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THE MENACE OF THE ALIEN.

A few months ago, the writer, among others, spent an afternoon in the company of an American visitor, who is Professor of Education at Columbia University. A charming and interesting personality, the Professor displayed none of that reticence and studious avoidance of shop-talk, which characterises the Briton. On the other hand, he talked eagerly and interestingly about his special work, which is practically research work on education in its relationship to modern economic problems; and not the least of these problems is the Americanisation of the immigrant.

The immigrant rarely shows up to advantage upon his arrival in a new country, but the Professor assured us that this does not militate against his usefulness as a citizen, and that his children and their children will present no marked differences in type from the native born. They attend American schools, dress like Americans, refuse to speak the language of their parents, preferring English, Anglicise—or, as they would say, Americanise—their names, “intermarry with Americans, and are intensely proud of their American citizenship. The brumette complexion may prevail among their offspring, but then the ‘bruntette’ type is not unusual among those of undoubtedly pure British stock. America, we were informed, would be very glad to get the type of immigrant that Australia is receiving.

Well, it sounded very nice and soothing over the tea-cups (the Professor took tea, and did not turn his absence from the land of Prohibition into an alcohol holiday), and we realised as we never had before the true significance of the phrase, “America, the melting-pot of the nations.” However, with all due deference to our distinguished visitor, the writer was only partly convinced. America, as a people, are not fussy; otherwise they could not be so self-satisfied. Nevertheless, it is but a few short years since the American press was protesting against the system of allowing immigrants to enter the country more rapidly than they could be assimilated, and deplored the fact that the population of the United States is little more than fifty per cent. Anglo Saxon.

The journalist, by the very nature of his calling, becomes a shrewd observer, and a widely-read man. In American press circles, the university man is the rule rather than the exception, and, while he may not have had the highly specialised training of the professional scientist, he gets about more, comes into daily contact with more varied types of people, so that, taken in the mass, his evidence may not be lightly discounted.

If the American is to be believed, foreign immigrants do isolate themselves and remain foreign communities in the land of their adoption, a tendency, which, by the way, is also noticeable in Australia. In parts of New York City the public notices are printed in two, and sometimes three, languages, while newspapers are published in Italian, Yiddish, and German. A large proportion of the criminal element, notably the bootlegger and the gunman, is of foreign and non-British extraction. The large German element in the States (somewhere about twenty millions) was mainly responsible for America’s over-late entry into the World War. All the available evidence seems to point to the fact that, the Americanisation of the immigrant is neither as rapid nor as thorough as enthusiasts would have us believe, and this is especially true of the Southern European.

These matters are, and should be, of interest to Australians. The tightening up of the American immigration laws, the quota system, and so on, have made the United States less accessible to the Southern European, and consequently the countries affected have been turning their eyes towards our empty Continent as a potential dumping ground for the surplus of their populations. Already the influx of Mediterranean peoples has given grave concern to various public bodies, political, social and industrial. Perhaps the most ominous sign of the times is the attitude of these people in looking upon their entry into our country as a right rather than as a concession. Our country must be developed and populated, and is a crying need, but that is not to say that we should accept everything that offers. The Southern European may be a good worker, thrifty, and industrious, as his apologists assert—possibly his redeeming feature is that he is more subservient than the Australian—but that is no reason why we should admit him to the detriment of our own people; and when we speak of our own people we include our good friend and kinsman, the Pommy. Let us state, in passing, that the expression “Pommy” is used in no derogatory sense, but as a generic term, even as we apply the words “Digger” and “Aussie” to ourselves.

We have started our history with greater advantages than the Americans. We have no large coloured population living cheek by jowl with us, and we are a homogeneous race, well over ninety per cent. British. Why should we not maintain our racial purity? Scientists assert that the Latin and Nordic races may intermarry without detrimental effects, in the biological sense, to the resultant. This is, no doubt, true of individual cases situated in favourable circumstances, but can Australia afford to test the theory on a large scale? America possesses schools for the Americanisation of the immigrant, and large business firms in the States conduct Americanisation classes for their employ-
ees. Australia has none of these things. The foreigners we import are dumped into the country where they live as communities apart. They are, for the most part, people possessing lower standards of living than our own, and it will take a longer time than Australia can afford to wait for them to be assimilated, even were they the type with whom the better type of Australian would feel inclined to intermarry.

No doubt our attitude in this matter, like our White Australia Policy, is a selfish one. But there is such a thing as enlightened selfishness, a selfishness of the type that causes a father to maintain a home exclusively for his own family instead of throwing it open to all and sundry, regardless of their moral and social fitness to enter it. It is all very well to state, as Mr. Bruce did to the Innisfail cane-cutters, that the Italians were a great and highly cultured people when our ancestors were barbarians. "The present-day Italian immigrant is not, the Italian of the Renaissance, and his Greek counterpart is not the Hellenic of Pericles' Age, and to throw Di Vinci and Michael Angelo in the teeth of Australian workingman, is as futile and unjust as it would be to compare statesman like Pitt and Edmund Burke with the average modern politician. It has yet to be proved that the Southern European is as good a worker as the Briton. He is too prone to live in separate communities, to use the knife in his quarrel resorting to private justice instead of abiding by the law of the land. In some cases even his white-ness is not above suspicion. People like the Maltese, and others whose lands had been overrun by the Saracen, have a strong tincture of the Moor and the African in their blood, and are shandy-gaff rather than white. Not a little of the trouble in the Queensland sugar districts has been due to racial feeling. Similar trouble have occurred in South Australia and in our own State. The main social and economic aspects of the case are enunciated in items which have been submitted by two sub-branches of the R.S.L., Perth and Fremantle, and which appear on the Agenda Paper of the forthcoming State Congress. That submitted by Perth is rather more comprehensive, and reads: "Congress views with alarm the influx of Southern Europeans, and considers that an undue proportion of such immigrants tends to lower the standard of Australian living conditions, and to weaken the ties of the Empire. Therefore, it affirms the desirability of the Commonwealth being populated with British stock; furthermore, it requests the Federal Executive to approach the Commonwealth Government to either considerably reduce the present influx, or better still, suspend it entirely."

The item from Fremantle draws attention to the large amount of unemployment throughout the country, and continues in similar strain. It does seem a deplorable situation that so many foreigners are arriving in Australia at a time when so many men of our own race are finding it difficult to secure employment. Conditions like this breed Bolshevism, and they could easily be eliminated. Just as the householder has the right to decide who shall enter his doors and dwell under his roof, so it is the inalienable right of every country to decide who shall live within its territory, and all thinking Australians must deplore the likelihood that any supineness on the part of the Federal Government should lay up further and future troubles for our already over-cumbered posterity.

AUSTRALIAN PERFORMING RIGHTS ASSOCIATION.

Recently, at the suggestion of the Victorian Branch of the League, a letter was addressed to the Attorney-General, asking if the Australian Performing Rights Association had power to charge License Fees for Memorial Halls, to which the following reply has been received:

"I am directed by the Attorney-General to acknowledge receipt of your letter herein of the 29th July, 1927, and to inform you that the Attorney-General has summarized the legal position as follows:

'No owner of a hall incurs any liability under the law of copyright merely because he is the owner of a hall in which a copyright piece of music has been performed. He would be liable only if he authorised the performance of copyright music without consent of the owner, i.e., if he arranged or controlled the programme; or if he, for his private profit, permitted the hall to be used for the performance of a particular piece of music without the consent of the owner of the copyright."

'The ordinary letting of a hall for a concert or dance, without any knowledge, supervision or control of the programme, does not involve the owner in any liability, in:

'Of course, in all cases, the actual performer of a piece of music is liable for infringement of copyright committed by him.'

"The Attorney-General is at present discussing the matter with the Australian Performing Rights Association and hopes that the result will be that an adjustment of the matter will be made upon reasonable terms.

"An International Conference for the reconstruction and revision of the International Copyright Convention will be held at Rome in October next. At this conference, this question will be 'open for discussion, and arrangements have been made for effective Australian representation.'"
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

31/8/27.


Federal Executive: 12th Annual Congress.—The Federal Executive advised that the 12th Annual Congress of the League would take place in Brisbane on the 7th November, 1927, commencing at 10 a.m.

Federal President.—The letter also requested this State Branch's nomination for the year 1928. Capt. G. J. C. Dyett was the only nomination.

Agenda.—Regarding items for the agenda for Congress, it was decided that the matter stand over until after the State Congress.

Australian Performing Rights Association.—The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a communication received from the Attorney-General, giving the opinion as to the right of this Association to charge license fees for Memorial Halls.

It was decided that publicity be given to this matter.

Egg Export.—Following a communication addressed to the Federal Executive, concerning the exportation of eggs, a letter was received from the General Secretary, advising what had taken place at the interview between him and the Department of Markets and Migration. The letter was received.

Invitation.—The Victoria Park sub-branch issued an invitation to the members of the Executive to attend their Smoke Social, to be held on the 2nd September. Messrs. Lennon, Tyler, Philp and Bader signified their intention of being present.

Letter of Appreciation.—Mrs. (——) forwarded a letter of appreciation on behalf of herself and husband for the efforts of the League in obtaining the permission.

New Sub-branches.—Approval was granted for the formation of the Nedlands Park sub-branch.

Mr. Watt reported that he was endeavouring to form a sub-branch of the League at Mt. Hawthorn.

Mr. Philp reported similarly in connection with South Perth.

 Forrest Drive Honor Avenue.—The Perth sub-branch drew the attention of the Executive to the fact that the King's Park Board was charging relatives of deceased soldiers the amount of 4/- for the planting of a tree in the 3rd Honor Avenue in Forrest Drive. The sub-branch requested the Executive to take action in the direction of having this charge reduced.

Figures were produced, showing the cost of completing the drive, and several members pointed out the difficulties under which the King's Park Board were working, the Government subsidy merely paying the wages.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Yeates, that the letter be received, and the Perth branch be informed that this Executive cannot see any way out of the difficulty.—Carried.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Len-

Donation of Land.—Colonel Collett stated that a gentleman who did not wish to reveal his identity had offered the League, as a gift, four to six acres of land at Mahogany Creek, provided it be used for the benefit of returned soldiers or their dependents.

It was decided that the land committee be asked to inspect this land, and report to the Executive thereon.

Migration.—The Secretary reported having communicated with the Minister for Migration concerning the two ex-soldiers who had been encouraged to emigrate to Australia by Burton's Oversea Information Bureau. The Minister had replied that he would do all he could to discourage the sending of migrants to this State on false pretences. The letter was received.

REPORTS.

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

In it, he stated that Mr. Cantwell, late President of the Murray sub-branch, had been accidentally killed. It was decided...
that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow.

House Committee.—The report of the House Committee meeting, held on the 30th August, was received and adopted.

Club Committee.—The report of the combined meeting of the House and Club Committee, concerning the future of the Soldiers' Institute, was read.

Moved and seconded that discussion be deferred for one fortnight, and delegates be supplied with a copy of the report.

Lost.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Cor- nell, seconded by Mr. Yeates, that all recom- mendations in the report be adopted, other than that regarding the deputation to the Premier, the Club Committee to wait upon the Premier and ascertain his views regarding the land in Irwin-street.

Carried.

Migrant.—Mr. Pady delivered a report on his activities at Fremantle in meeting several boats from England, and interviewing migrants.

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 17th August was received and adopted.

Soldier Settlement.—The Secretary read the report of an interview he had had with the Minister for Lands, at which the Premier had agreed to include those ex-A.I.F. men settled since the termination of the Commonwealth Agreement within the Soldier Settlement Scheme, and those with Qualification Certificates taking up land in the future. I.A.R. assistance would also be provided.—The report was received and adopted.

Entertainment of Congress Delegates.—It was decided that a committee be formed to arrange suitable entertainments for delegates at Congress. Rabbi Freedman, Messrs. Tyler and Bader were appointed.

Kalamunda Road.—Mr. Shaw mentioned that the Kalamunda-Belmont road was in a bad state, and suggested that a committee be formed to inspect it and report back to the Executive.—Messrs. Bader Longmore, and Shaw were elected.

Visiters.—Opportunity was then taken by the President to welcome General Press, Colonel Semmens and Mr. C. P. Smith, of the "West Australian." 15/9/27.

There were only four absentees from the State Executive meeting, held on Wednesday, 14th September, over which Colonel Collett presided. The absentees were Rev. E. H. O. Nye, Messrs. J. Kane, W. H. Logie, and J. Cornell, M.L.C. Rev. Nye has recently been on the sick list, and, consequently, has a lot of church work to overtake, whilst the breezy president of Workshops sub-branch (Mr. J. Kane) has also been in the doctor's hands, through an old war injury making itself felt again. Bill Logie is away in the country doing good work for the League, whilst Mr. J. Cornell, M.L.C., has been paying one of his frequent visits to the enlightened electors of the South-East Province.

Villers-Bretonneux Memorial.

The correspondence included a descriptive letter from the Secretary of the Defence Department, giving particulars of the Australian War Memorial to be erected at Villers Bretonneux. These particulars will be published in the "Listening Post."

Pension Reviews.

The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a letter received from the Repatriation Commission, concerning the reported reviews of pensions in Western Australia, and stating that these were carried out by a travelling medical board during February and March last. The commission stated that a great number of such cases had been favourably reviewed, but it was obviously out of the question for the Commission to investigate all the files. It suggested that if the League would supply the names of cases which have not been reviewed on appeal, further consideration will be given.

R.S.L. Reports.

The Director of the Australian War Memorial Library wrote, asking for a complete list of R.S.L. Reports from State branches, to be included in the records of the War Library. It was desired to preserve such a library an "After the War" record of A.I.F. men.

Migration.

The chairman of the Development and Migration Commission wrote concerning the class of migrant who was repatriated to the Homeland at the cost of the Government. This letter is published elsewhere. The General Secretary, Mr. E. J. Dibdin, forwarded a request from the Migration Commission, asking for very full particulars concerning ex-Imperial soldiers registered at the R.S.L. Employment Bureau. The State Secretary said that so many particulars were desired that a special card would have to be provided for ex-Imperial men.

Invitations.

Invitations were received from Coolup sub-branch for the State Secretary to attend the annual dinner on November 12th. Mr. Benson intimated that it would be possible for him to accept. Bridge- town sub-branch forwarded an invitation for the State President, Secretary, Vice- Presidents Riley and Nye, and J. Cornell, M.L.C., to a re-union dinner to be held at the latter end of November or beginning of December. The matter was left in the hands of the President.
Mr. W. A. Cadwallader, Secretary of the recently-formed Wubin, Buntine, and Jibbarding Sub-Branch, forwarded a request that the State President and Secretary attend a smoke social at the end of October. This matter was also left in the hands of the President.

Letters of appreciation were received from Mr. A. Harwood, of Bellevue, and Mrs. Deacon.

**Anzac Day.**—The Secretary of the Premier's Department (Mr. L. E. Shapcott) forwarded a letter, suggesting that as the Premier was pretty busy with big events at Kalgoorlie and Esperance, followed by Parliamentary duties, it would be much better to have the League's representations concerning Anzac Day set out in letter form, considerable delay being saved by following this course. It was decided to leave the preparation of the League's requirements until Mr. Cornell returned from the country.

**Honour Avenue.**

Mr. H. L. Kirke, Secretary of the West Guildford sub-branch, wrote suggesting that such appeals as the West Perth branch were making for donations towards the upkeep of the Honour Avenue, in King's Park, should come from the State Executive. The letter was received.

**A Problem Case.**

The Secretary of Kalgoorlie sub-branch, Mr. T. C. Fairley, wrote concerning the case of a family which had been very materially assisted by the State Executive whilst on the coast, and who had returned to Kalgoorlie. The father, an ex-soldier, however, had suffered a serious relapse, with the result that Kalgoorlie must now be called upon to expend monies on the family's maintenance. This is, undoubtedly, a problem case, and the Executive agreed that the matter be left with the State Secretary to approach the Repatriation Department.

**Medical Examinations.**—The Kojonup sub-branch forwarded a resolution concerning the necessity for medical examination of all ex-soldiers, with the view to locating and arresting disease, which, in many cases, would remain undiscovered until too late for treatment. The State Secretary pointed out that one of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the assessment of war disabilities urged the desirability of encouraging all ex-soldiers to appear for medical examination so that their state of health may be recorded. It was decided on the resolution of Mr. Bader, seconded Mr. Yeates, that the Kojonup sub-branch be asked to introduce this matter as a notice of motion at Congress.

**Soldier's Institute.**

The Secretary submitted the draft agreement prepared by the League's solicitor, Mr. T. A. L. Davy, for the transfer of the Soldiers' Institute buildings to the Returned Soldiers' League. The agreement was referred to the house committee for inspection, and the State President authorised to finalise the agreement.

**White City.**

The National Council of Women, in a circular, requested the League to send two representatives to a meeting to be held on September 19th, to formulate recommendations for the abolition of White City. The letter was received.

**Presentation from Earl Haig.**

A letter was received from Mr. Donald by courtesy and intimacy and Mr. T. A. L. Davy, for the transfer of the Soldiers' Institute buildings to the Returned Soldiers' League. The agreement was referred to the house committee for inspection, and the State President authorised to finalise the agreement.

**State Secretary's Report.**

The State Secretary read an interesting report of the work of the office staff for the preceding fortnight, and, in conclusion, took the opportunity of thanking the State President and delegates for their courtesy and much helpful advice throughout the year, which had facilitated the work of the staff, and made the office duties a pleasure. The report was adopted, and, at the instance of Mr. Peter Wedd, a hearty vote of appreciation was accorded members of the Executive staff for their continued loyal and efficient services.

**Land Committee.**

Mr. A. Yeates (chairman) submitted a report of the land committee, containing a recommendation consequent upon a visit paid to a soldier settler at Lion Mill. The recommendation, which will be forwarded to the Agricultural Bank authorities, suggests that the settler's request to defer accrued charges for six months, and, in the meantime, to keep interest charges paid, be accepted. The committee also reported on a block of land at Mahogany Creek, which was offered to the League by an anonymous donor, and recommended that, as the League had no prospect of embarking on any venture which might bring the land into use, the offer be not proceeded with. At the instance of Mr. G. H. Philip, seconded by Mr. C. L. Riley, a very hearty vote of thanks and appreciation was passed for the services rendered by the land committee during its term of office.

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Federal Congress Delegates.

An election, by an exhaustive ballot, for representation of this branch at the Federal Congress, to commence in Brisbane on November 7th, resulted in Rev. E. H. O. Nye and Mr. C. Longmore being appointed, with Rev. C. L. Riley as emergency President’s Thanks.

At the conclusion of the business for the evening, the State President, Colonel H. B. Collett, tendered his personal thanks to delegates for the assistance rendered to him during the year, and expressed his appreciation of the happy relations existing at Executive meetings. It was decided to record the thanks of the Executive to all standing sub-committees.

THE FEDERAL CONGRESS.

Western Australia this year will be represented by the Rev. E. H. O. Nye and Mr. C. Longmore at the Federal Congress to commence in Brisbane on November 7th. There are no two harder working delegates than the two above-named at the Western Headquarters of the League. Whenever a Committee is for some particularly delicate job, Messrs. Nye and Longmore are always two of the first thought of. They enjoy the confidence of co-delegates and have certainly merited the same feelings of respect from the general diggers of the State. Both are keen debaters, fluent speakers, with well-informed minds, and will not doubt enhance the prestige of this Branch amongst comrades in the East.

STATE CONGRESS.

The State Executive of the League has decided that only His Excellency the Governor (Sir William Campion) will address delegates this year. The visitors usually invited will be asked to attend a Smoke Social at the Soldiers’ Institute on Wednesday, September 28th, at which the Premier (Hon. P. Collier) will be the principal guest. Congress proceedings will open at 10 a.m. and after the usual formalities the State President (Colonel H. B. Collett) will deliver his address. His Excellency’s visit is timed for 11 a.m. and His Worship the Mayor of Perth, Mr. J. T. Franklin, has expressed his intention to invite delegates to a civic reception at 12 noon. Sir Thomas Coombe, with his usual courtesy, has intimated that he again desires to welcome the visiting delegates to the Prince of Wales Theatre on Thursday, the 29th instant, and it is hoped to arrange for complimentary tickets from the Football Association and the Trotting Association for the visitors on Saturday, 1st October.

NEWDEGATE CUP.

The Newdegate Cup Committee, consisting of Major-General Sir J. Talbot Hobbs, Colonel Collett and the Rev. C. L. Riley, met on Tuesday, 13th instant, and made an exhaustive comparison between the competitors for this year’s Newdegate Cup. The Committee’s decision will be made known at the State Congress. There were six starters this year and the prize was keenly contested.

A.I.F. MEN HOLDING QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

At a recent meeting of the State Executive the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) reported that in conjunction with Mr. E. A. McLarty, he had had an interview with the Minister for Lands (Mr. M. F. Troy, M.L.A.), pointing out that the Minister, under Mr. T. Angwin, had given definite promises to honor the qualifying certificates issued to A.I.F. men for inclusion within the Soldier Settlement Scheme, but who, since the cessation of the Commonwealth Agreement, had had their applications rejected. The State Secretary pointed out that the League had been promised “that all concessions allowed in respect to previous inclusions within the Soldier Settlement Scheme would be approved to such qualified men. Mr. E. A. McLarty, the Managing Trustee of the Agricultural Bank, confirmed the information of the R.S.L. State Secretary. Mr. Troy promptly and frankly declared that he would honour to the full all such requests. He thereupon gave Mr. McLarty authority to proceed to include within the S.S.S. all A.I.F. soldiers in possession of qualification certificates who had been settled on Crown Lands since the termination of the agreement in 1925. I.A.B. assistance will be allowed together with reduction in application fees. The Minister also promised to consider and put up to Cabinet the proposal that monies now accumulated at the State Treasury consequent upon principal repayments by soldier settlers, and which monies were not due to the Commonwealth, should be used and applied for the settlement of A.I.F. soldiers on farming properties. The Minister also promised the State Secretary that so soon as land East and South of Kondinin was classified and surveyed, he would consider a proposal from the League to reserve a portion of this land for the balance of A.I.F. men who desired to proceed with their applications and who are in possession of qualifying certificates. It was stated at the Executive Meeting that this was probably one of the most important proposals the League had ever advised, and all delegates agreed with the State President when he said that we were progressing and undoubtedly doing something for our members, as well as for those who were not yet included in the League’s membership roll. Sub-Branch Secretaries are urged to pass this information along to men on Crown Lands in their districts, and who obviously will be very vitally affected by the information set out herein.

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AUSTRALIAN AUTHORS' WEEK

With a view to stimulating public interest in what is being written and published in our own country, the Retail Booksellers Association have held, throughout Australia, an Australian Authors' Week; and the various Education Departments have co-operated by setting aside a day on which special lessons on Australian literature were given in the State schools. Though the movement is rather belated, the intention and the plan of operation are worthy of the greatest commendation.

The Australian is a great reader and a producer as well. In fact, it is impossible to throw a stone in any of our city streets without hitting someone who has written or attempted to write verse. He has a sublime faith in the literature and the writers of his own country. An illustration of this is to be found in the joke at our expense which appeared in one of the English papers during the War. Several officers, British and Australian, were discussing the decadence of modern literature. One of the Australians stated quite seriously: "Yes, I agree with you, but it doesn't suppose there are as many as three men on the Sydney 'Bulletin' at present who could write a thing like 'Hamlet.'" But faith without deeds avails little. Our own writers remain neglected, while our bookshops are stocked with novels and magazines from overseas, many of them good, the bulk of them trash.

Recently we have had two indications as to how little is known by the average Australian of his own country's literature. A plebiscite conducted by the Melbourne "Argus," inviting readers to place Australian prose and verse writers in order of popularity was rather illuminating. In each section the older and better known writers headed the list, not because they were the more popular, but more probably because they were the first names that occurred to the man in the street. Similarly, if the average Englishman were asked to name his country's most popular novelists, he would name Dickens, Thackeray, and possibly H. G. Wells, and there he would stick.

The "West Australian," whose literary pages bear evidence of sound scholarship and wide reading on the part of that paper's literary staff, recently contained a personal par on the death of G. G. Macrae, Victoria's veteran poet.

The paragraph omitted all reference to Hugh and Dorothy Frances Macrae, who rank high in the list of Australian poets. When things like this occur in the "West," what can be expected of the general public, for "If gold shall rust, then what will iron do?"

The unpleasant fact remains that even with the best of intentions, the Australian knows little of Australian literature. He is familiar with the works of a few of our better known poets, and the film has aroused an interest in Marcus Clarke, but there the matter ends. We have before us an adventure story forwarded by a local bookseller, giving a tabulated list of works by Australian writers. Every department of literature is represented—poetry, the novel, science, history, travel, and belles lettres. It represents a noble achievement of which any country, particularly a young country like ours, may be justly proud, but with the exception of some volumes of verse, and a novel or two, the works mentioned, especially the historical and the scientific, are better known outside Australia than within the Commonwealth.

Why is this? We cannot blame the Education Departments. It is the fashion nowadays to blame the teacher for everything, and to expect him to take responsibility off the shoulders of parents by teaching everything, from the higher morality down to table manners, and the rules of safety first in the streets. In every State, the school readers and school magazines contain selections from the works of our better known writers. The writer of this article made his first acquaintance with Lawson, Daley and Patterson in the pages of the school reader. The press cannot be blamed. Most Australian papers welcome, and pay for contributions, from local writers. "The Bulletin" did the pioneering work that built up a school of prose and short story writers, and even like Larrissi to the dramatist, and Dale Collins, the novelist, who are doing big work in London, served their apprenticeship as "Bulletin" contributors.

Neither is it the fault of the publishers. More than a generation has passed since Angus and Robertson published collected editions of poems of Lawson, Patterson, Daly, Dyson, and others. And what the "Bulletin" and Angus and Robertson have done for the poet and short story writer, the New South Wales Bookstall Co. has done for the novelist. It is pleasing to note in passing that the latest publication issued by the Bookstall Co. is a short brochure in memory of the late A. C. Rowlandson, that genial and kindly personality who founded the firm which gave many a budding novelist his first chance.

As it is feared that the bookseller himself is most to blame for the prevalent lack of knowledge regarding Australian literature. He does not run his business as a charitable concern, and when it pays him to push the sales of a best seller from overseas, the magnum opus of the local writer goes into the basement. It is, therefore, a matter for jubilation when the Retailers' Association take the matter in hand, as they are doing at present, and we hope the Association will not mind us suggesting that the best way to stimulate interest in Australian literature is to make every week an Australian Authors' Week.
PERSONALITIES.

At the last State Executive meeting it was decided to convey the sympathy of delegates to Mr. J. Kane, who has been seriously ill of late owing to the recurrence of a war disability. Mr. Kane was a Prisoner of War for a long time and experienced something of the Hut's hospitality.

Up from Needilup to have soldier settlers' affairs adjusted, Mr. A. O. Wilkinson, who waved the flags with the 1st Div. Sig. Co., and landed at the Peninsula with the 2nd Infantry Brigade. Old members of the 1st Divisional Signallers will be interested to hear that "Wilkie" still cultivates the hair on the chin, which in these days is not such a risky job as knocking around Gallipoli Hills with whiskers of the same hue as Jacko's. "Tony," as he is familiarly called, has a nodding acquaintance and some blood connection with some of the "Brass Hats" of the Old Country, who, however, would not recognise their offspring new located in a district where wheat and wool are the principal topics of conversation.

Bill Armstrong of Cranbrook, R.S.L., has recently been in Perth to consult a specialist for eye trouble. We sincerely hope that the gloomy predictions of the "Quack" will not be realised and that Bill's optic will still continue to show him the best side of life.

William Meiklejohn recently sold his farm at Kojonup, where he was a good member of the local sub-branch, and has purchased Counsel's tea-rooms in Forrest-place, Perth. We wish "Meikie," (who, by the way, served with the 2nd A.S.H., and later the 3rd L.H., Field Ambulance) every success in his new venture.

Captain Gee, V.C., who, it will be remembered, was the member of the English House of Commons, who, when on a health trip to Australia, had to be taken off the boat at Fremantle to enter a private hospital, is now a confirmed cocky. The Captain found that the climate of this State so suited him that he decided to remain, and took up virgin country in the Mendel Estate, along the old stock route. The life suits him, his health having greatly improved.

It came as a shock to his many friends recently to learn that Colonel Battye was suffering very seriously ill at his home in Subiaco. During his recent visit, Colonel Semmens, the Chairman of the Repat, in his capacity as chairman of the Soldiers' Children's Scholarship Trust since its inception. The large extent and the broad scope of this Trust is not largely known. It is doing a wonderful service and the thanks of the community, and returned soldiers in particular, are due to Charles Battye, in whose fertile brain the Trust was originated, and whose activities have largely been responsible for its success. We wish the Colonel a speedy recovery to health and activity.

Congratulations to Ernie Johnson, of the Repat., on beating the candidates from the whole Commonwealth in the final examination of the Federal Institute of Accountants.

State Executive delegates were anxious to get Colonel Collett to allow his name to be submitted for nomination for a further term as State President and passed a resolution requesting him to stand. The Colonel asked for a fortnight to consider the request, eventually deciding in the affirmative. This resolve delighted the delegates, as we know it has every member of the League in the State. Colonel Collett is the right man in the right place, and is making no small sacrifice for the League.

Mr. A. D. McDonald, who was president of the W.A. Branch of the Blinded Soldiers Association and also president of the North Perth sub-branch of the League, is now residing in Collie, where he purchased a general drapery and clothing store. Mac. will, no doubt, further solidify the State's premier sub-branch at the coal town.

When Wally Scott passed away in the Perth Hospital some weeks ago, the League lost a good member and Glenoran sub-branch a splendid president. Wally had seen service in the South-Afri-
can in addition to that of the Great War. The Glenoran sub-branch, at its last meeting, passed a resolution of sympathy with Mrs. Scott and her children in her great loss. Since Wally's death, his widow suffered a further bereavement, when her little son, aged about 3 years, was accidentally scalded and died. The little chap's remains were taken to Perth to be buried with those of his father. We join with our Glenoran friends in expressing sympathy with Mrs. Scott in her great trial.

Three distinguished guests were welcomed at the meeting of the State Executive held on August 31st, in the persons of General C. H. Jess, C.M.G., D.S.O., the State Commandant, Colonel J. M. Semmens, O.B.E., V.D., Chairman of the Repatriation Commission, and Mr. C. P. Smith, managing editor of the "West Australian."

General Jess, who is a member of the League, has created a fine impression in this State. Incidentally, in replying to the toast of his health, the General complimented the League on the high standard of its official organ.

Colonel Semmens, who was paying an official visit to the State, further enlightened delegates regarding Repat activities. The Colonel is personally popular in League Circles, where he is recognised as an able and benevolent administrator.

Mr. Smith, who was a war correspondent, came to us with a great reputation from the Victorian Branch of the League for his sympathetic activities on behalf of returned soldiers. Strangely enough, the three visitors had been close personal friends in the Victorian capital.

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**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

**PAYMENT OF RETURN PASSENGERS TO ENGLAND.**

The following communication has been received from the Federal Secretary (Mr. E. J. Dibdin).--

From time to time requests are received from State Branches, asking that an ex-Imperial soldier, who has migrated to Australia, be granted a free passage to England because he has been unable to secure employment in Australia or for other reasons, and a case was submitted to the Chairman of the Development and Migration Commission for consideration, to which the following reply was received:

"You inquire in your communication as to the general attitude of the Commission regarding the payment of the cost of passages to Great Britain in such cases. In reply, I am to inform you that it is not the practice of the Development and Migration Commission, nor was it the practice of the Commonwealth Immigration Office before the establishment of the Commission, to bear the cost of the repatriation to Great Britain of persons who proceed to Australia as full paying passengers. Financial responsibility is accepted by the Commission in the following cases only:--

'Where an assisted migrant is found within a period of twelve months of his arrival to be suffering from physical disability, which existed before he came to Australia, the Commonwealth has agreed with the State Governments to repatriate, where necessary, such migrants to Great Britain and to bear the cost thereof. Each case is dealt with on its merits, and a report is obtained from the Commonwealth Quarantine Medical Officer regarding the physical condition of the migrant and as to whether there is reasonable evidence that such condition was traceable to a condition which existed before the migrant came to Australia.'
VARIA.

The "West's" musical critic announces ("West Australian," 27/8/27) that Sir Henry Wood, the famous conductor, is publishing, through the Oxford University Press, a singing manual in four volumes, which is to be entitled "The Gentle Art." Sir Henry is quoted as calling the book a "must" and is going to "teach up" his Latin a little bit.

Two Perth flappers were discussing the visit of a well-known musician. "Are you going to see this Zimbalist?" asked Miss Mount Street. "I don't think so," answered Miss Nedlands. "These percussion instruments are all right enough in a jazz band, but I couldn't stick solos on them!"

Benjamin Buttonstick.—With regard to that "left-wing" of the Labour Party referred to in last month's editorial; seeing that it has been repudiated by bona-fide labourites, and in view of its main in Ravings on behalf of convicted criminals, would it not be more correct to call it the Hard-Labour Party?

The W.A. Country Women's Association recently complained about our magistrates' proneness to release convicted offenders on conditions that the city is not kept spotless. The complaint of these ladies is justified. Why should city crooks be let loose upon lonely and unprotected communities? This is an age when criminals are pampered at the expense of honest men, and while the law of experiments are being made to secure their reforma­tion, why should not magistrates try the very original and unusual experiment of sending a few of them to goal.

According to the "West's" report of a recent criminal trial, the accused, giving evidence in his own defence, refused to be sworn, as he did not believe in the Diety. Even the underworld is succumbing to this vitamine craze.

When is a man drunk? When he chucka a penny down the Alhambra Bar staircase and looks up at the Town Hall clock to see his weight.

M. R. Dryborough, of Gugeri Street, Claremont, writes:—I wish to thank the Claremont-Cottesloe Branch for their kind assistance which has been given to me with my garden. I wish them every success.

Disgusted: Those responsible for the news items in our local dailies have a wonderful sense of the eternal fitness of things. In to-day's (16/9) Daily News was the account of the trial of a man whose war service was genuine and glorious. He was referred to by Christians and surname only. On another page of the same issue appeared a Sydney telegram, concerning the imprisonment of Garden, the well-known trouble maker and adherent of Moscow, for a flagrant defiance of the law. He was described as Mr. J. S. Garden, just as if he were some eminent notability. Garden, by the way, did not go to the War. Too frequently does the Press append the phrase a "returned soldier" to the names of those Diggers who have been unfortunate enough to fall foul of the law. Why, not be consistent, and use the phrase, "one who stayed at home," with refer­ence to others in a like case. Some months ago the fruit inspector who operates round Claremont and Cottesloe had a number of prominent residents prosecuted and fined for allowing the fruit fly to infect their trees. Their names were published in a batch. No mention was made of the fact that one of them is the permanent head of a large government department, who, though he held a species of military rank before, and after the War, did all his service on the Home Front, preferring his well-known grey suit to one of khaki. Apparently, it is only the Digger who is singled out for such invidious distinction.

A movement is on foot to form a sub-branch of the League in the Mt. Hawthorn-North Leederville district. This is a thickly populated area, embracing a large number of returned men, and it is anticipated that a strong branch will result. The initial meeting will be held some time in October, and returned soldier residents who can help are asked to get in touch with Ted Rodgers, of 65 Fair­field-street, Mt. Hawthorn, or Stan Gordon, at Imperial Printing Co. Ltd., 70 King-street, Perth.

The other day, a man appeared before one of our local magistrates:—

"He's a saxophone player. Your Worship, the Prosecuting Sergeant explained.

"But that's not what he's charged with."

Queenslander: The collapse of the Railway strike in Queensland reminds me. In Brisbane, the Boer War Memorial is a statue of a Light Horse trooper, mounted and leaning slightly forward in the saddle, as if sighting Boers in the dim distance.

The muzzle of his rifle is pointing directly at the door of the Brisbane Trades Hall.
If its good, BOANS have it, if BOANS have it, it's good and at

Lower Prices Always!

Boans Limited

Universal Providers Wellington and Murray Streets, Perth

Research Student: Nomenclature is a queer thing. Consider how many great men have namesakes or near namesakes whose intellects are in reverse gear. Here are a few instances of what I mean.

Joe Lyons, the able and energetic Premier of Tasmania, and
“Comrade’’ Lyons, the Sydney communist blatherskite.
Bill Lang, the ex-champion heavyweight, and
J. Lang, the N.S.W. Premier, who side-steps according to plan.
U. S. S. Grant, the great American general, and
Donald Grant, the Sydney I Wasn’t a Warrior.

We are advised that crops in the Wilgoyne district—north of Lake Brown—are looking very promising, only requiring some late rain to produce broad smiles on the faces of local cockydom.

All sub-branches of the League should be represented at the forthcoming Congress, which commences on the 28th inst. If it is not convenient to send direct representatives, it is advisable to try to get someone from the city, with a knowledge of local conditions, to act, failing which the State Secretary should be communicated with immediately, requesting him to endeavour to fill the breach.

The local storekeeper at Lake Brown tells a story of a cocky of the district who called and asked for his overdue account. After passing it over the storekeeper naturally took out his receipt book and adopted an expectant air. Imagine his astonishment when the cocky said: “Oh! I am not going to pay it now. I only want something to read going in the train to Perth.”

BALLADE OF THE PROFITEERS.

“64.—Kojonup: Congress is of the opinion that Anzac Day should be a close holiday in every way.”—Extract from the Agenda of the Eleventh Annual State Congress.

This proposal has already met with some criticism and opposition from certain commercial interests.

When splintered cliffs and swirling seas,
Rocked near the belching guns that day,
When bullets sang like homing bees,
You held on, in the British way,
A gallant part we, too, did play
With platitude and empty sound;
And lawful commerce still held sway,
For twenty shillings make a pound.

“Nothing shall be too good for these Brave lads of ours,” we used to say;
And some of us got O.B.E’s,
For urging others to the fray,
Against the Kaiser we’d inveigh,
Inventing tortures for the hound;
And how we made this prating pay—
For twenty shillings make a pound.

Though now you’re home, and at your ease,
You face the future with dismay;
And find it harder to appease
The range of hunger, day by day:

Forlorn and jobless, though you stray,
Our wives must waddle silken-gowned.
Our thanks cost nothing to convey,
But twenty shillings make a pound.

L’Envoi.
O! Digger, no one can gainsay,
We hold you in esteem profound;
But we must hug the till to-day,
For twenty shillings make a pound.

Forlorn and jobless, though you stray,
Our wives must waddle silken-gowned.
Our thanks cost nothing to convey,
But twenty shillings make a pound.

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Branches at Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Bunbury, Northam, Albany, Narrogin, Geraldton, Collie
Midland Junction, Subiaco, and throughout South Australia and Victoria
"WOUNDED SOULS."

MORE miserable than those who were maimed in the war—their
service is not forgotten—more tragic even than those who were
blinded, if that is possible, is the state of many thousands of men
suffering still from hidden wounds which shattered their nerves or broke
down their mental control. Worst of all sights on a battlefield, or in a
casualty clearing station, were men stricken with shell-shock, shaking
with a kind ofague, pitiable. High explosive forces, the tremendous
 concussion of gun-fire, the frightfulness of modern war, had suddenly
snapped something. They were wounded souls.

Not all of them have recovered. Not all of them were conscious of
mental illness until after the war—perhaps several years afterwards. They were "nervy." Their friends and relatives wondered at their
quietude, or their ill-temper, or their restlessness and indecision. They
had no sympathy from people eager to help the crippled ex-service men
or the blinded soldiers and sailors. These others showed no wounds.
It was only in their minds that they suffered, until some of them com-
mited suicide and others were sent into pauper asylums, and others still
—thousands of them—fell into a hopeless condition of neurasthenia,
unable to earn their own livelihood, afraid of the world and themselves,
with few friends to understand their misery or give a helping hand. The
worst cases of shell-shock received some kind of pension. Other cases,
to whom mental distress came gradually, were not entitled to any pen-
sion, or made no claim for one. They were among the "heroes" of the
War. They had done their duty with the best of them, but now, in the
time of forgetfulness, they were forgotten, and the busy, joyous, selfish
world passed them by, not guessing at the tragedy of these wounded
souls, these nervous wrecks, these sad-eyed, stammering, wan-looking
fellows, who wept sometimes in their lonely rooms and dared not apply
for jobs which they knew they could not hold, even if luck gave them
a chance.

In thousands of British homes, there have been these tragedies, pit-
table beyond words, because they have been suffered in loneliness, in
the agony of long-waking nights, with secret fears hidden even from
wives and mothers who knew these men when they were gay lads, before
the War. It was the War in which they served which was the cause of
this mental breakdown. Shall we forget their service and their sacrifice?

—Sir Philip Gibbs in "Overseas" (London).
THE ONE AND ONLY WAY.

We patronise re-unions, when they're or- ganised far above Admit that we've enjoyed ourselves, and make spontaneous fuses; we fraternise as comrades should, as happily as kings, Past days are resurrected, and we promise heaps of things. But when the stunt is ended, and we're leisure to reflect On parting with "two dollars," we become more circumspect; affection generated "there" is growing day by day, To aid its growth, we all should choose the one and only way. Do we ever pause to think by whose exertions we enjoy Those, true, harmonious gatherings, or what methods to employ That such stunts become more frequent— that we'd meet each other more, To discuss in "digger lingo," yarns of peace as well as war? To whom we are indebted for the pensions we receive. Who assists our comrades' widows? Who is battling to relieve Distress where e'er existent amongst the "boys" who had to "pay"? We should all unite in effort, in the one and only way! The R.S.L. is out to do the best that can be done, To bring the boys together, and to see that every one. Less fortunate than others may hereafter rest assured, That all which he's entitled to will surely be procured. The Head of its Executive is known to all the boys As the Father of integrity, to share their woes and joys; In spite of digger apathy, the League has come to stay. We should join it in a body, 'tis the one and only way. The only way to help our pals and those they left behind, The only way to fraternise, and thereby keep in mind Those good old days in spite of all the evil that befell.

When out on "dress rehearsal," or "apprenticeship to Hell." To recall those many incidents we'd otherwise forget. When in "Gypeland" or "Blighty," where such novelties were met; In one huge digger brotherhood, our comrade ship each day Would be strengthened, and our safeguard, 'tis the one and only way. E. St. IVES BILSTON, Katanning, 5/9/27.

SONGS OF SOPHISTICATION.
(Compiled by Benjamin Buttonstick.)

Jack and Jill went up the hill, The Ford refused to function; They walked a lot before they got A bus to Midland Junction.

Little Miss Muffet, She sat at the buffet, Socking the cocktails away. A male friend espied her And sat down beside her,— She left him her duckets to pay.

Digger, Digger, pull a trigger, You go "He." While you light Others skite And get the O.B.E.

Little Miss Meek Has lost her sheik, And doesn't know where to find him; But soon he'll be here With a bottle of beer, And dragging a crayfish behind him. I saw a ship a-sailing, A-sailing on the sea; And it was shock-a-block with Dings To keep us company.

There were Dagoes in the cabin, And Maltese in the hold, And Jugo-Slavs (the Austrians) With faces lean and bold. They come to strip the country Of all the wealth it yields, For soon each one will run a pub Near Boulder, on the Fields.

Old Mother Hubbard, She went to the cupboard, To get her poor self a spot; But when she got there,

The cupboard was bare; Old Hubbard had stoked the lot. White Bread, Brown Bread. What's this I see? Yes, sir! Yes, sir! Three days, three. In the cause of Freedom, Liberty divine.— But wasn't he a naughty boy Not to pay his fine.

ENGINEERS' RE-UNION.

One of the big events of Show Week will be the annual re-union and smoke social of the Ex-Service Association of Engineers, and allied units, which will be held at the Soldiers' Institute on Monday, October 3rd, at 8 p.m. Over 200 tickets have been sent out, together with invitations to all unit associations and distinguished guests, and with an excellent musical programme and the usual good cheer and stories, for which the engineers are noted, a very excellent, evening is assured. The admission price is three shillings, and tickets will be available at the door, or from the Secretary, Mr. Robert Tyler, Barten street, Rivervale. All 'Diggers down from the country are most cordially invited.

10th LIGHT HORSE RE-UNION.

Perth Show-time is the time for unit re-unions. For no unit is this time more suitable than for the members of Tom Todd's Tenth, which was mainly recruited from the country districts. The annual re-union will be held on Tuesday, October 4th, in St. George's Hall, Hay street, and Lt.-Col. Arthur Sweetapple (Hon. Sec.) promises even a better time for the boys than that enjoyed last year. All who intend going would assist by advising Arthur, whose address is 49 Clifton crescent, Mt. Lawley.

11th BATTALION RE-UNION.

Hon. Sec. Bob. Blair is busy arranging for a big crowd at the old "legs 11" unit, which he expects to turn up at the re-union, to be held in St. George's Hall on Thursday, October 6th. In addition to the refreshing of the common fastes will be that of the memories of the wonderful days when comrade ship was cemented by the dangers and the trials of the War zones.
Quality Men's Wear and True Values at Bairds!

Men's Repp Tennis Shirts, black and white stripes, collar and pocket, double sewn throughout, reliable wear, sizes 14½ to 17, 6/6 each.

Men's Plain Cream or White Tussora Shirts, fine silk finish, guaranteed cloth, reinforced neck, gauntlet cuffs, two collars to match; sizes 14 to 17; 10/6.

Men's All Wool Black Cashmere Sox, double toes and heels, soft fine quality, fast dye, full sizes, 2/11 pair.

Men's Fancy Tweed Sports Coats, neat patterns, very smart style, with inverted pleat back, sizes 3's to 8's, 45/-. Men's Navy Flannel Blazers, edges and pockets piped with coloured cords, double sewn seams, sizes 3's to 8's, 21/-.

Boys' Taffeta Shirt Blouses, plain cream or nice variety of stripes, finished with pocket and tie to match, splendid washing and wearing material. 5/11.

Wellington to Murray Street, Perth—Walk Through

THE BOOK OF AWFULAS.
(With further apologies to "The Book of Arctemis".)

Those Australians who carefully analysed the reported doings of the late and lamented Naval Disarmament Conference, held at Geneva, will, no doubt, find that, with a few minor alterations and deletions, this clever item, which appeared in the London Opinion in 1919, will adequately portray their summary of the proceedings:

1. Men and women of the United States, who have been industrious and peaceful, and who have endeavoured to assist other nations in their efforts to maintain peace, have been rewarded with the privilege of being able to have a man as a king of one of the nations.

2. They chose, therefore, great men from among the chief of their rulers, and said unto them. Behold, the war is won, and ye have seen us through it.

3. Go now, therefore, and see us also through the peace, that the men of Hun may no more vex us, and that the fruits of victory be not bitter in our mouths.

4. And the chief rulers of Eng were hard put to it to undertake the business, seeing that they were occupied up to their ears in 'encompassing votes at home.

5. Nevertheless, they appointed a time in the New Year, when the election they had made should be over, and all the votes they needed should be encompassed.

6. And they covenanted to assemble together at that time in the land of Fran, with the rulers of the other nations—those who had fought with them, and to make such a peace, as their people desired.

7. Then Wud Ro, the son of Wil, the chief ruler of Usa, sent unto them, saying—Behold, did not the armies of Usa join with your armies against the king of the land of Hun after many days? And am not I, even I, fourteen points up in the game we have played against him?

8. Now, therefore, I will travel over many waters and will join your assembly, though divers of mine own people would have me stay and mind my job at home.

9. And, lo, when I am come there, I will demand that no nation shall be supreme upon the great waters.

10. And I will make a league of nations, in which none shall be able to defend itself against the others, and all shall love one another, whether they like it or no.

11. And when the people of Eng heard this they smiled one to another, and said, Behold, it is not good enough.

12. But when the people of Eng heard this they smiled one to another, and said, Behold, it is not good enough.

13. Shall we now let the trident of the seas be taken from our hand, seeing that it has given the victory both to us and to them that have fought with us?

14. Is not our land an island and our empire world-wide? And shall we be such mugs as to give up our sure shield of defence? And they answered and said one to another, Not much.

15. Peradventure this league of nations may prove but a vain dream, then verily should we be let down and find ourselves in the cart.

16. And though we doubt not that Wud Ro, the son of Wil, is a man without guile, yet we do perceive that the people of Usa, at his behest, are building unto themselves ships as fast as they can.

17. Now, therefore, let us make known unto him that the freedom of the great waters—which our navy doth ensure is good enough for us, and verily we will have none other.

18. But Wil was sore disappointed; for he fancied himself greatly as the arbiter of the world.

19. Howbeit, he would not be put off from his far journey, to the end that he might have heart-to-heart talks with David, and with Clem, and with those that were assembled with them.

20. And behold, in the meantime, his people went on building ships. As he had commanded them, so did they.
ROBERT BURNS.

"Scotland has produced many men of genius," said Mr. Tulloch, "but 'Bobbie' Burns stands head and shoulders above them all." Scotland has much to thank Burns for; for, of all her poets no one has ever reached such heights as this man, or has done more to preserve the national dialect of the Scottish people. He is truly Scotland's national poet and the story of this wonderful little country is enshrined for ever in the poems of Burns.

On January 25, 1759, Burns first saw the light of day in circumstances and an environment that were hardly conducive to the fostering of literary aspirations, and there is a legend that on the night of his birth a violent storm raged and the cottage wherein he lay collapsed, with the result that the young Burns had to be removed to one of the neighbours. It certainly is a lucky thing for Scotland that no accident happened to the embryo poet.

Much has been written and said of the life and work of Burns, but before passing judgment on the man, a close study of his work is recommended. Being of a naturally gay and inconsequent temperament and living in the times that he did, it is only natural that Burns became a hard drinker and his fondness for the early age of 18 he wrote a simple effusion entitled, "Handsome Nell," which gave promise of the gifts yet to mature, and was the forunner of many more songs.

On the other hand, Burns, when quite a young man, had to work extremely hard on his father's farm, and no avail as hard times arrived and the abandonment of the holding. This labour was attended by poverty that was extremely irksome to the young Burns, and it was no wonder that he often ran counter to his strict father, such as when he joined a dancing school in open defiance of his parents' wishes.

Burns' education was no better than the average person of his class; but he made up for any delinquency in this respect by hard reading of such books as Locke's essay on "Human Understanding," Pope's works, Shakespeare, the Bible and a few other books, including a Select Copy of English Songs, a copy of which, and in his youth he laid the foundation of his erudition which is evidenced by the wide range of his works.

It has been said of the poet that he worshipped at the shrines of Venus and Bacchus, and some of his songs would tend to foster that impression. A study of all his works, however, reveals the intense humanity of his nature as given expression in his Ode to a Fieldmouse. Occasionally in a song he was borne into a supreme inspiration that is sufficient to immortalise his name for ever. An instance of this nature can be seen in the song wherein the famous lines:

"Oh had some power the gillie give us To see ourselves as ither see us," appear, which was mainly inspired by the sight of a bee on a woman's hat in church.

Burns' best poem is generally acknowledged to be "The Cottar's Saturday Night," but his range is so immense that it would be hard to pass a strict judgment, as work of great merit appears in many of his writings, which occasionally reaches height far in excess of any other Scottish poet.

INITIATIVE.

The idea that the Australian and American troops did not "hit" it together too well, is disproved by the following story told by Miss Elsie Janis, the American star.

"A sector of the line had been held by the Americans, the C.O. of which was a little troubled over the fact that no prisoners had been taken, and that in every way the enemy were too quiet for his liking. After carefully thinking the matter over, and before embarking on any raids or the like, he called together his officers and N.C.O.'s and pointed out that since their occupation of that particular sector, things had been too quiet altogether. It was necessary that some prisoners should be brought in, in order that it could be ascertained who were opposing them, as well as to glean other valuable information. At the conclusion of the talk, a sergeant asked permission to have a try, and it was arranged that he was to be given six men, the stunt to take place that night.

Soon after dark the seven left the trench, and their comrades left behind waited anxiously for their return. The hours passed and no sign of the sergeant and his men, until almost dawn, when the noble band crept back into the trench escorting a whole mob of prisoners. A tally was made and it was found that 73 Germans had been brought in.

"After the congratulations had all been offered and accepted, the C.O. sent for the sergeant, and asked for a full report of the expedition. The sergeant didn't seem inclined to talk on the matter, and no amount of coaxing would induce him to tell the story of the night's adventures. "As a last resource, the C.O. threatened him with all sorts of punishments for refusing to report. "Now, sergeant, how did you get those prisoners?"

"Well, Sir, if you must know, I bought them from the Aussies at a dollar a head."

COULD YOU BEAT IT?

Irate Customer: "No, I don't want a hair wash or a scalp cure or a mangle powder or a friction rub, and I know I have dandruff. I think the whether is fine and I don't give a damn about the strike — I have a wife and three children and am a shoe salesman—business is rotten and I think the Japanese question is a dead issue, and I don't care what becomes of William Morris Hughes. I've heard all the latest barber-shop jokes—I've never been to a horse race in my life, and I don't want a tip. I read the papers, but I don't memorise them, and I came in here for a shave—not a renovation."

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PERTH.
A GRATUITOUS INSULT TO FRANCE.

“When the artillery started you could not get a Frenchman to stick his head out of the dug-outs and underground tunnels,” a German officer told me; “but as soon as the Americans arrived, they would crane their necks over the parapets and scan the field, ready to fight.”

“The first Americans who came as advance men were put into French uniforms, but their eagerness betrayed them. The Germans knew they were not French; they were Americans straining toward battle.”

The above extract, which should be labelled Exhibit "A," is from a recent issue of “Liberty,” published in Chicago, and it has nearly a million subscribers who constantly are being fed this sort of bunk.

In regard to the above, the “Belleville Intelligencer” commented as follows:—

“Of course one scarcely knows what to say about it, except that it perhaps helps to explain the Dayton ‘monkey’ trial, and Aimee Semple McPherson.”

Very clever and apropos, but there is something to say about it. It is just such an instance of ochlocracy, ignorance and blatant egoism, broadcasted and swallowed as truth, that works mischief in the world. Every man of the British breed and every “doughboy” who survived the hell of the line, knows that no race had a monopoly on courage. They would not even deny that quality to the Germans. But here is a gratuitous insult to the valour and chivalry of France.

No wonder a certain type of American tourist is cordially detested in Europe. Many of us know that most Americans are generous and fair-minded and quick to appreciate merit. But there should be something to say about it. It is an offence to good taste and international amity.

Not so long ago, this Chicago periodical, without cause or reason, offended the Canadian reading public with a series of articles, and upon that occasion it was banned from Canada for several weeks.

Repeatedly, it has broken into print with stuff that has little literary merit, and gets by because of its appeal to sensationalism.—“The Legionary” (Canada).

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

Reports from time to time come before Executive delegates which prompt one to sit up and rub the eyes or pay closer attention in order to convince oneself that the story being related is not something from one of Charles Dickens’ many novels, or that some sensational newspaper was not being read aloud. Recently the State Secretary told the story of a man who had been possessed of a soldier’s widowed mother’s accumulative cash, amounting to £400, and, as he was a friend of the family, the lady left for the East without any fear that the money would be at the Eastern States Bank before she herself had arrived at the Eastern Capital. The long weary story proceeded to recount the lady’s comings and goings from East to West and from West to East; receiving small payments; her dealings with lawyers and the awful procrastination of everyone. Unfortunately, she did not approach the R.S.L. until disaster from another direction had almost overwhelmed the man who had cruelly taken possession of her money, probably to save off some other pressing creditor. Other law cases were interwoven with this one, which undoubtedly would have come to one of the local courts had death not over-taken the culprit. It was the latter part of the story that the State Secretary informed delegates of at the last State Executive meeting, adding that just when the League was getting in a position of command, from which something would no doubt have resulted to the widow, Mr. Benson said that he was dismayed to read of the offended parties’ death. It was Charles Dickens, who, in one of his books, after the death of Mr. Tulkinghorn, made one of his characters say that it was like a driver driving a six-in-hand down a steep hill, and being dislodged from the box-seat of the horses getting out of hand, over the fraces, pulling their own way, bringing disaster and death in their train. So it was in the case recited in this paragraph, one of those extremely difficult private cases in which the League is called upon frequently to deal with and endeavour to see a way out.

WIRELESS FOR FARMERS.

In hundreds of cases, where farmers have to wait days, and sometimes weeks, for news and market reports, wireless has proved a great benefit.

It is surprising that there are still many farmers without this modern convenience, and this can only be attributed to the fact that there are receiving and receiving sets. Some give particularly good results, and some are distinctly bad, and it is in the former category that the “Dobhico” Receivers can be classed. As the name implies, these Receivers are sold by the well-known firm of A. W. Dobhie and Co., Ltd., Hay-street, Perth, and the testimonials received from satisfied owners, show that these receivers have many long-distance records to their credit, all Eastern States stations being received, as well as stations in America, South Africa, Japan and the Philippine Islands.

THE CRISIS IN QUEENSLAND.

The crisis in Queensland, like all other crises, had its origin in quite insignificant causes. If the trouble could have been discovered and dealt with wisely in its initial stages, all semblance of a crisis would have been avoided. It is not only in the political world that this is true; for instance, you may be suffering from a defect of your sight, almost, or perhaps, unnoticed, which, if neglected may result in serious trouble. Sight is sight, and if you want good sight, consult Mr. B., the Optician, of 263 Murray-street; his scientific knowledge and expert skill may discover and remedy trouble, which, if left to reach the crisis stage, may be difficult to handle.

ANOTHER IMPENDING APOLOGY.

This week’s news sheet of the Sydney “Bulletin” kicks off as follows:—

WELL DONE McCORMACK FILTERING ON WHAREVES THOUSANDS OF POUNDS

And in the same issue there is a “Plain English” Article condemning undue leniency to criminals, and regretting the lack of what McDougall, the eminent psychologist, calls that “disinterested indignation against wrong-doing, which is the ultimate root of justice, and of public law.”

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POPPY DAY.

Sub-Branches are urged to concentrate early attention on Poppy Day, and place their orders with the State Secretary.

Metropolitan Sub-Branches are making more elaborate arrangements this year, and sales should clear out the 20,000 poppies ordered. West Perth Sub-Branch consider their ladies can dispose of 3,000.

32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the 32nd Battalion Association will be held at the R.S.L. Rooms, St. George’s Terrace, Perth, on Tuesday, 4th October, at 8 p.m.

As a large number of members will be in town for the Show, a good attendance is expected. The election for committee and office bearers will take place, and annual subscriptions will be received. The hon. secretary is R. Alexander, Government House, Perth, to whom subscriptions can be sent.

A FAMOUS POEM.

The House by the Side of the Road.

“He was a friend to man, and lived in a house by the side of the road.”—Homer.

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn
In the peace of their self-content;
There are souls, like stars, that dwell apart
In a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths
Where highways never ran;
But let me live by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by—
The men who are good and the men who are bad.
As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorrer's seat,
Or hurl the cynic's ban—
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road,
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardour of hope;
The men who are faint with the strife.
But I turn not away from their smiles
nor their tears—
Both parts of an infinite plan;
Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead
And mountains of wearisome height;
That the road passes on through the long afternoon
And stretches away to the night.
But still I rejoice when the travellers rejoice,
And weep with the strangers that moan.
Nor live in my house by the side of the road.
Like a man who dwells alone.
Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
Where the race of men go by—
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,
Wise, foolish—so am I.
Then why should I sit in the scorrer’s seat
Or hurl the cynic’s ban—
Let me live in my house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

—Sam, Walter Foss.

MUSCULAR TRAINING.

(By Harold Dibb in Los Angeles Y-Men.)

It is established by statistical tests that physical or mental defect or weakness is in general accompanied by poor posture. The average record of pupils in the poor posture groups was found to be appreciably lower than the good posture groups, in attendance and deportment, in physical activity and endurance, in manual training, and in commercial success after leaving school. It is clear that anything that lowers vitality causes bad posture. To what extent bad posture causes poor vitality is not accurately known. It is certain, however, that by assuming good posture, raising the chest and head, one feels better.

Why do we not all feel better, then? We raise our chest and head occasionally and take a deep breath of fresh air, and then relax back to the back position with our head forward, shoulders drooping, back arched and chest flat. We say it’s the warm weather, “it just takes the pep all out of us.” But why do we see some men just as alert, active, and carrying themselves as straight in warm weather as any other time.

It is because their muscles are toned up. That is to say, the body is held erect by bones, muscles and ligaments. The muscles keep the bones and ligaments in position. Thus, if the muscles are strong and in good tone they will hold the body parts up properly, the posture will be good, the trunk erect, the chest up, and the head held high. These are signs of vitality. If the vitality is low the body yields to the influence of gravity and relaxes.

Muscular tone continually works against this influence. It is dependent upon muscular training and the power of the nervous system which presides over the nutrition of the muscles. Therefore to insure good health, to increase vigor and physical efficiency, we must consistently take muscular training or exercise.

The tendency of civilization is more and more away from motor work, that is muscular work. We have electrical and gas appliances and machines to do everything for us. Therefore, we must look to artificial means through repeated exercises carefully selected to build up and develop the body and accustom it to energetic effective economical movement.

Our modern means of artificial muscular work (or play) is the gymnasium and swimming pool, with the apparatus bars, weights, boxing and wrestling, and class calisthenics.

Thus we insure good health and increasing vigor and physical efficiency by toning up the muscles, which keep the bones and ligaments in position, the body erect and mind alert.

THE BETTER WAY.

Madge: “I’ve been in bathing every day for a week, and haven’t made a single conquest.”

Marjorie: “A girl does better when she sits on the sand and keeps her powder dry.”

THE LISTENING POST.
HUMOYROSITIES

INCONSISTENT.

An officer was lecturing his men on the iniquity of carrying things in their gas bags. He threatened all kinds of penalties if this was not discontinued.

You can judge the laughter that was caused when the lecturer stooped to pick up a piece of paper and out rolled two big onions from his gas bag.

SOME MESMERIST.

Two Diggers were wending their way to camp in that glorious condition that the same as mother I died game. They both went. Back they came with two more Jacks. -

Two Diggers were wending their way to camp in that glorious condition that the same as mother I died game. They both went. Back they came with two more Jacks. -

ANCIENT-BUT WORTH REPEATING

It happened in a V.A.D. Hospital in England when Tommies and Aussies were mixed indiscriminately in the wards. A good hearted but boresome old lady visitor had aroused the ire of the Tommies in the ward, and the lone Digger who had witnessed her methods of asking men with legs off if they had been wounded, was aroused from his sleep one visiting day by this lady to be asked his name. Digger replied: "Oh! hop it, you bish-," and the lady replied, "Tell me, how curious; you must be one of those Russian Bolsheviks."

HIS VERSION.

In a city school the teacher was reading to her class Shelley's "Ode to a Skylark."

American crooks are nothing if not cute, judging by a story told recently by Douglas Fairbanks, the film star. A man standing outside an hotel in a Californian mining town was approached by a stranger who offered to sell him a gold brick for about two-thirds of its current market value. The accosted man smiled grimly at the stranger's guliness in selecting a mining-town to perpetrate his hoary old swindle in, and gave him into custody. Naturally the local reporters jumped at the "story" and the newspapers were outspoken in their comments. So, too, were several of the town's most prominent citizens. Next morning the stranger was brought before the judge. He pleaded "not guilty." The brick, he said, was gold right through; it represented a year's "clean-up" from a mine he was working in the Sierra Nevada mountains. An assayer was sent for, and the brick was tested, and the accused was, of course, released. Then he started a score or so of actions for libel, slander, and false imprisonment, and eventually quitted the scene, taking the brick with him, plus some few thousand pounds agreed damages.

32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION.
ANNUAL MEETING
Tuesday, 4th October, at 8 p.m.
RETURNED SOLDIERS' INSTITUTE,
St. George's Terrace, Perth.
Business:
Election of Office-bearers and General business.
Annual Subscription payable at meeting or can be remitted to Secretary.
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5d.; Pig's Cheek, 6d. each; Pig's Feet, 3d. per lb.

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SUB-BRANCH NOTES

BRIDGETOWN.

For some time past the returned soldiers of this district have been talking about the erection of a club rooms, of which occasionally the need is felt badly when a meeting place is not available. In this connection, arrangements have been made for conducting a Paddy's Market, and a Popular Baby Competition, both with the object of raising funds for the procuring of a block of land for the purpose of erecting a suitable building. At the last meeting, presided over by Major Whittell, there was a large and enthusiastic gathering. Everyone knows that the Nannup sub-branch, but at outside functions and at State Conferences. Mr. Fred Thomas, Cr. J. L. Morrison, and Mr. Bert Reeves supported the toast, and in all the speeches there were kindly references to Mrs. Anderson.

Mr. May then asked Mr. Anderson to accept, on behalf of himself and Mrs. Anderson, a handsome silver tea service and tray. The guest of the evening, who, on rising, was accorded a hearty ovation, responded suitably, and thanked the members of the branch. The President said that, in connection with honorary memberships, there seemed to be some misunderstanding in some quarters. The idea was the branch to purchase a block of land, to erect a suitable building that would be a meeting place for returned soldiers, and would cover reading room, library, billiards, office, and a ladies' room. It was not intended that the building should be used for any purpose other than those which may be required by the soldiers, and the State Executive was unable to be present at the Paddy's Market.

Mr. W. Chrisp was elected as delegate to Congress. He was instructed to vote for Col. Collett, as State President, if nominated.

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COLLIE.

Presentation to Mr. A. E. Anderson
On Tuesday evening August 30th, the Collie Sub-Branch tendered a smoke social and presentation to Mr. A. E. Anderson, Immediate Past President of the sub-branch, as a token of appreciation of the many excellent services rendered by him during the two years he occupied the presidential chair. In the absence of the President, Mr. Alex. Beange, who was, unfortunately, too ill to attend, the chair was occupied by Mr. Arthur Watkins (Vice-President). After the loyal toast, that of "Our Guest" (Mr. Anderson) was proposed by Mr. Harry May, who prefaced his remarks by reading several apologies. Owing to an attack of influenza, the gentleman selected to represent the State Executive was unable to be present. Other apologies were received from Messrs. A. A. Wilson, M.L.A., E. K. Greville, and the Midland Junction sub-branch. In a happy speech, Mr. May paid a glowing tribute to the personal character and straightforwardness of the Past President, to the sterling service he had rendered, not only as a member of the sub-branch, but at outside functions and at State Conferences. Mrs. Fred Thomas, Cr. J. L. Morrison, and Mr. Bert Reeves supported the toast, and in all the speeches there were kindly references to Mrs. Anderson.

Mr. May then asked Mr. Anderson to accept, on behalf of himself and Mrs. Anderson, a handsome silver tea service and tray. The guest of the evening, who, on rising, was accorded a hearty ovation, responded suitably, and thanked the members of the sub-branch for the evening's entertainment, and for the valuable support and co-operation they had given him during his term in the chair, and referred to the excellent work of the late secretary, Mr. May. Other toasts were: "The State Executive," "The Visitors," "The Collie Sub-Branch," "The Press" (in proposing which, Mr. D. Gray returned thanks for the splendid publicity work that was being made possible by "The Collie Mail"), and the "Chairman." During the evening, musical and eloquentary items were contributed by Messrs. H. Hayward, T. Bent, A. Baxter, D. Green and R. Simpson.

Presentation to Collie Hospital.

It is always gratifying to see the Digger displaying that capacity for organisation and effort, which so distinguished him during the War, in the service of the public in peace time. In this respect, the Collie sub-branch of the R.S.L. has just set a splendid example by presenting to the Collie Hospital an operating table, which is described, with pardonable pride, as being one of the three most up-to-date in the Commonwealth. This was handed over to the Hospital Committee on Thursday evening, August 18th. Mr. Alex. Beange, President of the sub-branch, officiated as chairman, and in his address stated that when the erection of
the new hospital had been decided upon, the members of the R.S.L. waited until it was nearly completed before deciding what form of assistance they would extend. They wanted to give something which would be both a convenience and of a permanent nature. An operating table, with the latest modern equipment, was agreed upon; the idea originated by Mr. A. E. Anderson, the Past President. Both Mr. Beange, and Mr. Harry Maylate (Secretary of the sub-branch, who spoke after him, complimented the townspeople, and especially the R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary, on the support they had given the League in this matter. Mr. Jas. Morrison also spoke on behalf of the sub-branch.

Mr. Doyle (Chairman of the Hospital Committee), who accepted the gift on behalf of the hospital, referred to its utility, and the value it would be to every resident of the district.

Among the toasts honoured were those of "Mr. Anderson," proposed by Mr. Hutton (a member of the R.S.L., and Secretary of the Hospital Committee), "The Doctors and Staff of the Collie Hospital," proposed by Mr. Fred Thomas, and supported by Mr. Arthur Watkins, and referred to by Dr. Cameron. Dr. Cameron apologised for the absence of Dr. Smith, who is indisposed, and referred to the good work done by Messrs. A. E. Anderson (Mr. Anderson, it was regretted, was also too ill to attend the function), C. E. Hutton, and A. Beange, and members of the R.S.L. generally on behalf of the hospital. Matron Fullerton was also called upon to respond, and Mr. F. J. Huellin, Secretary to the Health Department, who was present representing the Minister for Health (Mr. S. W. Munsie) responded for them. Other toasts were: "The Press," "The Chairman," "The Visitors," and "The Collie sub-branch." Vocal and elocutionary items were rendered by Matron Fullerton, and Messrs. Watkins, Giblett, and Thomas.

WEST PERTH.

Owing to the West Perth branch holding its meeting during the latter part of the month, reports of its activities are somewhat stale by the time they reach publication. Since the last issue of the "Listening Post," nothing of any particular import has transpired, other than the ordinary routine of such an active, and very much alive, sub-branch. The Secretary, Mr. Ross, would like to remind those branches, to whom he addressed Honor Avenue appeals, of the commendable work, which warrants the whole-hearted support of every citizen in Western Australia. At the present juncture, funds are coming to hand, but at no alarming rate, although with equivalent celerity, to that of other years. The Gourley Oil and Colour Works, of 91 Lord-street, Perth, have made a very generous offer to supply paints, etc., free of charge; providing a "Working Bee" can be organised to execute the work of painting the name plates. The Master Painters' Association are very sympathetic in this connection, and steps have been taken to secure their aid.

It is gratifying to note the promptitude with which the country members act in keeping their subscriptions up to date. Agricultural Bank Inspectors are foremost in this regard: When the membership is extended to all "Crown Employees" it is readily conceived what a vast
and extensive ground the branch covers. Not only "Crown Employees" but municipal officials and many leading businessmen have placed their moral support and financial favours with the West Perth branch. Although the branch has been in existence for approximately six years, it steadily increases its membership, and manages to retain its financial status; but, unfortunately, there are a few members whose memory must be revived when subscriptions fall due. 

VICTORIA PARK.

This sub-branch, which first saw the light of day a few months ago, is fast becoming one of the strongest and most useful in the State. A smoke social was held on the 2nd inst., and although the night was a wet one, about 150 diggers attended. The sub-branch President (Cr. H. E. Wells) was in charge of operations, which went merrily with a swing, until "lights out" at about 11.15 p.m. A number of visitors from the State Executive and metropolitan sub-branches attended, and an apology was received from Col. Collett. The toast list included "Fallen Comrades," and "The League," which was proposed by President Wells, who stated that diggers in this State were fortunate in having such splendid executive leaders as Collet and Benson. Executive Delegate Garnett Philip and State Secretary Benson responded. "Other Sub-Branches" was proposed by Vice-President Hewson, and responded to representatives from, Perth, Subiaco, Armadale, Granville, West Perth, Kalamunda and others. "Victoria Park Sub-Branch" was proposed by Mr. Benson, and Mr. Wells, in responding, stated that on the 9th Sub-Branch a membership of 130 financial members, and 22 were still going strong. "The Press" was proposed by Secretary Gibbs, and a representation of the Swan and Canning Express responded. The programme consisted of overtures by a splendid orchestra, songs by Messrs. O'Leary, Ashbolt and McLennan, sleight of hand and conjuring display by Mr. Gaird. There were rousing old-time digger choruses, and well-chosen "Tales and Stories from other Sectors," by any digger who had one to relate, and many were told, some warming the atmosphere to such an extent that when very hot pies were handed round at 10.30 they did not shock the palate.

The function was a great success, being infused with that wonderful comradeship only known to diggers.

Secretary Percy Gillam, of Mt. Barker, is in a fix. Being ambitious for his membership to top the century before Congress, he made a drive and brought his members up to 99. Percy's fix is that there is not an eligible man out of the League in his district. Rumour has it that Percy, armed with receipt book and League badge, is spending all his spare time running between the railway and the road in the hope of locating a "blow-in" digger.

OSBORNE PARK.

The Osborne Park Sub-Branch, is vigorously conducting the Ugly Men's Competition in aid of the piano fund, and judging by prospects the amount obtained will liquidate the debt. Mr. J. Godfrey, Secretary, held a social in the Soldiers' Hall in aid of his candidate, he being the representative of the sub-branch. Musical contributions were given by Mrs. A. Glass, Messrs. Schonfeld, Oakley, Speight, R. Corlett, J. Omodei, and F. Gueli. The ladies committee provided the supper, and Mr. J. Crawford, was M.C.

A picture night was held in the Agricultural Hall in favour of Mr. J. Buzolic, who is the market gardeners' candidate in the contest. There was a good audience, and several interesting pictures were screened.

On a recent Saturday evening a reception was held at the Cambridgeshire Dairy, given by Mr. W. E. Robinson (President of the Agricultural Society), in honour of Mr. J. O'Malley, the candidate nominated by the local Agricultural Society in the Ugly Men's contest. The music was contributed by Mrs. J. Glass, Messrs. H. E. Moss, H. Moss, H. Gladstone, F. Schonfeld, and J. O'Malley, while Mr. A. Hunt (Mr. Hawthorn) gave monologues at the piano. Supper was provided, dancing kept up until midnight, and several complimentary speeches were made.

It having come to the knowledge of the Sub-Branch that the Osborne Park Local Board of Health had employed (temporary) clerical assistance from Perth in preparing the annual rate notices, the subject was brought before the members at the ordinary fortnightly meeting. It was pointed out that the secretary and inspector, the Assistant Secretary, and the Auditor were all residents outside the district, and a good sum of money was taken out of the Park in salaries. It was resolved to bring the matter before

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the Health Board, and the Secretary wrote asking that should clerical assistance be required he would like the Board to know that there were available incapacitated returned soldiers who were ratepayers of Osborne Park, and whose pre-war occupations were clerks, and who would only be too glad of temporary employment. The letter was received by the Board, and it was decided to note the contents for future reference.

A deputation comprising the President (Mr. H. Cooper) and Past President (Mr. Wm. Anderson) recently waited on the State Secretary regarding the competition of aliens in road contracts, reported in last issue. At the last meeting of the Sub-Branch a letter was read from Mr. Benson, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Perth Roads Board, who advised that all road work performed by the Board was done by British-born subjects or naturalised British subjects. The Board did not propose to alter its policy with reference to preference to ex-soldiers, but in view of the expenditure of public funds, it was not considered expedient to eliminate competition, which would certainly increase the cost of public works. Discussion was postponed owing to the illness of the President.

Returned soldiers are actively engaged in advancing the Perth Hospital Appeal, Mr. T. Schofield acting as local secretary, and Mr. H. Nugent as an earnest organiser.

NAREMBEEN.

The committee of the above branch held a meeting on Friday evening, August 26th. Present: C. L. Latham, A. S. Webb, F. F. Ward, H. Webb, C. V. Fimmel, and H. A. Boyes. Apology was received from Mr. W. Gunn. It was agreed to hold next general meeting on Friday evening, September 23rd.

Secretory reported he had enrolled a few members in the Bruce Rock district and that he was arranging a meeting to be held in Bruce Rock on Wednesday, 28th September.

It was agreed to leave all correspondence until next general meeting.

The organiser of the sub-branch (F. T. Ward) had a well-earned holiday, and during his vacation spent a week on his block at Tantanquity. Wardie had a bit of an argument with a few salmon gums, but with the aid of Mr. Keeling, he knocked them about a bit, and Wardie predicts a bumper crop next year, and five bags of wheat towards the sub-branch Saving Fund. Truly, the growers of the Narembeen branch are making great strides in the wheat belt. Great credit is due to the vice-president, Arthur S. Webb, in his indefatigable efforts to raise funds. Mrs. Mildwaters, and the entertainment run by Arthur on 27th August to raise more money for this purpose was a great success, and the renovation of Mrs. Mildwaters' house is another achievement of our vice-president. The R.S.L. will always be on the lookout, shedding its comforting rays on those who are bereft of their breadwinner, and who look for some help when the storms and stress of life threaten them.

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GOSNELL'S.

Members of the above sub-branch, assisted by the Women's Auxiliary, have decided to give the children of Gosnells a Christmas Tree at the end of the year, and with this end in view are arranging entertainments for funds to enable them to do so. The first was a social and euchre party on Saturday, August 20th, which was well patronised. Quite a number played euchre. Mrs. Jennings and Mr. Benson were successful in winning the two very nice prizes. Messrs. Tucker and Ferguson were guests from the R.S.L. Executive. Mr. Tucker spoke a few words and pointed out that efforts of the R.S.L. were not only for returned men, but also for all in need of help.

The next entertainment will probably be a fancy dress ball sometime in September.

MT. BARKER.

With reference to the unveiling of the Honor Board to be placed in the new hall, correspondence between the branch and Road Board members has resulted in the Board leaving this to be arranged by the R.S.L. at a date to be fixed. This should fall in with the wishes of all returned men in the district, and it is hoped that a good roll will be the result.

At the unveiling, our esteemed State President has been asked to do the "job." We all know, if it can be definitely fixed, that "The Colonel" will do it, and do it properly; so, now, it is left to us to arrange.

The Picture Committee decided to assist local returned soldiers' families, so screened a "Tom Mix." The result was a good full house, and a good profit to hand out, which was thankfully received by the deserving ones.

Monty Gorm and Bert Hambley are still under treatment. Their cases have been long ones, but in the hands of the newly-appointed doctor it is to be hoped some finality will soon be reached. Both are good toilers, and anxious to be at work again.

Seen in Mr. Barker on his way to the Porongorups to spend a fortnight away from the Repat. Office, Harry Hocking—with his better half and daughter.

"Lost"—A good member, by transfer to North Perth—Clem Wall. He has been swept up by a move in the Postal Dept. for some time. Clem's Lts will always be looked for by the branch if he does not click on another secretary. Best of luck in your new sphere, Clem.

Geo. Smith has been renovating the old Forrest Hill house for the Department to help the production at the Prison Settlement.

Several lots of magazines and weekly papers have been handed in to the branch secretary for the workers at Forrest Hill, who have been transferred from Fremantle, and many thanks have been sent along to the ex-soldiers of this district for their thought of them out there.

Our very old and esteemed comrade, Alick O'Neill, has the very deepest sympathy from all his returned pals in this district in his recent sad bereavement.

The new plant for picture running was given a trial run on September 8th by Tommy and Lane, and satisfied satisfactorily, but a few catchy parts want Tom's attention, being different to the old plant. Leave it to Tommy; he will fix it and master it also. Billy Miles will be a pleased member when the new hall is open and the plant running smoothly. There are several things for the old plant, wanting to know what's going to be done with it.

Little Jim: "Say, dad, do the heathen Africans wear pants?"

Dad: "Shh, ho!"

Little Jim: "Then why'd you put that pants button in the collection, they took it up for 'em to-day?"
THE RED FLAG.

As a protest against the execution of two Dago murderers in a foreign country, several hundred of those extraordinary persons whose red-ragged mentalities cannot differentiate between the criminal and the martyr recently held a procession through the streets of Sydney. The procession was quite illegal, as it occurred without the sanction of the police, and many of those taking part in it were government employees, absent without leave from their jobs. The N.S.W. Government regarded this flouting of its own laws with a benevolent leniency that was truly touching. During the procession, working men who refused to join in were subjected to insult, and the red rag and bobtail of the Sydney slums halted at the Cenotaph, in Martin Place, where a two-minute silence was observed, not in honor of Australia's heroic dead, but as a tribute to the memory of the aforesaid foreign criminals. In Paris, a similar gang of hoodlums carried out the instructions of Moscow by desecrating the memorial to the Unknown Warrior.

At such gatherings, in fact, wherever and whenever these childish dupes of the German Jewviet (Zinovieff's real and whenever is Appelbaum) that booses Russia meet, the red flag itself, and the lugubrious anthem bearing that name, are accorded prominence.

In the days when rebels and mutineers were game to fight for cause instead of mudlarking and skiting about it, the red flag became the symbol of revolt. During the Mutiny at the Nore, it was actually flown by mutineers on British warships, and at the time of the Second Revolution, it very nearly became the national flag of France. Lamartine, the poet, philosopher-historian, and politician, was the man instrumental in saving France from such a ridiculous fate.

"Never," he cried, "Why, it has but made the circuit of the Champ de Mars smeared with the blood of fellow citizens. Give me the Tricolour, for it has gone round the world, linked with victory and glory."

It is this red emblem of white-livered anarchy, rape, and criminal insanity, which people like J. S. Garden prefer to the flag of the country, that is free enough and tolerant enough to allow them to give public utterance to the moth-eaten platitudes dictated by Moscow.

The doggerel rhymes associated with it are, appropriately enough, set to the tune of an old German song, "O Tannenbaum." During the American Civil War, a Maryland poet, with Southern sympathies, wrote a poem of propaganda, My Maryland, which was sung to this air, and which exorded the state of Maryland to join the Southern Confederacy. Now, the lugubrious old dirge is to be found in adulatory-liaison with communist rant. Judged as music, it is a soul-racking affair, something like a cross between a banshee's wail and a motor 'bus mourning for its first-born, and it breathes the spirit of revolt—that is, as far as the spirit of revolt is consistent with personal safety. In view of the fact that those who howl it forth on every possible occasion are always the first to "flee from Wrath to come" when John Hop gets busy with his baton, we suggest a few additional verses, which we dedicate with the utmost disrespect to Bolshevism, Communism, and every other aspect of cold-footed scoundrelism.

We stayed at home when real men
Protected us from danger;
The slimy Hun we made our friend,
His darkling deeds we did defend.
We seabed on fighting workers then,
In favour of the stranger.

Now, Peace has dawned upon our land,
Our wrongs we must be righting;
Of Revolution let us talk,
Though at the bayonet's thrust we baulk,
For, while for Liberty we stand,
We draw the line at fighting.

TOO TRUE.

The M.O., a very tall and very thin man, was going through the sick parade, and struck Bill "swinging" it. He told a great tale and expected a P.B. at least, and when the Medical Officer told him he was on the next draft for the line he was so disgusted that he yelled, "Call yerself a b-d doctor? Why, if you were doubled in half you wouldn't make a decent sandwich."

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