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FREEDOM OF SCREECH

The Sacco and Vanzetti affair has already outdistanced the famous Dreyfus case in the sphere of long-deferred justice, and, to the student of life in general, it drives home a few lessons.

In the first place it confirms what all the world has long suspected, and what decent Americans frankly admit, namely, that, in the U.S., justice and politics are so closely inter-related that in very many instances they coincide. It is possible, perhaps even the normal condition, in that extraordinary country, to make use of writs and appeals from court to court to hinder a case from coming to trial, and to prevent judgment from being carried into effect, once the courts have dealt with the matter. This, apparently, is what has happened in the case of these two men, who are awaiting execution for a robbery and murder committed seven years ago; and, while it is true that men who do not deplore the questionable legal procedure which has left the condemned men so long in suspense, it must be admitted that establishing the guilt or innocence of Sacco and Vanzetti is, after all, the business of the country whose laws they are accused of breaking.

In the second place, the affair has demonstrated the peculiar antics unbalanced people are allowed to indulge in, and the incredible piffle they are permitted to mouth, by that grand old institution, Freedom of Screech.

A Minister of the Crown, who, as a Minister, would have had to take an oath of loyalty to the Constitution, speaks on a Sydney platform, under the red flag, at a protest meeting, organised by Sydney Communists, and addressed by Comrade Norman Jeffries and Comrade Lyons. (What red flags for titlists these levelers are!) The red flag is not the flag of this country. It is the negation of everything for which this country stands, and the insignia of revolution—or it would be, if its wavers had "guts" enough to start a revolution. Therefore, no Minister of the Crown has any business to speak under its aegis.

But perhaps the most striking lesson to be derived from the affair is the omnithological one, that the W.A. Labour Party is a bird with two wings. Messrs. Whitbread and Lake have assure us that it has a left wing, at all-events. Their assertion to this effect seems to be supported by a trade hall official, who stated that the so-called left wing has only two feathers. Mr. Whitbread retorted that though the feathers on the left wing are few they are not white. Anyway, we are inclined to agree with Mr. Whitbread, as we have long suspected that all such "feathers" are coloured a bright vermin.

Our information leads us to the belief that these feathers are very few, in the bird of Labour in this State—certainly not enough to fly with.

Indeed, another singular aspect of the case is that the Communist can do no wrong. If he be proved guilty of an offence he must be tried again, and if you try, try again, you must succeed in securing an acquittal, for, during the march of time, material witnesses die off, leave the court, or lose their memories. Some can even be squared.

N.S.W. had that experience in the case of the twelve I.W.W. heroes, those ardent souls who were tried for attempting to blow up or burn down public buildings in Sydney, at a time when most of them were young enough and hefty enough to be blowing up German pill-boxes.

Of course they were innocent. The whole affair was a frame-up, a conspiracy on the part of the Sydney police to suppress liberty—liberty in this instance signifies freedom to rob and burn. It is left for Mr. G. W. Whitbread to assure us that the circumstances in the Sacco and Vanzetti case "point clearly to a frame-up." Now it is humanly impossible for Mr. Whitbread to have read all the papers of the world during the past few weeks, even if he had the pentecostal gift of tongues that would enable him to understand them. Nevertheless, unaided by distance and the dearth of first-hand information, he has been able to appreciate the situation. Such a case of acute television is rarely met with, and the West is to be congratulated on having such a genuine citizen as Mr. Whitbread. What a boon he might have been, for instance, to the vitriolic "Listening Post" scribe who wrote up that Kalambah affair. He would have been able to assure Messrs. Sampson and Pyman that the proof-reader and the comps. were rigging a frame-up to get him in bad with the editor.

Incidentally, and finally, amid all the maudlin ravings of the Communists, a thing that is supposed to believe in universal brotherhood, not one word of sympathy for the families of the murdered paymasters has been uttered.

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The amalgamation is announced of the Associated Fruitgrowers Limited and Producers' Markets Limited, the business being carried on in the name of Producers' Markets Limited, as a properly constituted up-to-date co-operative company.

Producers are invited to take up shares in the new company, a limited number of which are being issued. Ten fl. shares is the minimum holding permitted, 2/- per share on application, the balance payable 1/- per share per month. A 7 per cent. dividend is to be paid on share capital, and the balance of profits determined for division is to be divided amongst shareholders in proportion to the amount of business done with the company, bonus commencing from the date of allotment.

A new feature has been embodied in the new Memo. and Articles of Association, whereby each section appoints its own director. The sections are as follows—Pip fruits, citrus, stone fruits, and sundry, grapes, vegetables, and poultry. This should give the confidence that their particular interests are being carefully watched.

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STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.
20/7/27.


Apologies were received from Messrs. Cornell and Cohen.

State Repatriation Boards.—Letters from the Federal Executive dealing with Repatriation State Boards had been deferred from last meeting in order that Mr. Watt might be given an opportunity of explaining the functions.

Mr. Watt reported on the activities of the Board, and it was moved Rabbi Freedman, seconded Mr. Riley, that, in the opinion of this Executive, the working of the State Board with its present personnel is satisfactory.—Carried.

Assistance to Ex-Imperial Men.—The Federal Executive forwarded a letter from the British Legion which contained a list of ex-Imperial men who had been assisted by the Legion, but had not repaid their loans. The letter was received.

11th Annual Congress.—Resolution 25: Repatriation.—A letter was received from the Federal Executive dealing with resolution 25, which asked that the period for retrospective pensions be extended beyond six months. The Repatriation Commission had declined to accept the suggestion.

Resolution 35: Re Aggravation.—A letter was received from the Federal Executive stating that the Repatriation Commission had declined to accede to the request contained in resolution 45 of the 11th Annual Congress dealing with aggravation.

Resolution 13: Defence.—This resolution was the subject of a further letter from the Federal Executive, which was received.

Federal President.—The General Secretary advised that the Federal President, Captain G. J. C. Dye, was returning to Australia by the Maloja, due to arrive in Melbourne on the 8th August.

It was decided that the question of entertaining the Federal President on his way through be left in the hands of the State President.

Reducions in Pensions.—The Federal Executive acknowledged a communication from this branch dealing with the reduction of pensions and stated that representations were being made to the commission in connection therewith.

Moved Mr. Riley, seconded Mr. Yeates, that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of investigating the general position in respect to pensions, and take the necessary action to deal with claims of a special nature, also to suggest the means for improving the Repatriation Act and regulations, and that a liaison between the Department and the League.

Messrs. Nye, Tyler, and Longmore were appointed.

British War Film “Ypres.”—The South Australian branch had written intrucising Mr. Helmrich, who was visiting Western Australia in connection with the production of the British War Film, “Ypres.” Mr. Helmrich had approached the League for its patronage and had extended an invitation to the executive to view the screening on Saturday, 16th instant.

Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Yeates, that this Executive acknowledge the invitation of the management to view the film “Ypres,” and that the Executive give its support to the film and commend it to citizens of Western Australia.—Carried.

Mundijong Sub-Branch.—Mr. C. J. Piper, of Mundijong, wrote enclosing subscriptions of ten members who had formed the Mundijong Sub-Branch, and requesting the approval for the formation thereof.

On the motion of Mr. Shaw, seconded Mr. Pady, the necessary approval was granted.—Carried.

Captain Marriott.—Captain Frank Marriott wrote conveying good wishes to the Executive, and advising the death of his father.

Moved Mr. Riley, seconded Mr. Yeates, that a letter of sympathy be forwarded to Captain Marriott, and that his greetings be reciprocated.—Carried.

Problem Cases Committee.—The Repatriation Department wrote stating that Problem Cases Committee had been functioning since 1924. The letter was received, and it was decided to refer the letter to the sub-committee dealing with the inquiry re subnormal and derelict ex-soldiers, with a view to meeting the problem cases committee of the Repatriation Department, and arriving at a basis of cooperation.

War Service Homes.—The Victoria Park Sub-branch wrote dealing with the valuation of War Service Homes, and stating that Mr. Wells, the president, would attend the next executive meeting to discuss the subject with executive delegates. It was decided that the matter be deferred until Mr. Wells is in attendance.

Soldier Service Conference.—Demonstration Farms: The Minister for Agriculture wrote stating that he did not consider he would be justified in establishing demonstration farms in the districts required by the resolution. The letter was received.

Water Supply, Country Districts.—The Under-Secretary for Water Supply forwarded a communication dealing with Water Supply in various districts. The letter was received.

West Perth Sub-Branch.—The West Perth Sub-branch forwarded a complaint by a member in connection with his employment as a temporary officer of the Commonwealth Public Service.

Moved Mr. Tyler, seconded Mr. Longmore, that a copy of the letter be sent to the Federal Executive stressing the fact of the Federal Government guaran-
teeing continued employment for this type of man, and requesting that the age limit as embodied in the Act be eliminated.—Carried.

Visit of Colonel Amery.—The State Secretary had wired to the General Secretary requesting a date for a welcome to Colonel Amery on his visit to Australia in October next.

The General Secretary had advised that he was endeavouring to arrange the matter and it was left in the hands of the State President.

Imperial War Graves Commission.—The report of the War Graves Commission was laid on the table for the information of members.

Reports.—Art Union Committee: The final auditor's report in connection with the Art Union was received and adopted, and it was decided that the profits be placed on fixed deposit in the Commonwealth Bank for a further period of 12 months.

The Secretary reported that he had secured a date for the next Art Union, 28th January, 1928, and that the profits of the next Art Union go to League funds, and the same committee will carry on.

Club Committee: Mr. Tyler reported on the activities of the Club Committee, and submitted details of a scheme for financing the venture. It was decided that Mr. Tyler be thanked and that his suggestion for the addition of three names to the committee be approved. Also, that a copy of the report be typed and sent to each member of the Executive. The suggestion was made that sub-branches should be fully informed of this proposal.

Other reports submitted by the State Secretary, employment Bureau, and Finance Committee were adopted.

Alien Immigration: The President reported that arrangements could not be made for a deputation to meet the Prime Minister in connection with this question.

Moved Mr. Longmore, seconded Mr. Watt, that the matter be referred to the Federal Executive, and that the General Secretary be asked to interview the Prime Minister with the object of either suspending or reducing the quota of aliens coming into Australia.—Carried.

R. N. Eldridge: The President welcomed Mr. R. N. Eldridge, a soldier settler from Victoria, who was visiting this State in connection with the Australian Dried Fruits Association. Mr. Eldridge suitably responded.

3/8/27.


An apology was received from Mr. Adam.

Federal Correspondence: Canberra Memorial Building: The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a letter from the Federal Capital Sub-branch, stating that it was the intention of the branch to erect a Memorial Building, and asking what financial assistance they could expect from the Federal Executive and State branches.

Moved Mr. Watt, seconded Mr. Nye, that in the absence of details it be suggested to the Federal Executive that the whole matter be submitted for discussion at the next Federal Congress.—Carried.

British Income Tax: The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a letter from Wilfred T. Fry, dealing with British Income Tax. It was decided that the necessary publicity be given to the matter.

State Repatriation Boards: A wire was received from the Federal Executive, requesting the submission of a panel of three names for the selection of a representative on the State Repatriation Board.

Messrs. Watt, Lennon, and Pady were nominated, in that order.

Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch: The Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch advertised that a member who had been released from prison, on representations made by the League, had returned with his wife and children to Kalgoorlie, but seemed to be suffering mentally. Assistance had been rendered him by the Branch, and efforts were being made to have him transferred to "Lennons."

Moved Mr. Nye, seconded Mr. Riley, that this case be referred for immediate action to the committee dealing with subnormal and derelict cases.—Carried.

Pensions: The Executive went into committee to discuss the matter of pensions.

Propaganda: The Subiaco Sub-Branch suggested that a gathering of returned soldiers should be arranged by the Executive at least once a year for the purpose of propaganda.

Moved Mr. Cornell, seconded Mr. Bader, that the Sub-Branch be requested to include this suggestion as a resolution on the Agenda Paper for the next Annual Congress.

Institute Buildings: The Red Cross Society wrote stating that it was their opinion that a joint meeting of the Soldiers' Welcome Committee, and the Red Cross Society should take place, at which representatives of the League should attend and place before the meeting the views and desires of the League regarding the Institute.

It was decided that Colonel Collett and Rev. Nye attend the meeting as representatives of the League.

Alpine Taxi Association: A letter was received from the President of this Association, asking for the assistance and cooperation of the League on behalf of their returned soldier members to bring about an alteration of the Regulations brought in by the Routes Advisory Committee, and now enforced.

It was explained by Mr. Cornell that the matter was under consideration by the Legislative Council, and that action would
probably be taken to suspend the offending regulations.

In view of this, it was decided that further discussion on the matter be deferred until the next meeting.

Joongarup Sub-Branch: Application for approval for the formation of a sub-branch at Joongarup was received and granted.

Letters of Appreciation: The Kojo-

nup Sub-Branch forwarded a letter of appreciation for the efforts of the Executive Office on behalf of Mrs. Minnie Rose of that district.

Mr. W. McGraw, member of the Rail-

way Workshops Sub-Branch, also extended appreciation of the League's efforts on his behalf.

Manager “West Australian.” The State Secretary of Victoria wrote advising that Mr. C. P. Smith, the recent Assistant General Manager of the “Argus” was coming to Western Australia to manage the “West Australian” Newspaper. He stated that Mr. Smith was a valuable member of the League in Victoria, and would, no doubt, render every assistance to the W.A. Branch.

The State President informed delegates that Mr. Smith would probably attend the next meeting of the Executive.

Employment: Mr. L. Green, Secretary of the North-East area British Legion, wrote asking if employment could be found for him in Western Australia as a shoeing and general smith. The State Secretary was instructed to collaborate with the New Settlers’ League in regard to this case.

Re-Valuation: The Balingup Sub-Branch wrote in connection with re-valuation and considered that a member of the Executive should visit the district to ascertain the actual position. The matter was left in the hands of the President to arrange.

State President: At this stage, the opportunity was taken by Mr. Cornwell to re-quest Colonel Collet to again stand for President at the forthcoming Congress. Colonel Collet assured delegates that he would give the matter his earnest consideration.

Eggs Export: Mr. Shaw stated that efforts had been made by the Executive to have the regulation recently brought in, in connection with egg packs, waived. The enforcement of the regulation would inflict hardship on soldier egg

producers in this State. The Federal Executive had been communicated with and asked to have the representation a reply had been received, which, in effect, stated that the regulation should stand. Subsequently, representations from another source secured the desired waiving of the regulation.

THE TORCHBEARERS

Leading Article in “The Times,”

June 11th, 1927.

“The British Empire Service League, whose Third Biennial Conference has just been terminated, has proved in the six years of its existence as lusty and infant as those Imperial armies whose achievements in the cause of humanity it is designed to perpetuate. In response to the appeal made by Lord Haig four years ago, there is but one organisation of ex-Service men in every part of the Empire, and there is an organisation in every part. Seven thousand committees, representative of the Constituent Organisations of the League, are ready to begin the practical interpretation of their motto of ‘Unity, Comradeship and Peace.’ The work, indeed, has already begun. Under one of the two special branches of the League’s activities, dealing with Empire Migration, approved migrants who lack some small requisite towards a fair chance in the Dominions or Colonies, are being assisted at a rate of about 100 a month. Acting upon a hint from Mr. Amery, the League is now preparing to apply for recognition under the Empire Settlement Act, so as to be able to rank among those bodies possessing the right to nominate migrants; and Sir Abe Bailey and Mrs. Campbell have placed the raw material of a successful start at its disposal by offering 10,000 and 1,000 acres of good land in Rhodesia and Canada respectively. The League has grasped the fundamental necessity of finding not merely the means of production, but a market for produce. In close consultation with the Empire Marketing Board, it is to circulate a questionnaire to the whole of its Branches, which may be expected to gather a rich harvest of hints and information; and the

campaign in favour of Empire goods is to be prosecuted in this country by the 3,000 branches of the British Legion. Such is the practical progress of a movement whose value to the Empire is emphasised by the practical interest taken in it both by His Majesty the King and the Prince of Wales, and by the appreciation of it expressed by leading statesmen both here and throughout the Empire.

“The success of such an organisation of ex-Service men cannot be too warmly wel-

come, because it testifies to the victory of enduring sentiment over ephemeral sen-

sitivity. The epithet ‘ex-Service’ is in itself psychologically false. No catchword is more morally devastating than that which told the weary fighting men of the Empire in 1918 that they had done their bit. Service of men to the Empire is like service of blood to the body—it pulsates more quickly in time of fever, but it must always pulse if the organism which it nourishes is to survive. Lord Haig was certainly right in his address as Grand President to insist upon ending the false modesty which acquires in, and even contributes to, the disapper-

age of the war effort of the British Empire. It would be an insult alike to the dead and to the living if a sustained act of unprompted and unselfish heroism were to be distorted abroad by the depreciation of its magnitude and at home by the vilification of its motive. [Editorialised: “The gulf between the generation of war and the generation of peace is the great psychological division of the human race, and the most dangerous obstacle to the onward march of mankind as a whole. It can be bridged so far as the British Empire is concerned only by insistence upon the common principle of service to the Empire itself. That is the torch which the British Empire Service League has set itself to keep alight and to hand on to others. Imperial Conferences can only lay down the rules and prescribe the course for this noble Lampadophoria. The race itself must be run by men of the Empire, the first relay of whom are those who have already proved that they know for what prize it is being run.”]

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LEAGUE COMMITTEE’S VALUABLE REPORT.

The Sub-Committee on Pensions was appointed by the State Executive on July 20th, 1927, to “investigate the general position in respect of Pensions, and take the necessary action to deal with claims of a special nature; also to suggest the means for improving the Repatriation Act and Regulations, and the liaison between the Department and the League.

At the meeting of the State Executive held on 17th inst., the following important report was submitted to delegates:

“At the interview with the Minister for Repatriation (Sir Neville Howse, K.C.M.G., V.C.), on August 11th, there were present Col. H. B. Collett (State President, R.S.L.), Rev. E. H. O. Nye and Messrs. C. Longmore, R. E. Tyler (members of the Sub-Committee on Pensions) and the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson). The Minister was accompanied by Mr. C. Taylor (Dep. Commissioner) and Messrs. G. James and H. Hocking (Repatriation Staff). A shorthand writer was present and took a record of the conversations. Copies have been supplied to the League. The interview lasted three hours and twenty minutes. At Col. Collett’s request, the Rev. E. H. O. Nye (Chairman of the Sub-Committee) presented the various matters for consideration to the Minister, and all members of the delegation joined freely in the subsequent discussions. The Minister expressed sincere sympathy with the League in its efforts to assist ex-soldiers. He said that there was no doubt, that the better thinking men recognise and appreciate what the League does, but there were others who gave the League no thanks. The R.S.L., he said, had rendered a tremendous amount of assistance, not only to ex-soldiers, but to the general public. He repeated what he had said at the Executive luncheon the previous day, i.e., that in all Pension claims the Repatriation Department must be counsel for the claimant. He said that the soldier should not be called upon to prove the connection between his present disability and his war service; but the Department should make every effort to connect the disability with the soldier’s service in the war.

Your sub-committee was impressed by the Minister’s evident desire to do everything in his power to assist all men who are suffering from war disabilities, and to help their dependants.

In the opinion of the members of the sub-committee, the interview will result in the maintenance and continuance of the cordial relations which have hitherto existed between the Repatriation Department and the R.S.L.

The following were matters prepared by the sub-committee, in consultation with the President and State Secretary of the League, and recommended to the favourable notice of the Minister. The items are shown in numerical order, together with the Minister’s replies.

Item No. 1.—It is becoming increasingly difficult to prove that disabilities, not previously reported by the ex-soldier, are war-caused, due—

(a) Owing to the lapse of time since the war.

(b) To the fact that the good soldier frequently refused to report “sick” at the war; or was treated by the R.M.O. without evacuation—rather than leave his mates. Therefore, there is no record on his Medical History Sheet of his having been “sick.”

(c) The fact that many men covered up their disabilities upon discharge, and carried on in civilian life without seeking a pension until forced by failing health to do so. There is no continuous history in such cases.

N.B.—The basis of all pension claims should be the actual war service of the applicant. The Department should recognise that it is now the commencing period of trial for many war veterans, who have hitherto refused to make any appeal.

In reply, the Minister expressed his entire sympathy with the recommendations under this heading, and his agreement with the League in its conclusions.

Item No. 2.—Lung Trouble (T.B.) in Gas Areas: Men who held the line in severe gas barrage must have obtained frequent doses of poison before respirators were fixed, although mild inhalations would not render evacuations and treatment necessary. Many of this type may now be affected with lung troubles, and yet find it difficult to obtain recompense of their present disability as war-caused or war-aggravated, owing to the absence of any continuous history of their complaint.

The Minister, in reply, pointed out that the Australian Repatriation Commission accepts gas as a cause of Pulmonary T.B. It is necessary, however, in order to prove that a man was gassed, to secure evidence from Military Records, that he was in a gas area, and from his medical history sheet, that he was gassed, in addition to any declarations from comrades who were serving with him at the time.

Item No. 3.—Method of Settling Doubtful Cases: This sub-committee agrees that the successful issue of a pension claim must rest upon medical opinion. When medical evidence of a claimant’s disability has been given by the Commissioner, the claimant should be given the benefit of the doubt by the Commissioners.

N.B.—The Minister has previously said that the benefit of the doubt is always conceded by the Commissioner. The sub-committee interpreted that to refer to cases in which there is no complete unanimity in the minds of members of the Federal Medical Advisory Committee; or as between the Advisory Committee and the Commissioner.

Often, however, the Local Repatriation Medical Officer differs from a civilian Medical Officer (or civilian Medical Officers) who have approved a claim. (Note—The civilian medical officer in many cases is ex-A.I.F., and therefore has war experience to guide him.) That difference constitutes a doubt. The case is then referred to Melbourne and goes before the Federal Medical Advisory Committee, which must rely upon documentary evidence in forming its opinion.

The sub-committee was of opinion that no final decision should be given until the claimant has been examined personally by members of the Advisory Committee. It recog-
Hodgkin’s Disease.—This particular disease, and its relation to war service, was discussed with the Minister, who stated that the cause of the disease is not known, and no country had accepted it as a disability caused by the war.

Your committee particularized two cases of men who had died in Perth, and who had fought in the same battalion in France.

Individual Cases.—Your committee discussed a number of individual cases, in which our previous representations to the Commission had been unsuccessful. In every instance the Minister promised to examine the files himself, and to advise the State Executive of his decision.

During the general discussions, and again amongst the individual cases, the claim of Mr. F. W. Wood, of Collie, was frequently mentioned. The Minister, after exhaustively dealing with this claim, and revealing to your committee his own personal interest therein, authorised the Executive to inform the Collie sub-branch that this case had not only been submitted to the Commission’s Medical Advisory Committee, but that several eminent surgeons had been consulted, who were all unanimous that it was impossible for them to find any conceivable connection between osteitis and the soldier’s war service.

League Advocate.—The Minister informed your representatives that, providing an authority from a Pension claimant were obtained in writing, the whole of the Repatriation Department files concerning the particular claimant would be made available to the person so authorised, also that an officer of the Department would be detailed to go through the file with the League official. In connection with this the pension Sub-Committee recommends that in every case taken up by the League, when considered necessary, an authority be obtained for the pension claimant, the Secretary, to examine the Repatriation Department files. In the opinion of your sub-committee, this is a most important concession, as it will enable us to proceed with any case in dispute, and to avoid formation of conclusions based on insufficient information.

44th Battalion Diggers who intend journeying to Fremantle for the Subsidiary Social on Tuesday, August 30th, may, by handing their names to Capt. M. Lewis, in Murray Street, opposite Forrest Place, secure a seat in a special bus it is proposed to engage.

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EARL HAIG’S STRIKING UTERRANCE.

A short precis of Field-Marshall Earl Haig’s speech at the opening of the B.E.S.L. Conference was cabled to Australia. We now have a copy which is full and knowing of the interest of the digger and his approbation of the sentiments stated, we submit the following:

"I think that it is sometimes forgotten (indeed, I doubt if it has yet been fully realised by the general public in these islands) how truly great was the work of the Armies of the British Empire in the War. A national tendency to belittle our own achievements, fostered and encouraged by considerations of policy (which I forbear to criticise) has led us (as a nation) to ascribe our victory to the Great War to the fortunate destiny of our country; to the military genius of Allied nations; to the mistakes of our enemies; to the intervention of America; to anything rather than the true cause—namely, the inherent fighting qualities of those ranks of the British Armies and the indomitable discipline of the British peoples in all quarters of the world.

If America had not come in we might not, perhaps, have forced the enemy to surrender in 1918, for without the American reserves in existence it would have been unwise for us to risk throwing the whole force of the British Army in France and Flanders into the tremendous series of battles which brought the War to a sudden and, by many politicians, unexpected end. But we should have won in the end all the same. As regards the mistakes of our enemies, my own private opinion is that the enemy made only two serious mistakes—the first when he began the War under conditions which brought the British Empire into it, and the second when he lost it.

As for the Allies, but for the full and the sacrifices which they made in the opening years of the War, we might never have been given time to mobilise the armies of the Empire, and for that we owe a great debt of gratitude. But also to the special Providence which was ever the destinies of the improvident, and in which we can never sufficiently acknowledge.

"Yet when all is said and done, the fact remains that for the last eighteen months of the struggle the British Armies in France, the Armies of the Empire, carried on their shoulders and carried to victory the main burden of the War.

"In the course of the greatest war in history the British people mobilised, equipped and trained and put into the field the finest force the world has yet seen. The discipline and quality of its rank and file, the leadership and initiative of its regimental officers, the organisation of its supply and medical services, the competence and reliability of its Staff and Intelligence, all alike were unsurpassed.

"No one is really in a position to criticise, far less to disparage the achievements of that supreme instrument nor yet its direction and control, unless he bring to his task not only a full knowledge of the material facts and circumstances, but a mind, temperament and training fitted to consider them judicially, and to appreciate their complications.

"The direction of that instrument is a matter which truly concerns me. That is a matter which I am fully content to leave to the unbiased verdict of history, as to which the judgment of future generations concerns me more than the opinions of all but a few of my contemporaries. But I am present and keenly concerned for the honour and reputation of the gallant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Empire of whom that splendid army was composed. I am concerned that they, at least, should be given the full credit that is their due.

"It is a question of far deeper importance than many people realise.

"It is a matter which may yet decide the fate of our Empire and of these islands. I do not like to think what might be the effect upon the next great call, which will one day have to be made upon the Dominions overseas, if the accepted version of the Empire’s part in the Great War should be that we owe our successful issue from that great trial not to our own qualities or our own efforts, but to the mercy of Providence and the assistance of other nations.

"The B.E.S.L. will have justified its existence if it accomplished no other task than that of keeping alive in the hearts of the fighting men of the Empire a just and proper pride in the military achievements of the Empire in the Great War, and a just and proper confidence that, in time of crisis, powers of leadership will be found within the Empire itself worthy of their great loyalty and courage. Without that pride and confidence, the spirit of comradeship must languish, unity must cease to be a thing desired; and with the loss of comradeship and unity between the peoples of the Empire, the end of the Empire’s peace."
PERSONALITIES.

Touring to Darwin and back is now becoming a popular mode of spending a holiday by the people of this State. Alf Anderson, of Collie, who has been far from well of late, is at present doing the grand tour in his effort to recuperate.

Doctor Joe Kenny, who is perhaps better known to diggers in this State than any other medicus, recently sought adventure, and found it with a vengeance. Having bought a bit of a boat which was moored at Broome, he decided to go up and sail it to Fremantle. With a crew of three foreigners, he successfully sailed the yacht to Fremantle, after a stern fight with contrary elements, which on many occasions almost caused disaster.

Colonel Denton, ex-M.L.A. for Moora, has been appointed organiser in this State for the recently re-organised New Settlers' League. This appointment is popular in R.S.L. circles, for the reason that the Colonel is held in high regard, and also because sub-branches throughout the country are anxious to assist in general welfare work for the migrant, who is almost invariably an ex-service man. The R.S.L. will be of great assistance to the Colonel in the course of his new duties.

A useful citizen is Sam Rogers. Amongst his many duties on behalf of his fellow humans is that of member of the Canning District Road Board. Sam's war career has been rather extensive, for one who looks so young. He fought in the Spanish—American War in the American Navy, then with the 5th Imperial Bushmen in South Africa, and in the late war he served in the Royal Navy. If young enough, Sam intends to enlist in the Air Force in the next war.

A popular and capable Secretary is Jack Lynch, of the Fremantle Sub-Branch. After serving for eight years with the firm of R. B. Carter & Co., Fremantle, Jack was offered and accepted the position of Assistant Manager at Barton's, of the same town. He deserves every success.

Old friend E. St. Ives Bilston, of Katanning, who was unfortunately out of action for a long time, owing to having 'souvenired' some fragments from Flanders, is now able to get about and do a bit of toil. He reports an awakening of League activities in his district, and states that the hospital visiting committee is again functioning, members calling at the hospital three times a week with smokes, biscuits, stationery, etc., for old comrades and ex-imperial men who may be there.

Mr. C. W. Cann, of Caversham, is at present an inmate of the Repat. ward of the Perth Hospital, where he has recently undergone a serious operation, made necessary by the effects of the cruel gas. At time of going to press he was progressing favourably.

The two Boulder delegates to the State Congress to be held in Perth shortly, will be President Ted Lennell, and Secretary, Vic. O'Grady. Vic. has attended previous congresses, but outside of Boulder, where he has spent nearly all his life, Ted Lennell is not so well known. In his native city, however, everybody knows Ted, and to know him is to admire him. He is a plain spoken, soft-hearted fellow, and the League is the richer for his active support.

Dear old Tom Lennon, although still an in-patient at the Repat. ward of the Perth Hospital, is allowed to leave the ward occasionally. Executive delegates gave Tom a warm clasp of the hand when he managed to spend an hour with them at their last meeting.

The one individual whom the League in Australia is most indebted to is Captain Dyett. A forceful and charming personality, he has quietly and unostentatiously done wonders for the ex-service man, by first gaining the goodwill and esteem of the leaders of the nation, and then by sound argument presenting his case. The League is very fortunate to have had such a leader, and it is the hope of the W.A. branch, at least, that Captain Dyett will continue in his high, responsible position for many more terms.

A recent visitor to the capital was Jimmy McGill, who is a successful farmer of Calingiri. The chief reason for the trip was to take back to the farm a new son, this being Jimmy's second offspring; the other excuse being the re-union of his old battalion—the 32nd. He reports satisfactory progress with the Calingiri Sub-branch of the League, the membership of which extends as far afield as Boygart and Toodyay.

On Tuesday morning, August 2nd, Lieut. Drill Scott, M.C., died suddenly at Kilmacolm, Lieut. Scott was born in South Australia, and was educated at St. Peter's College, Adelaide. He enlisted in the Australian Instructional Corps in 1912, and had served 15 years with the permanent forces, at the time of his death being area officer.
Massey-Harris Co., Ltd.
360 Murray Street, Perth

PENSIONERS' TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

The following letter has been received by the League from the Minister Controlling Repatriation:

"With reference to your letter forwarding for consideration copy of Resolution reading:

"That in all cases where pensioner is summoned to appear before a medical officer in city or country areas, travelling expenses to a reasonable amount shall be paid by the Department immediately upon presentation of claim, or the expiration of reasonable time in which to investigate such claim."

"I have to inform you that the Departmental practice provides for the prompt payment of all reasonable expenses, and further action appears unnecessary.

"I understand that some time ago representations were made to the Commission that in one State there was some delay. The Commission issued the necessary instructions and it is understood that the position in that regard is now satisfactory."

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MELBOURNE SYDNEY BRISBANE ADELAIDE LAUNCESTON

for Victoria Park. During the war he was kept at Blackboy Camp for a time training recruits and eventually joined up with the 29th Battalion in France, where he was seriously wounded, and, incidentally, won the Military Cross.

Lieut. Scott was also a very useful citizen, being at the time of his death president of the Kelmcott Agricultural Society and vice-president of the Parents and Citizens' Association. He was a good League, having served for a period as president of the local sub-branch. He is missed by a host of friends and we join with others in expressing our sympathy with Mrs. Scott and her young daughter.

Mr. C. P. Smith, the new managing-editor of the West Australian, was considered as a true friend of the League in Victoria. The Victorian branch secretary (Mr. C. W. Joyce), in a letter to the W.A. branch, wrote stating that his executive hoped this branch would take the first opportunity of extending a welcome to Mr. Smith, who had shown himself a loyal friend of ex-members of the A.I.F., with whom he was associated in France as War Correspondent of the Argus.

Constable Jock Grant, a veteran of the Big Stush, and one of Perth's most popular traffic Johns, committed matrimony during the early part of the month. "The Listening Post" wishes Jock and Mrs. Jock all good wishes for the future, and hopes that all their troubles will occur singly.

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Go where you CAN get it
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VARIA.

Reggid.—I was pleased to read in your July number that both the number and rates of pensions had been steadily increasing in Australia. This certainly bears out your conclusion that the Act is being sympathetically administered. In most countries which were involved in the Great War, including England, the peak expenditure for pensions occurred three and four years ago, since when the amounts have been steadily diminishing.

This happy state of affairs in this country must be, to some extent, due to the presence and activities of the R.S.L. It has been largely due to the energy of the League that the Repatriation Act and many subsequent amendments have been framed in their present form. The expert knowledge of League officials has, on countless occasions, been made available to applicants for Repatriation benefits, with pleasing result. How any pensioner, in particular, could be so ungenerous as to remain outside the organisation that has done so much for him is a puzzle to me! I have been in the fortunate position of never having needed to apply to the Repat. for assistance, but on the day following my return from the League and have been a financial and active member ever since, and will continue so while life lasts. My personal gain through membership has been large. It has given me a consciousness of the wonderful comradeship of the trenches.

We don't know whether to consider it as a compliment to the LISTENING POST, or as a tribute to General T. H. Dodds, or perhaps, it is that great British mind, that has been so generous to us. Cards, games, dancing, etc., will be principal features of the evening. The social is open to members and all friends of the ladies' committee. Mrs. Thrum stresses this point and urges the hearty support of everybody. Tickets may be purchased from any of the members, or from Capt. M. Lewis, in Murray Street, opposite Forrest Place.

"What's in a name?" Shakespeare-asked. The most recently published History of England is written by a gentleman-named E. M. Wrong. However, there is no reason for supposing that his little work is any more inaccurate than most standard histories.

There were some casual blokes in the ranks of the A.I.F., and since their return from abroad many have become more casual. Vic. O'Grady has one such in his sub-branch at Boulder. Vic. found Smith a job in the country, and a month later received the following urgent telegram from him: "Left Blank—round door—on the road—Cheerio—Regards, Smith." Half an hour later the following S.O.S. arrived. Send two pounds—Yours truly, Smith.

Australia's chief delegate to the British Empire Service League third biennial conference, League Federal President, Captain G. J. C. Dyett, C.M.G., returned to Australia by the "Maloya," which arrived at Fremantle at 2:30 p.m. on the 8th August. During the 10 hours that the boat was in port our president had a busy time. Receptions in his honour were given by the Mayors of Perth and Fremantle, and the State Executive entertained him at a dinner in the Soldiers' Institute, after which the Captain addressed ex-service men on the deliberations and results of the conference. As this address was published fairly fully in the daily Press, we won't repeat it. It was certainly a great tribute to Captain Dyett and the League that he was elected chairman of the conference of the B.E.S.L., an organisation which the Prince of Wales referred to as "the biggest British Institution that exists."
Is Ths, Diplomatic?
The flapper raved and tore her hair,
"It now has come," quoth she,
"We can do all that men can do,
At last our sex is free."
The meek and modest little guy
Now arose and said:
"I'd love to see you do this;"
And stood upon his head.

A clergyman tells the story of
an Italian who brought his baby to him to
be baptised.

"Now," he said, "you see you baptise
him right. Last time I tell you I want
my boy called 'Tom,' you call him
Thomas. These time I want him call
'Jack,' no-want you call him Jackass!"

"They are both flora and I'm surprised
that they got married."
"Well, you see they set out to see
which could beat the other flirting and it
resulted in a tie."

Lecturer (to the only one in the audi-
ence): "I must thank you, sir, for your
interest in my lecture, and I am afraid
I must apologise for taking up a great
deal of your time."

Audience: "That's all right, sir; I be
engaged by the hour."

"Engaged by the hour—?"
"Yes, sir; I be the cabman what drove
you up to this 'ere 'all, from the station."

Little May O'Malley was a great chum
of her dad, and always considered it part
of her job to defend him. Her uncle, who
was visiting the O'Malley's, delighted to
tease little Mary.

"Your father's positively the most
homy man I ever saw!" announced
Uncle Dan one day to Mary.

"He is not!" defended the little girl.
"He's never home," she added, much to
the satisfaction of Mrs. O'Malley.

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Light or Dark Ground
Harvard, coloured
stripes, with collar and
pocket, double sewn,
14/- to 18, 6/6.

Men's Wool Knitted
Socks, grey, heather or
black; splendid value,
full sizes, 2/11.

Dark Woollen Tweed Over-
coats, herringbone pattern,
raglan cut, loose belt, 60/-
each.

Men's Woollen Tweed Suits,
3-garment, stylishly cut, well
tailored throughout, variety of
shades; sizes 3's to 7's, 70/-
Waterproof Duck Raincoats,
Khaki shade, raglan shoulders,
double sewn throughout; sizes
3's to 8's, 27/6.

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WELLINGTON TO MURRAY STREET'S 1 PERTH
ENTERTAINMENT OF NAVAL VISITORS.

That the item "A Slur on a Sub-Branch," which appeared in your June number caused commotion in the otherwise peaceful housing of Kalamunda goes without question. Last month we published letters from three correspondents on the subject. With the publication of the following two letters, which arrived too late for inclusion in our July number, we believe every misgiving will have been ventilated to the satisfaction of our readers.

Charlie Davies writes as follows:—

Both as a member of the local Sub-Branch and Road Board, I present the article under the heading of "A Slur on a Sub-Branch," which appeared in your June issue. The writer would, evidently, like readers to believe that he speaks for the members of the local Sub-Branch R.S.L., and people of Kalamunda included. Being the representative of the town, I suggest that he nominate against me at the next Road Board election, when the result should prove whether the statements made are supported by the people.

"Further, I would draw his attention to the fact that a public meeting was called to gain the support of all interested in the entertainment of the sailors from the "Renown" and "Sydney." Seeing our worthy President took an active part in the welcome, I do not think that the article was written by a member of the Sub-Branch.

I regret that your worthy paper, "The Listening Post," should become the vehicle for the airing of the jaundiced views of a disgruntled writer.

Dr. J. Smythe Yule, the President of the Kalamunda sub-Branch, has his say. He writes:

"As President of the Darling Range Sub-Branch, will you allow me to make some comments on the article appearing in your June number. I am sure the majority of your correspondents on his knowledge of the..."
VISIT OF SIR NEVILLE HOWSE, V.C.

Sir Neville Howse, V.C., the Minister controlling Repatriation, promised the League Federal President, some months ago, that he would visit each State as early as possible to confer with the State branches of the League on pensions and general repatriation matters.

In pursuance of that policy, Sir Neville spent two days in Perth during the month, arriving on the 10th inst., and departing on the 11th. He was entertained at a dinner in the Soldiers’ Institute by the State Executive members, when, in reply to the toast of his health, proposed by Colonel Collett, he stated that the Repatriation Act was often stretched beyond recognition in his desire to do the fair thing for the soldier suffering from war disability, and that he had made it his duty of his officials to act as counsel for the applicant. He also stated that certain disabilities which were accepted as being war caused, in Australia, are not accepted in any other part of the British Empire. Although other countries may have individual items which, in the repatriation of ex-service men, would appear to be more generous than Australia’s policy, Sir Neville was certain that, taken as a whole, the provisions of the Australian Repatriation Act were easily the most generous in the world.

The State Executive Pensions Committee spent over three hours with the Minister, discussing many phases of repatriation and submitting a number of individual cases, which had been turned down, for his consideration.

Prior to his departure, Sir Neville issued the following statement:

“I have visited each of the institutions in this State devoted to the care of soldiers suffering from war disabilities. I have conferred with the local executive of the Returned Soldiers’ League regarding repatriation matters in general, and I have had placed before me the facts concerning a number of individual cases. These latter I cannot, of course, deliver judgment upon until I return to Melbourne and see the files, in connection with them, but I am pleased to be able to say that here, as elsewhere in the Commonwealth, I have found all well in repatriation matters. Indeed, throughout the length and breadth of Australia I have been unable to discover one case of a soldier, who, suffering from war disabilities, has not received some compensation."

“As Minister in charge of Repatriation, I can say with deep satisfaction that our promises have been fulfilled in excess of obligation. Matters brought before my notice in this State will receive full attention on my return to Melbourne; and will, I hope, be brought to a conclusion satisfactory to all parties. I shall strive to be just always, and generous wherever I can. I am grateful to the Returned Soldiers’ League and the various individuals, authorities, and bodies in this State for their assistance during my brief visit.”

Sir Neville and Lady Howse left for Melbourne by the Great Western express on the 11th inst.

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THE LEGACY CLUB OF VICTORIA.

A visitor to this State during the month was Colonel Stanley Savidge, D.S.O., M.C., representing the Returned Soldiers’ Wellington Millhist Club, Goulburn. The Colonel is a member of the Legacy Club of Victoria. In a published interview, Colonel Savidge had this to say about the Club:

“Sir John Gallibrand formed the Returned Soldiers’ Club in Goulburn with the purpose of helping returned soldiers in business to assist each other and not to depend upon the public for assistance. The movement was started in Victoria under the name of the Legacy Club, which was open to an returned soldier in business, or in any executive position, irrespective of the rank previously held in the army.

“We met once a week for lunch and usually had a public man to deliver an address on some question of national importance. We then tried to create some service within the club, realising that no organisation would live unless its soul was created. We set about the task of rendering some service, particularly to the children who had lost their fathers in the war, and in cases of distress among returned soldiers’ children. We definitely acknowledge that the Returned Soldiers’ club is the paramount body, and we render entire allegiance to that body. In many instances we realise that the league cannot perform certain work which perhaps falls to our organisation to carry out with the approval of the league. We always stress that we work hand-in-glove with the league.

“In Melbourne we run a debating club for boys who lost their fathers in the war, and a gymnasium for senior and junior boys, as well as a girls’ guild. Altogether, the club in Melbourne looks after the moral, physical and mental development of about 300 children. We also work in conjunction with the Repatriation Department in placing children in positions for which they have been trained by the department. Branches of the club have been formed in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Sydney, and we hope that clubs will be formed in Brisbane, Adelaide and in the near future. Through the offices of Colonel Leane, a member of the Melbourne club, who is now in Western Australia, it is expected that a similar branch will be established in Perth.”

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A “Jack” Michael
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Perth

Mrs. Bennett-Jones laying a wreath in memoriam of fallen 10th Light Horse heroes, at Beach Cemetery Memorial, Gallipoli, last Anzac Day.

Mrs. Bennett-Jones, who was well-known at Coolgardie and Subiaco, left this year to join her son, Captain J. Rule-Jones, who is stationed in Turkey, where he is employed by the War Graves’ Commission, as office in charge of the Gallipoli section. We know that the relatives and comrades of those who fell in the 10th Light Horse feel grateful to Mrs. Bennett-Jones for her kindly and considerate action.
Beauty Spots of Western Australia

Scenes at Augusta, Flinders Bay, and Cape Leeuwin

Scenes in the Porongorups
RECURRING PENSIONABLE DISABILITIES.

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

"With reference to your letter forwarding copy of Resolution No. 37, as under:

"That in all cases where a pension paid in respect of a war disability has been cancelled, following a medical review, and a recurrence of such disability is suffered and again accepted as a Departmental responsibility, retrospective pension payment at the rate on cancellation and over the full period of cancellation shall be automatically paid to pensioner and his dependants."

"It is considered that the recommendation in this Resolution is untenable and unsound. If given effect to, it would mean that where, as has occurred in large numbers of cases, an ex-soldier's disability disappears for many years but recurs later, he would receive pension for the years in which he had no disability."

"The procedure which has always obtained and still obtains, is that a war disability disappears and pension is cancelled accordingly, but later recurs, the Commission restores the pension on the recurrence of the war disability. To go further than this would be unreasonable and unsound, and quite in conflict with the principles governing the grant of war disability pensions."

51st BATTALION A.I.F.
Re-Union and Smoke Social.

Arrangements are well in hand for the 51st Batt. Re-union and Smoke Social, which will be held in the Returned Soldiers' Institute on Friday, October 7th, at 8 p.m. (Show Week). The Committee are confident that this year's function will be the best yet, and expect a record roll up. Tickets are obtainable from all members of the Committee, or from the Association's President, Mr. Roy Brown, 160 Murray St., Perth. All 51st Batt. Diggers are expected to keep this night open and be with the boys on the 7th October.

DEMONSTRATION FARMS.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Troy) recently forwarded the following communication to the State Secretary:

"With reference to yours of the 3rd inst., regarding a resolution passed at your Conference relative to the establishment of demonstration farms in the South-West portion of the State, I have to advise that I do not consider that I would be justified at the present time in establishing farms in the district required by you.

"I am of the opinion that the information desired could be obtained by consultation with settlers already established and engaged in the dairying and sheep-raising industries, supplemented by farmers' trials which are being conducted by this Department, in co-operation with settlers throughout the South-West portion of the State."

"I might mention that in this latter connection it is my belief that the practical experience gained as the result of these trials is likely to prove of very great assistance to the farmers, and it is my intention to encourage them to the greatest possible extent."

PERTH SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE.
HANDED OVER TO THE R.S.L.

The Soldiers' Institute was built and furnished by the Red Cross Society, and the Soldiers' Welcome Committee, and has since been held in trust by these splendid organisations for the returned soldiers. Although the R.S.L. has been occupying the buildings, it has been subject to certain clauses which to an extent restricted freedom of control.

For some time the League has been negotiating for unrestricted possession. The matter reached finality at a meeting of the three organisations interested held at Government House on Monday, 15th inst., presided over by the Hon. J. Nicholson, M.L.C. The League was represented by Colonel Collett, Mr. Preston and the Revs. Nye and Ryley. Colonel Lamb and Mr. Chas. Taylor (Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation) were also present.

After discussion it was definitely decided to transfer the whole of the buildings, furniture and fittings over to the League without reservation. In thanking the donors for their generous gift, Colonel Collett paid a striking tribute to the members of the Soldiers' Welcome Committee for their unselfish personal activity in doing so much for the soldier, both during the war and since. For a number of years this fine band of women voluntarily carried on, without hope of reward, all the menial tasks necessary for the running of the Institute. His remarks were supported by other speakers.

In welcoming Sir Neville Howse at the State Executive dinner, Colonel Collett stated that he was satisfied that the Repatriation Department, under the General's able leadership, had tried to do their best for the incapacitated returned soldiers.

The Colonel also commented on the goodwill and harmony which prevailed between the League and the Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Chas. Taylor) and his staff.

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Pearl: "Huh! that beau of yours, Sarah, called on you last night in a business suit."

Sarah: "That's all right; he meant business."
**SUB-BRANCH NOTES.**

"We stand for every returned soldier irrespective of whether the ex-soldier stands for us."—State President Collett, at Mundijong, August 13th.

**COLONEL COLLETT AND PARTY AT MUNDIJONG.**

Mundijong now boasts a Sub-Branch, and in honour of its inauguration a dinner was held at Dick Walsh's hostelry on Saturday night, August 13th. Clem. Piper, 26th and 44th Batt., presided, and cordially welcomed Col. H. B. Collett (State President), Messrs. C. Longmore, Mr. R. Tyler, and State Secretary Benson.

Enthusiasm ran high, and speeches were brief and pithy.

Col. Collett was in a happy and reminiscent mood, and dug up some humorous episodes of the digger in his characteristic interludes.

"Sid" Longmore and "Bob" Tyler ably backed up the President in appreciation of hospitality, and in the Sub-Branch's formation. When called upon, the State Secretary said he was only present as chauffeur, but as there were one or two in the room who he understood had asked: "What the hell is done by the R.S.L.?" he would give a few personal instances. After a few minutes each "Paddy" confessed he had been enough and would be a doubter no longer.

Bert Driscoll, once of the 51st, and now of Millars Ltd., is Hon. Secretary, and possesses many pleasing qualities that should be a factor in inspiring confidence amongst the diggers.

Reg. Cook, at the piano, proved a gem and there was no war-time ditty started without Reg immediately picking it up. The First Devons out of the line with a piano handy must have had some good lung exercise when Reg. Cook was soldiering.

Others present included "Dolly" Gray, 12th Batt.; P. Melville, 11th; Dave Keys, South African; Sergt. Pasfield, 20th Hurs.; Andy Gemmell and Fred Winter, of the Minesweepers, and guests of Fritz for some time; Charlie McKay, original 28th Batt.

Ned Kelly, otherwise "Swazzle" of the 7/28th, was also there, and arrived late. Apparently he had left camp in a hurry, or his Valet Auto-strop was out of commission, for one was promptly to repeat the old sergeant-major's song of "Ah! no shave to-day!" Perhaps Ned would have retorted: "No! nor yesterday neither!"

Carry on, Mundijong, your initial efforts are highly creditable and predict good things for the future.

**EXECUTIVE DELEGATES VISIT SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.**

**KOJONUP.**

The annual Re-Union of Kojonup Sub-Branch, held in the local Memorial Hall, perhaps created a record for the State in the number of diggers assembled at the one dinner table. Several counts made during the evening placed the number present at between 120 and 130, over which President Collett will certainly preside. A lengthy toast list interspersed with songs and stories created something of the old-time spirit of the army huts or canteens when the diggers' enthusiasm ran high. At functions of this sort, it sometimes happens that at least one or two diners become over-enthusiastic and, by speaking out of their turn, upset the even tenor of the programme items.

Kojonup, however, created another record, and although the diggers present did not side-step the rations and refreshments, the night's proceedings went along without the semblance of a hitch, and just before midnight there was not one absentee when the big crowd rose to link hands for "Auld Lang Syne," followed by "God Save the King."

The toast of "State President," proposed by Mr. W. Flannagan, one time of the 28th Battalion, was seconded by Padre C. L. Riley (Vice-President of the State Executive) who, after referring to the good qualities of Colonel Collett and the League's good fortune in having him at the head of affairs, gave an ovation on simple but eloquent language to point out that he reminded all soldiers present outside the League, of their moral obligations to link up, even although they would never need its assistance themselves. The Padre was given an ovation on sitting down, and several of those present suggested afterwards that his address should be printed in pamphlet form and distributed to sub-branches, for the use of those who had not yet seen fit to link up with old comrades of the R.S.L. The State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) responded to the toast of the R.S.L. and, of course, was in a position to instance many individual cases where—on account of the existence of the League's advantages and benefit to men, women and children. Other toasts honoured were the Navy, Army, and Air Force, Kindred Sub-Branches, Visitors, etc.,

In addition to the Vice-President and State Secretary, Mr. W. J. Lovell (Secretary of the Railway Workshops Branch and Executive delegate), was also present. Other visitors included Colonel Rockliffe (11th and 44th Battalions), Captain Cox (10th Light Horse), and now President of Katanning Sub-Branch, one time A.D.C. to General Chapelle, Tom Sonennis and Percy Gillam (President and Secretary of Mt. Barker), Mr. W. Coburn (a pleasing vocalist, well-known at Subiaco), and a host of old diggers' huts or cottages. The crowd at Kojonup, with some snarling critics had been prone to question the actions of Mr. J. G. Finlay, Mr. W. Flannagan and other loyal companions in their attempts to com—
memorate the fallen, and keep their deeds fresh in the minds of the people of the State. The reply to all such criticism was the enthusiastic manner in which the 120 or more digers cheered the local Secretary, Mr. J. G. Finlay, every time his name was mentioned.

KATANING.

Kantaning Sub-Branch bestowed itself on the night of August 5, to welcome delegates from R.S.L. headquarters, in Padre Riley, the State Secretary and Mr. W. J. Lovell. First, a quiet little dinner party at the local President (Mr. Fred Cox) made the visitors feel at home. This function was followed by a smoke social in one of the local halls, where the President was supported by Drrs. House and Burns, Deputy Secretary Birch, Jimmy Olds, Mr. A. Thompson, M.I.A., Ali Guy, Mr. A. McShane, Bill Coyle, members of the local Repatriation Committee and a number of other digers who had come to join in the night’s entertainment. The President, Mr. F. Cox, in a few well chosen words, welcomed the visitors and gave all present his assurance that Katanning Sub-Branch was going to become a living force and would give place to no other district in its enthusiasm for the League and what it stood for. He expressed a keen desire to see Colonel Collett at Katanning at its annual re-union, to be held on November 11th, and could assure the State President that he would be heartily welcomed by all sections of the community. The toasts for the League were responded to by the visitors and afterwards the President of the Katanning Repatriation Committee, Mr. A. D. Smith, gave a resume of what had been done for ex-soldiers of this district. This Committee continues to meet fortnightly and is as keen as ever to work for men, who, they recognise, have done so much for them. The committee was formed in 1916, and had distributed £17,000 to necessitous cases in the Katanning district. The committee numbers 25, and has an average attendance of 15 at its meetings. For the time that they had been working and the wonderful interest still displayed, the Katanning Repatriation Committee must surely be a record for Australia.

WAGIN.

Returned soldiers of Wagin assembled at the local Palace Hotel on Saturday August 6th, before an excellent dinner, presided over by Padre Moorehouse, who welcomed the State Secretary and Mr. Lovell from R.S.L. headquarters. Unfortunately, Padre C. L. Riley had returned to Perth from Katanning, and on his behalf Mr. Benson expressed regret for non-attendance. The President briefly welcomed the visitors to Wagin and said that at a later meeting which would be more largely attended, they hoped to demonstrate to the visitors some of the disabilities of Wagin ex-soldiers, particularly those engaged on land ventures. The State Secretary extended hearty appreciation for the excellent manner of the entertainment, and to those who had made the hospitality possible, afterwards traversing some of the principal achievements of the R.S.L. during recent months. An adjournment was made to another meeting place, where questions and replies added to speeches of welcome kept the party going until close upon midnight. At this meeting the State Secretary promised to make known soldier settlers’ grievances to the State Executive, and also said that he would recommend a visit from one member of the Land Committee, with himself, after a questionnaire had been distributed throughout the soldier settlers in the Wagin district.

WILLIAMS.

Members of Williams’ Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. assembled on Sunday afternoon, August 7th, with Mr. W. Richards in the chair, to welcome the State Secretary and Executive delegate, Mr. W. J. Lovell, who were returning to Perth from a visit to other Sub-Branches. After the League Officials had told the gathering of R.S.L. doings, many questions were asked and several local soldier settlers explained the disabilities peculiar to this part of the State, where it appeared that land had been acquired by the Soldier Settlement Board on the basis of wheat returns, whilst it had been found by experience that in the district many soldiers’ holdings were only capable of carrying sheep.

The State Secretary also promised here, that upon receipt of a list of names of soldiers who consider that their position should be reviewed, he would distribute a form for completion and then endeavour to get a member of the R.S.L. Land Committee to pay a visit to this area.

SUBIACO.

The Subiaco Branch of the R.S.L. held their half-yearly meeting in the Council Chambers on Monday night, 15th inst. The presidential branch was the Chairperson, the Chairman, President, Vice-President, Officers and twenty Members.

The Balance Sheet, which was audited was read; also minutes and correspondence, which were adopted. After the usual course of proceedings the meeting concluded in the usual very satisfactory manner.

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T. H. Carsia, Branch Manager

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital</th>
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<td>Total Annual Income exceeds</td>
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Fire | Marine | Accident
OSBORNE PARK.

The Osborne Park Sub-branch has organised an "Ugly Men's" competition to liqui­date the balance of the debt on the piano. The following are the candidates: R. Cor­lett, representing the Women's Auxiliary branch; J. O'Malley, the Agricultural Soci­ety; J. Godfrey, the local sub-branch; J. Buszolic, the Market Gardeners' Association; F. C. Rymer, the Oddfellows' Lodge; and L. Omodei, the Italian community.

The annual meeting of the branch was held last month in the Soldiers' Hall, Main Street, when the following officers were elected:—President: Mr. H. Cooper; vice­presidents: Messrs. R. Corlett and A. J. Crawford; secretary: Mr. J. Godfrey (re­elected); committee: Messrs. Glass, Blair, Nicholl, A. Brenton, M. Lewis, H. Cook, and Gibson. The secretary reported a successful year with increased membership and funds. A smoke social was subsequently held when special mention was made of the work done by the retiring president (Mr. C. Sherville), who had been selected as a member of the local health board.

On the 10th August, a deputation representing the Osborne Park sub-branch attended at the executive offices and interviewed the secretary (Mr. Benson) respecting the competition in road contracts by Southern Europeans. Mr. H. Cooper (president) explained the position, showing that recently a Southern European had entered into competition with local contractors in road-making, in the Park, and, employing foreign labour, was able to undercut the local men. There were at present three contractors employing foreign hands in the Park under the recent loan; two employed returned soldiers and residents, while the road board, at present augmented and engaged in road repairing, was composed of returned soldiers and Britishers. The branch asked for assistance in securing the road work for Britishers. Mr. Benson, in a sympathetic reply, promised to bring the question before the Perth Road Board, with a view to securing a clause in future con­tracts providing for preference to returned soldiers and Britishers.

BROOME.

During the visit of his Excellency the Governor to Broome, a smoke social was tendered to him by the local sub-branch on the 14th July, when some 20 returned men gathered at the Star Hotel, where his Excellency was the guest of the evening. President Macnee was in the chair and in a happy speech welcomed his Excellency to Broome, and explained the work the branch had done, and was doing for the diggers in Broome. He was supported by Mr. Forbes.

In reply, Sir William thanked his comrades for their welcome to him. He could not say much about the Kimberleys, but road and telephone communication were big prob­lems here. He would report his observations to the proper authority. He ventured the opinion that Anzac Day should be com­memorated more as a day of rejoicing than one of mourning, and he hoped the branch would do all its power to instil into the younger generation that spirit of self­sacrifice that prevailed among the Anzacs.

Col. Mannering and E. Norman proposed the toast of "The British Legion," and on behalf of the branch extended the glad-hand to any of its members who might come amongst them. Mr. Culkin Comrades was proposed by Past President Dr. Hayes. "Wingies and Stumpies" and several other toasts were proposed and a very enjoyable evening spent.

Musical items were rendered by Messrs. Webbe, Murphy, Cowell, and Maleseed, with Mr. Sewell at the piano.

WEST PERTH.

On the evening of the 22nd July, the West Perth Branch held its annual general meeting, at which there was a very representative gathering from both the Federal and State Services. The mem­bership, which now reached the numerical magnitude of approximately 600, swells its ranks with a greater proportion of offi­cials whose duties take them outside the metropolis, and it is unfortunate that those members cannot attend the regular meetings of the committee, and all cases must be put up through them by fore presentation to the committee for the desired action. There had been numerous cases brought before the Branch with only one half of the facts. The executive of the Branch had, unfortunately, gone to some length with matters, which, had they been seized with all the facts, would have otherwise been dropped. Procedure of the Branch renders neither color nor prestige to the League, and has a tendency to chill the present goodwill in the quarters that matter. Barking up the wrong tree gets us nowhere. In view of these few facts, the advisability of elect­ing a strong committee to carry on the strenuous duties that will be reposed in them cannot be stressed too strongly.

In welcoming Mr. T. A. L. Davey, M.L.A., for West Perth, and honorary solicitor to the League, the president said we were fortunate in having such a member, who devoted so much time to the cause of the soldier. Mr. Davey treats his position as one of duty, and had always been willing, when called upon, to place the affairs of the Digger before any other matter which might claim his attention. The soldier, he states, is his best client; luckily, those with whom he has come in contact have always proved so. The best, under everything a Digger is supposed not to be.

Eustwhile President, Mr. A. D. Thrush, had to relinquish his duties to the Branch and proceed to Melbourne under medi-
The toast of the Federal Service was proposed by Mr. Henderson, of the Worker's Homes Board, and suitably responded to by Mr. Gratwick, of the Federal Attorney General's Department. Mr. McCleary toasted the State Service, and was replied to by Mr. Hogan, of the Lands Department.

The election of officers placed laurels on the retiring executive, inasmuch as it was decided to practically retain in their posts the principal officers:—President, Mr. F. J. McAdam; vice-president, Messrs. R. Tyler and G. H. Philip; secretary, Mr. H. Percy Clark; assistant secretary, N. Beckley; publicity officer, J. W. Scott; auditors, W. G. Greenwood, and J. J. B. Walton; and committee, Messrs. P. G. Miller, B. McCleary, L. J. Parks, G. McKeown, E. Kingsla, and C. Townsend.

At the conclusion of the business for the evening, refreshments and harmony were provided in the usual manner accorded smoke social functions. Thus was passed another milestone in the history of the West Perth Branch.

FREMANTLE.

The Fremantle Branch of the League has gained three great victories during the past few weeks, which will mean great financial benefit to three of its members. After a long and hard fight they were responsible for obtaining a pension of £2 2s. per week for Mr. E. Sheridan, with a large sum of retrospective pension; also a pension of £1 1s. per week for Mr. W. Sheridan, with a considerable sum of retrospective pension. They also obtained an increase in pension of from 10s. per week to £2 2s. per week for Mr. W. S. Owen.

These achievements reflect great credit upon the officials of the Branch, who have proved themselves great fighters in the cause of those who need assistance.

CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE.

At the fortnightly meeting of the above Branch, held on the 2nd August, the President, on behalf of the Branch, welcomed Mr. Jackman, who for many years had taken a deep interest in the Amelioration Fund, and worked hard on behalf of the diggers of the district.

A presentation of an illuminated address, framed, and signed by members, was made to Mr. Jackman, who was much touched by the unexpected gift, said that his work had been a labour of love, for the distressed, and he thought that it was only his duty to do what he had done, should be publicised from taking part in the Great War.

He would still take great interest in the diggers, and the framed address, hanging on his wall, would remind him that there was still something for him to do.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

The Women's Auxiliary of this branch met at the Council Chambers on the 2nd of August for the purpose of re-organising. The president of the sub-branch gave the ladies a cordial welcome and said that the branch was extremely pleased to know that they were again united and intended to get to work. The branch could not do without them. He trusted that they would come together more in the future for the mutual benefit of both.

The ladies then got to work and elected officers for the ensuing year. After preliminary discussion it was decided to hold a re-union during the first week in September, when it is hoped that a good muster will take place, and that members will get to know each other better.

NAREMBEE.

Owing to the many counter attractions, the Branch cancelled the building fund to be held on 30th July, and held instead a well-attended general meeting on the 1st, when permission was obtained from the Commissioner of Police to hold a fete in aid of local charities, also that Mr. P. A. Connolly had donated £10 towards the Branch's building fund. The Branch membership is steadily increasing and the Secretary and Mr. A. S. Webb are arranging a tour of adjacent localities in order to hold meet ings to rope in more members.

An entertainment is to be held on Saturday, 20th August, to augment the building fund, and it is expected that a similar evening will be held at Emu Hill on Saturday, 27th Aug. The meeting night has been altered to take place on the last Friday of every month, the next to take place on 28th August next. All members are urged to attend to discuss, among other things, matters in connection with the club which is going to be built.

PERTH.

The general monthly meeting of the Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L. was held at the Soldiers' Institute on Tuesday, the 9th inst., and was well attended.

It was resolved to call a special general meeting on August 6th to deal with a circular from the State Executive, re the proposed R.S.L. Club, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will endeavour to attend and discuss the suggestions already received in connection with this project.

A special general meeting has also been called for September 6th, which is to enable members to discuss the agenda paper for the 11th annual congress, and also to elect their delegates.

As the preliminary arrangements for Diggers' Day 1927 are now in hand, the following were elected as a Diggers' Fair committee—Messrs. Lennon, Longmore, Buckingham, Cox, O'Keefe, Hunt, Fitzpatrick and Todd.

A letter was received from a member expressing appreciation of the manner in which he had been handled, and of the fact that he had been granted three years' arrears of pension by the Repatriation Department as a result of the representations made by this Sub-Branch.
Mt. BARKER.

The annual general meeting of the Mount Barker Sub-branch of the R.S.L. was held at the Memorial Clubhouse on July 21, the President (Mr. T. G. Sounness) presiding over an attendance of 28 members. The following extracts from Secretary Percy Gillam’s report are of interest:-

"I feel sure that after perusing the balance sheet, members will realise the affairs of the Branch are in a healthy condition. It is essential that this aspect of affairs be kept well before us, because while we are in a flourishing condition, we are better able to carry out the work of attending to the welfare of our members and comrades and their dependents. In addition, to the confidence of our supporters — the public — who are employers of labour. It is not intended, however, to convey the impression that everything is as it should be. Far from it. It is to be regretted that there are still a large number of our fellow ex-soldiers in good positions who are not members of our Association. They do not know what work there is to be done for those who are unable to fight their own battles, particularly in regard to employment, relief, and establishing claims for medical treatment and pensions for war disabilities, which in many cases are only now developing themselves.

"A great deal of work has been accomplished by this Branch in connection with pensions appeals and obtaining medical boards for soldiers not satisfied with examinations; most cases of late affairs have been kept well before us, because while we are in a flourishing condition, we are better able to carry out the work of attending to the welfare of our members and comrades and their dependents. In addition, to the confidence of our supporters — the public — who are employers of labour. It is not intended, however, to convey the impression that everything is as it should be. Far from it. It is to be regretted that there are still a large number of our fellow ex-soldiers in good positions who are not members of our Association. They do not know what work there is to be done for those who are unable to fight their own battles, particularly in regard to employment, relief, and establishing claims for medical treatment and pensions for war disabilities, which in many cases are only now developing themselves.

"Anzac Day is being at last recognised as a statutory holiday. The Sub-Branch appreciates the grand attendance of the public at this service, which tends to show that Anzac Day is becoming the Scrd Sunday in the year.

"Library.—We decided to add a circulating library as a benefit and attraction to our members, also the public, and although in its infancy, members are eagerly availing themselves of the books as they come along. I particularly wish to convey hearty appreciation to our old comrade, Mr. "Billy" Milions, for his careful attention at all times to the wants of our readers.

"Show.—A pleasant addition to our finance this year was the amount of £2/7s. 1d., our share of the profit from the Industrial Show held on Armistice Day, 1925, in conjunction with Mr. Hockley, secretary of the Show Ground Improvement Fund, and to whom we owe a good deal of thanks.

"Re-Union.—This needs no comment, being a recent happening and a complete success, and we appreciate the company of the executive representatives, Messrs. Benson and Riley, also our Albany and Cranbrook visitors, who travelled a long way in response to invitations, and went home thoroughly satisfied with the Mount Barker Sub-Branch efforts to make them welcome.

"This meeting will also decide items for the agenda next meeting. Mr. T. G. Sounness was re-elected President, Mr. S. James, Vice-President, and P. Gillam Secretary and Treasurer. The President and Vice-President, having each already served for three years, and the Secretary for four years, thanked members for their confidence in re-electing them to the positions mentioned. At the end of June, the Mount Barker Sub-Branch was as strong. At the present time there are 96 members on the books of the Branch and only one prospective member in sight. The Secretary (Mr. Gillam) is hopeful that the membership of the Branch will reach the century mark this next term.

THE EYES ARE THE WINDOWS OF THE SOUL.

The sense in which the above aphorism is generally used is that the eyes are the windows through which one may look into the soul, the character of the latter being clearly expressed therein. But the phrase may also be used in the sense that the eyes are the windows through which the soul looks forth upon the world, gaining information, and from information gained, to a large extent forming character. If the eyes are faulty, the character is thereby affected. It would appear then that not only does efficiency depend upon correct vision, but, in some measure, character as well. Call on Mr. B., The Optician, 263 Murray-street, Perth. You cannot afford to handicap yourself with unnecessary imperfections. Have your eyes tested at once.
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THE MEN WHO MISS THE TRAIN.

I loaf aron' the deepo just to see the Pullman scoot,
An' see the people scamper w'en they hear the engine too;
But what makes the most impression on my somwhat active brain

Is the careless men who git there jest in time to miss the train.
An' some cuss the railroad comp'ny, an' some loudly piss their stars,
An' some jest gallop down the track an' try to catch the cars;
An' some with a loud laff and joke will poulitice up their pain.
Var'us kin's er people get there jest in time to miss the train.
An' there is many deepos an' flag-stations 'thout name.

Along the Grand Trunk railroad that leads to wealth and fame;
An' men rush to these deepos as fast as they can fly.
As the train of Opportunity jest goes a-thunderin' by.
They rush down to the station with their hair all stood on end,
As the platform of the tail-end car goes whirlin' round the bend;
An' some men groan an' cry aloud, an' some conceal their pain.
W'en they find that they have got there jest in time to miss the train.
The Grand Trunk Railroad of Success, it runs through every clime.
But the cars of Opportunity they go on schedule time.
An' never are their brakes reversed; they won't back up again.
To take the men who got there jest in time to miss the train.

—Sam Walter Foss.

Back from Canberra and looking well, ex-President, Charlie Massey. Charlie gives a very interesting account of his trip. When asked if he had brought back any souvenirs, he stated that he had purchased a shop where souvenirs were displayed, a utility knife, with a very nice inlaid portrait of the Duke and Duchess on the handle. On opening same, he was surprised to see "Made in Germany" on the blade!

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