on the success of the social held on the 23rd of last month. It was organised in the Sub-Branch hall and the proceeds of the function was in no small way due to his untiring efforts.

Latest news from Jack Williams conveys the fact that he is still in a poor state of health. Jack bears his troubles philosophically and his big heart should bring him back to the Goldfields hale and hearty once again. We wish him luck.

Eldred Andrews, he of the old 28th, is suffering from the effects of his past in the big stoush, and is again confined to his bed. May fate be kind to him.

**OSBORNE PARK.**

Tribute to a Returned Soldier.

A social was tendered to Mr. W. O. Culley (ex-16th Battalion), late secretary and inspector to the Osborne Park Local Board of Health, in the Soldiers' Hall, Main Street, prior to his taking up a position on the staff of the city council. Mr. Geo. Hill, chairman of the Local Health Board, presided, and there was a representative gathering of residents. Speeches were made by the chairman, the Honorary Minister (Mr. Millington, M.L.A.), who said that his connection with the health board had been of a pleasant nature. The position of health inspector was a peculiar one; he could be looked upon as a public nuisance, whereas his duty was to prevent public nuisances. Evidently, Mr. Culley had earned the goodwill and respect of the district, as was observed by the prominent residents of the district present that night, and he was sure that Mr. Culley left that district with the good feelings of everyone, and also with the approval of those who had employed him. Other appreciative references were made by Mr. W. E. Robinson (President of the Agricultural Society); Mr. C. Chantler (Perth Road Board); Mr. Muir (Chairman, Local Progress Society); Mr. Hamersley (representing Balcatta Beach); Mr. J. Lapsley (Auditor) and Mr. C. Sheriff (President of the Osborne Park Sub-Branch of the R.S.L.), who spoke in high terms of the work done by Mr. Culley, and also to the respect in which the public held the Perth City Council which, after selecting a civilian for the position of inspector in the Perth City Council, ultimately decided in favour of the returned soldier. Mr. Culley's appointment was not only specific but also special, in that, "nothing being equal," but he maintained that in every instance the returned man should have preference because there was no equality between the man who sacrificed himself for his country, and the man who stayed at home. A silver tea and coffee service was presented to Mr. Culley, bearing the inscription: "Presented to Mr. W. O. Culley in recognition of the valued services as inspector and secretary of the Osborne..."
Park Local Board of Health, 22/6/27.
Mr. Culley, who was visibly affected at the many complimentary references, briefly returned thanks. A musical programme was contributed by Messrs. F. Jodrell, C. Chantler, J. L. Lapsley, J. O'Malley, Misses Cooper, J. and M. Culley, D. Gosling, Dolling, and Mesdames Cliff and C. Chantler. A welcome was accorded to the new secretary and inspector (Mr. Sutton). Refreshments were served and an enjoyable evening terminated with the National Anthem.

MT. BARKER.

The financial year of this Sub-Branch ended on June 30th, and members are reminded not to become unfinancial. At the end of June the Branch was 88 strong, which includes every available man eligible to wear the badge of honour. This is a wonderful tribute to the persevering energy of Secretary Percy Gillam. This Branch is not only strong in membership, but is also active in its good deeds on behalf of those who need help.

Vice-President, Sam James, should be back on the 14th, from the East, after a couple of months' well-earned spell.

Good luck to Cliff Riches, from the Branch, who has settled down to a quiet life, a Maylands resident having accompanied him to his block, a few miles out.

Harry Scott is now improving at the Repat. Ward, Perth. Winter finds out his weak spots.

Bert Hambly, for the last ten weeks, has had a rotten spell; a good worker and deserving of better luck. War service is finding out the weak points of many strong-looking ex-service fellows now.

A new member this month was A. Dowe (ex-28th Battalion). Anyone contemplating purchasing fancy work, should view some of this member's work. He is always out to please his clients. Present address: Park Hotel, c/o Alec O'Neill.

Seen in town—Arthur Quinn, after a brief spell at the Kalgan River, recuperating after a couple of months in Albany, under Mr. Hambly.

Mr. Barker, generally, had a severe attack of "stiffnuts" regarding the art union. Looks as if another agent is wanted to change the luck, as twice now over 400 tickets have been sold and not a "raaxo" back.

Members generally will regret to hear of Mr. E. Webster's sad bereavement. He was several years acting as Secretary of the Local Repatriation Committee and was a good worker for the digger. All extend to him and his son deepest sympathy. The Branch was represented at the funeral, and placed a wreath on the grave of his late beloved wife.

NAREMBEEN.

On Saturday, 30th July, the Hon. Secretary (H. A. Boyes) is arranging a concert and dance in aid of the Narembeen Sub-Branch local charities. A splendid programme has been arranged and all diggers are required to turn out in full force and support a good cause.

There are still a number of diggers to come forward with their fees and if it is to be hoped they will do so without delay. This Sub-Branch wants a diggers' club and it is only by the collective efforts of all members that they will acquire same this year.

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

On Friday, 1st July, Sub-Branch members and visitors spent an enjoyable few hours at the Railway Institute, Perth, in yarning, smoking, eating, singing, listening, etc., with occasional lapses during which a "wee drap" was taken for the stomach's sake. President Jack Kane conducted operations and among the State Executive members assisting were Padre Riley and Messrs. Benson, Bader, Tyler, Longmore, Shaw and Fitzgerald.

The usual toasts were honoured, but a new one—"The Dads"—was most enthusiastically received. The response was given by Mr. H. Dean, father of three soldiers, two of whom were killed, who, in a fine speech, appealed to returned men to stick together in the League, with the same tenacity as they stuck together overseas. The idea of inviting the "Dads" was a sound one which could be well emulated by other sub-branches. The function was a great success, the artists contributing being Messrs. S. Morgan, L. T. Richardson, W. J. Lovell, J. Crofts, R. Marks and Geo. Groves. Those who worked hard to make the function such a success, both before, during, and after the social, included Bob Gibbon, Bert Ford, Archie Hyman and Secretary Bill Love.

BRIDGETOWN.

The half-yearly meeting was held on 28th June, when Major Whitell presided over a small attendance, owing to inclement weather. Now that winter has set in, it is a hard job to get diggers away from their firesides, to attend a dry old meeting. We only declare our meetings "wet" once a year, which is about the only time we can get a quorum.

The only item of interest discussed was the new Picture Committee agreement. It was finally decided that we withdraw from the Picture Committee. The Secretary produced a balance sheet which showed a credit balance over all of £193 4s. 6d. An energetic member of our Branch, in Wally Bowler, has just been bereaved by the loss of his mother. Wally is one of the few out here who can sport a "rooty" medal, which is presented to "artificial dodgers" of eighteen years standing. Wally is the brother of the popular Bert Bowler of the 11th Battalion, who was killed at Pozieres. Our Treasurer, Fred Veale, has decided to sign his name to a marriage certificate. We had an idea that was the cause of his non-attendance at our meetings. We may, in turn, induce his wife to join the Ladies' Auxiliary.
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Remember every kindness done
To you, whatever its measure;
Remember praise by others won,
And pass it on with pleasure.
Remember every promise made
And keep it to the letter;
Remember those who lent you aid,
And be a grateful debtor.

-Somethine TO LEARN.

There is something to learn at every turn,
Something you do not know,
That will make you wiser grow.

There is something to see, if alert you be,
That you never saw before.

There is much to lay in your mind away
To keep for future store.

There is something to spurn that you need
not learn.

That will give you nought but pain,
There is much to leave that you should
not receive
Into your eyes or brain.

There is something to learn at every turn,
Something of good or ill;

But the man who can choose and also
refuse,
Is the one that climbs the hill.

EFFICIENCY.

Ever more and more clearly is it becoming recognised that the varying degree of efficiency to be noted in those around us is due, not so much to inequality of brain power, as inequality of sight power. The dull man with keen vision has better chances in life than the keen

man with dull vision. It is not in every case, moreover, that the person with defective sight cannot see. They may see all right, but in doing so use so much energy to overcome their visual defect that nerve strain and over-fatigue are the inevitable results. A qualified optician, using up-to-date scientific methods, can make defective sight equal to the best.

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