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IMMIGRATION.

From time to time, in certain political circles, expression is given to the popular economic fallacy that the country contains just a definite number of jobs and that the more people who arrive here the fewer jobs there will be to go round. Consequently, the holders of this theory argue immigration should be discouraged until everyone of the native-born is in employment. Without entering into a discussion upon the economic absurdity of this theory, we may state that the causes of unemployment are many and varied, that some men are not so much unemployed as unemployable, and that a country which closes its doors to coloured men is very foolish, if admission is denied to whites. Our White Australia policy is a challenge to the world and it must be backed up by an ever-growing white race, if it is to be maintained. When a population does not increase with sufficient rapidity by the normal method, i.e., excess of births over deaths, it must be augmented by immigration.

As Sir George Pearce pointed out, in a recently delivered speech, the White Australia policy can be justified and it is also possible to maintain a strictly selective immigration policy. If we bar our doors to members of our own race, we are going to turn down our own friends. Other nations are not so interested in keeping Australia white as we are. There is even a certain type of Englishman (the type who, after five minutes' residence, endeavours to run the country for us) who considers, or pretends to consider, that our empty tropics should be filled with coloured men. Another point worth consideration is the fact that the League of Nations is, for the most part, a league of coloured and parti-coloured nations, and there have been protests against the White Australia policy in the Councils of the League.

Nevertheless, we believe that greater interest is being taken by other countries in Australian affairs, while Federal and State authorities are co-operating in the work of securing suitable immigrants. But closer co-operation is needed. There is something radically wrong with a system which floods the country with Southern Europeans while thousands of British people go to the Argentine.

The immigrant of British or Northern European extraction must be made feel that he is welcome in Australia, that Australia wants him. We should treat him as a host treats an honoured guest.

The ill-mannered gibe and the unkind caricature specialised in by papers of the Smith's Weekly type are not the best means of arriving at this highly desirable result. They tend rather to make prospective immigrants feel that they are not wanted in Australia, and they pass us by for Canada or the Argentine. In this particular the New Settlers' League is doing remarkably good work. It encourages the people in rural districts to take a friendly interest in newcomers, and this policy of "the helping hand and the kindly word" has made many a new arrival feel at home in novel and perhaps otherwise uncongenial surroundings.

AN UNSEEMLY CONTROVERSY.

The Richthofen controversy which has raged over the cables and in the local press for a fortnight and which has resulted in some sordid details—such as "ratting" the body—becoming public is distinctly regrettable.

The German airmen were a brave and chivalrous foeman and it is in bad taste that a squabble should arise at this late stage as to who was the actual individual responsible for firing the fatal shot. It is not likely that anything further will be added to the official records made at the time and on the spot. The whole thing is a newspaper stunt, featuring alleged eye-witnesses' accounts made by men whose statements cannot be proved.

The Australian machine-gunner who is officially credited as being responsible for the downfall of the German "ace" is about the only one who has not yet entered the unseemly argument. He probably regrets that the hand of Fate made him the instrument of destruction of so gallant an enemy.

INCAPACITATED MEN.

The employment of incapacitated men has long occupied the attention of members of the Executive of the R.S.L. in this State. The principle was endorsed that employment of these men should be made compulsory on employers on a basis proportionate to the total amount of labor employed. A committee has been appointed to further study the question and to endeavour to arrive at practical suggestions which might carry weight when the League approaches the Government.

The more the matter is studied the more difficult its practical solution appears. Western Australia has very few big industries upon which to base any proposed legislation. Accurate statistics must be gathered as to the men likely to be affected, the nature of the employment available and the degree of incapacity which could effectively do it and so on.

The existing German Act along these lines would be of assistance, and steps are being taken to obtain it and other information of similar nature which may exist in other countries.

The objective is commendable, but its practical accomplishment can only be the result of deep thinking and research, and earnest and cheerful co-operation between the R.S.L. and representatives of employers and employees in Western Australia.

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STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS
21/12/27


Apologies were received from Rabbi Freedman and Mr. Sadlier.

Federal Correspondence—Resolution 77. 12th Annual Congress. The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a letter from Sir Neville Howse acknowledging a recommendation given by the League to his efforts on behalf of soldiers, as outlined in the above resolution. The letter was received.

Resolutions 10 and 18: The Federal President appreciated the sentiments conveyed in the above resolutions of the 12th Annual Congress. The letter was received.

Supply of Superphosphates: The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a communication received from the Secretary, Prime Minister’s Department, which stated that this matter had been brought before the Australian Representative of the British Phosphates Commission. It was decided that this matter be passed on to the Land Committee with a view to the above quotation, as outlined in the above resolution. The letter was received.

Resolution 77. 12th Annual Congress. The letter was received. Lettera were decided that this matter be passed on to the Imperial Veterans Association, E. E. Page, F. H. Blakeman, and N. L. Meggy.

Employment Grant—The Federal President advised by wire that the Employment Grant had been continued for a further period of 12 months as from the 1st January, 1928.

Settlement Ex-Imperial Soldiers—Mr. W. Bankes Amery wrote following upon an interview he had with the State Secretary and Executive members while visiting Western Australia. He stated that certain difficulties presented themselves in the assistance of ex-Imperial soldiers on the land, and pointed out that he was not in a position to guarantee assistance. He sought further information on the subject.

Moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Wells: That the letter be referred to the Land Committee, and they be asked to submit a comprehensive scheme for submission to the Imperial Government.

Carried.

State Congress Resolutions—(a) Increase of Sustenance: The General Manager of the Agricultural Bank replied to representations made in an endeavour to obtain an increase in sustenance payments of soldier clients of the I.A.B. He stated that the Board could not see its way clear to increase the present allowance of 9/- per day.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Yeates: That the State Secretary be instructed to again approach the Agricultural Bank, pointing out to them that the reply received from them is not satisfactory to the League, and further stressing the anomalies existing particularly regarding the difference in the monthly rate payable to married and single settlers. Also pointing out to the Bank the increase that has taken place in the cost of living since the I.A.B. rate of 9/- per day was first instituted in 1914.—Carried.

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War Service Homes—The State Secretary reported on behalf of the delegation which waited on the Workers’ Homes Board in connection with the cases of — and —. The former case related to assistance from the Board for the installation of sewerage. The State Secretary stated that further representations were being made to the Repatriation Commission in connection with this matter. The latter case dealt with sleeping-out accommodation as ordered by the Repatriation Medical Officers. Further consideration was also being given to this matter.

Employment Incapacitated Soldiers—The State Secretary submitted particulars of incapacitated men registered at the Employment Bureau.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Watt: That the Pensions Committee prepare the case of incapacitated men and that the Returned Soldier Members of Parliament be circularised, asking them to meet the Committee in conference to discuss the question at a convenient date, with a view to bringing forward legislation to solve the problem.—Carried.

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

Finance Committee: The Secretary read the report of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 7th December. The report was received and adopted.

Land Committee: Mr. Yeates submitted a report of the Land Committee’s interview with the Agricultural Bank.
 premises by Mr. Logic: That sub-branches.

An interm report was submitted in

connection with a property at Darling

Range. The report was received.

Visiting Committee: The Rev. Nye re-

ported on behalf of the Visiting Com-

mittee, which interviewed the Deputy Com-

missioner for Repatriation and the De-

partmental Medical Officer, Dr. Beveridge,

concerning the merging of Repatriation

Wards 10 and 11. He reported that there

was no reason why any objection should

be lodged, as should any subsequent un-

fortunate happenings demand additional

accommodation; the extra ward would be

surrendered by the Hospital Authorities.

Trustees' Report: The Trustees submit-

ted a report on a resolution carried at the

Annual Congress (State) requesting sub-

branches to advise particulars of relief extended. They recommended that the State Secretariat circulate sub-

branches as suggested at intervals to be

determined by the Trustees. The report was received and adopted.

New Settlers' League—Mr. Watt and Mr. Longmore, delegates to the New Settlers' League, reported on the recent ac-

tivities of that Association.

Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr.

Yeates: That the delegates to the New

Settlers' League be thanked for their report and that they be requested to submit other reports at frequent intervals on the activities of the New Settlers' League Caxbridge.

Sir Henry Parker—The State Secretary

was instructed to forward a letter of con-
dolement to Major H. W. Parker on the recent death of his father.

Amelioration—The State Secretary re-

ported that Christmas Relief had been

approved during the past week to the extent of about £130.

Geo. Robson—Mr. Watt stated that Mr.

George Robson, an ex-member of the Executive, had had the misfortune to be

burned out at Wagin. The State Secre-

tary was instructed to forward a letter of sympathy.

Marketing—Moved by Mr. Shaw, sec-

onded by Mr. Logie: That sub-branches discuss the advisability or otherwise of supporting the fact that cold storage and railway facilities are essential to the success of economic working of the Central Markets, which are about to be erected by the Metropolitan Markets Trust in Perth, the matter to be submitted to the next Soldier Settlers' Conference if thought advisable. Carried.

State War Memorial—Mr. Wells re-

ported on the discussion which took place at the meeting of the City Council concerning a donation to the State War Memorial.

4/1/28.

Present: Messrs. Collett, McAdam, Longmore, Shaw, Yeates, Logie, Tyler Pady, Wells, Bader, Lovell and Margolin.

Apologies were received from Revs.

Riley and Nye and Messrs. Watt, Cornell, Sayer, and Tozer.

Leave of Absence—Mr. Lennon applied for leave of absence for two months, which was granted.

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age to France was confirmed at the 12th Annual Congress. He stated that a communication on the subject was expected from the British Empire Service League at any time, which also had the project in mind.

A further letter from Thos. Cook & Sons offering their assistance in this connection was also received.

Newdegate Cup.—In response to the South Australian State Branch, the State Secretary had forwarded details of the Newdegate Cup competition in this State. The South Australian Branch replied giving particulars of their Anzac Day Competition Shield, for which units of the A.M.F. competed each year.

Discussion then ensued and it was considered advisable that a similar competition should be inaugurated in this State in order that the Citizen Force Units might take a greater interest in Anzac Day and learn the traditions of the A.I.F.

Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. McAdam, that the matter be referred to a committee in order that they may approach Headquarters for Field Troops of W.A. to discuss ways and means of inaugurating such competition.—Carried.

A.I.F. Canteen Funds Trust.—The report of the A.I.F. Canteen Funds Trust for the year ended 30th June, 1927, was laid on the table for the information of members.

Land Settlement, Torbay District.—Two letters were received in connection with land settlement in this district, together with a request that a member of the Executive visit the district to investigate a particular claim. The State Secretary gave an explanation in connection with this claim, which was for the installation of a drain, and pointed out that the Government Department concerned required an indemnity from certain settlers in the event of any damage occurring after the drain was constructed. It was decided that the Sub-Branch be advised of the requirements of the Department.

Medical Treatment for School Children.—A resolution from the State Congress dealing with this matter had been forwarded to the Director of Education, who replied that the Department was willing to provide rail passes for children of persons in indigent circumstances to enable them to proceed to Perth for treatment if required. The Department will accept no responsibility for the provision of treatment or care of children while in Perth. The letter was received and it was decided that the Sub-Branch responsible for the resolution be advised accordingly.

Kojonup Sub-Branch.—The Kojonup Sub-Branch advised that a Committee of three members had been formed in their district to deal with all land complaints. Moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Longmore, that the Executive approves the steps taken by the Kojonup Sub-Branch and the Sub-Branch be informed that the Land Committee will be pleased to receive any recommendations from the Sub-Branch Committee.

Education Department.—The Waroona Sub-Branch requested that the State Executive forward a letter of appreciation to the Chief Inspector. Mr. Hope-Robertson, on the eve of his retirement, for his considerate treatment of Returned Soldiers in the Education Department. Moved by Mr. McAdam, seconded by Mr. Lörie, that the request be agreed to.—Carried.

3rd Biennial Conference, B.E.S.L.—The Minutes of this Conference were laid on the table for the information of members.

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Boating, Bathing, Fishing, Tennis
Afternoon Teas Specially Catered for
The house has been thoroughly renovated and refurnished. The fact that it is personally conducted by Tom Stack, of Fremantle, is sufficient guarantee of everything being first-class
TRY OUR SPECIAL BRANDS of GREY LABEL & STAND FAST WHISKY
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who is also to be found at Terminus Hotel, Fremantle.
Migrants: Mr. Pady reported having met six boats at Fremantle which contained ex-Imperial Soldiers migrating to Australia. Thirty-three had been obtained as League Members. He pointed out that during his visits to the wharf he could not help noticing the ever-increasing number of Southern Europeans arriving by each available boat. He stated that they do not seem to have any difficulty in obtaining work, as a few hours after arriving they disappear into the country. He was of the opinion these men were being exploited by their own countrymen, and were receiving very small wages for clearing and other work, which was to the detriment of the Britisher. It was also stated that despite the policy of the Agricultural Bank that payment for clearing would only be made to Britishers, in some cases the Agricultural Bank Inspectors were countenancing the payment of such money to Southern Europeans.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Pady, that in view of the report that Agricultural Bank Inspectors in some instances were countenancing the payment of clearing money to Southern Europeans, Sub-Branches be circularised in order to obtain confirmation or otherwise of this statement. The matter to be treated confidentially.—Carried.

Employment Bureau.—The report of the Employment Bureau for the month of December was received and adopted. Mr. Pady stated that very few offers of employment had been obtained from the Perth Office at Fremantle Headquarters. Moved by Mr. Pady, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Employment Officer be asked to furnish a report giving the proportion of labour allotted to Fremantle unemployed ex-soldiers.—Carried.

AN ENJOYABLE ENTERTAINMENT.

The Choral Section of the C.T.A. Concert Party paraded in force at Ward 11 one evening last month and treated the inmates of the Ward to a most enjoyable musical entertainment, the excellence of which was amply proved by the enthusiastic applause with which each and every item was greeted. The members are the more to be complimented, as the programme was put on at very short notice, and at no little personal inconvenience to members themselves, but, after all, this is very typical of the spirit governing an organisation known throughout our community by its good work. Solo items were rendered by Messrs. H. Hicks, L. Church, A. Hull, N. Crawford, C. Pascoe, G. Colohan, and G. W. Stephenson, while the Glee Singing, under the able conductorship of ex-Digger Campbell-Egan was especially well received. On a vote of thanks being accorded in a manner that left no doubt that every item had been thoroughly enjoyed, Mr. Jack Dyson, Chairman of the Concert Party, received in his usual cordial and sincere style that has endeared him to a host of pals.

LESSONS OF THE AIR.

The conquest of the air is still taking a heavy toll of the lives of our best and bravest sons. Australasians are still playing their parts and paying the price. The Smith Brothers and McIntosh and Parer put Australia's name on the aviation map with their epic flights from England to Australia. These ventures—over the same ground—were widely dissimilar in conception. The Smiths' was a flight which was elaborately planned, the mapping of the route and details as to supplies leaving as little as possible to chance. That it was successful was due as much to the preparations made beforehand as it was to the skill and pluck of the airmen. McIntosh and Parer, on the other hand, can count their success as due solely to the extraordinary qualities of initiative and resource typical of the Digger. With funds and equipment pathetically limited they set out from England in a crazy plane and after a series of hair-raising adventures, many crashes and helped by a ton of lock, they finally arrived at their destination in a plane which was largely held together with bits of wire and string.

The latest venture was a flight from Sydney to New Zealand by two New Zealand airmen, Lieut. Moncrieff and Captain Hood. Their flight has evidently ended in disaster, for a few hours after setting out, signals ceased and nothing further has been heard or seen of them or their plane. Doubt was expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) as to the suitability of the machine to do the trip, but at the special request of the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. Bruce withdrew his objections and instructed the Australian Air Force to render every assistance.

It would appear that Mr. Bruce's objections were well founded. A land plane is obviously not suitable for long flights over the sea. In case of a forced landing on the water an aeroplane must sink, whereas a seaplane has a reasonable chance of floating until such time as the aviators are picked up either by a passing or searching vessel. The signalling efficiency of the plane was also questioned.

Neither of the aviators was a Morse expert and the wireless communications were confined to signals denoting pre-arranged messages. This meant that in case of an engine failure, no approximate position could be given and thus the chances of being picked up were rendered almost negligible. There were other weaknesses, too, in organisation and equipment.

It is easy—and very necessary—that we be wise after an event. The lesson for the conduct of future air ventures of this nature—in the interests of aviation generally and to safeguard the lives of brave men—is that legislation is essential to give governments power to intervene and withhold licenses for distance flights, if not satisfied that there is reasonable hope of success.
16th BATTALION HISTORY.

There is a move on foot to have the history of the 16th Battalion written and a committee has been formed for that purpose. The task is admittedly difficult so long after the war, but it is extremely desirable that it should be successfully completed. Every unit in the A.I.F. possesses a war record which deserves a place in written history, but none is so rich in the romance of individual and collective achievement as the "Old Sixteenth." The careers of many of its members make such fascinating stories that if their experiences were written into the pages of a novel, they would be classed as fantastic and improbable happenings.

Take, for instance, Colonel Margolin. Of Jewish faith, born in Poland, and a man of education and culture, he landed in Western Australia about five years before the war. Unable to speak English and without friends, his difficulties as a stranger in a strange land can be imagined. With commendable pluck he overcame them, and in 1914 we find him in business on his own account as a manufacturer, a naturalised Britisher. In Collie in business on his own account as a manufacturer, a naturalised Britisher. And proud of his adopted country. He joined the local citizen forces and in August, 1914, was a lieutenant in the 86th Infantry, commanded by the late Col. C. Battye. Mobilised on the outbreak of war for home service, he volunteered for active service and was one of the original officers when the 16th was formed. He served on Gallipoli and in France with that unit, and was wounded on two occasions and awarded the D.S.O.

When the Jewish battalions of the Royal Fusiliers were formed in London, "Muzzy" was transferred to the British forces and appointed to a command. Ordered to Palestine, he was in the thick of the fighting which led to the capture of Jerusalem and was appointed the military governor of that city, a post which he occupied until four years later. It is a far cry from the avocation of the humble citizen of Collie to that of Governor of a famous Biblical city. Had it not actually happened, who would have believed it possible?

There was Percy Black—a miner at Southern Cross when the "Fall in" sounded. He left Australia as a lance-corporal and when, a major, he lay dead across the Hun wire at Bullecourt he was the best loved and most famous of the many wonderful men the A.I.F. had discovered on Gallipoli and in France.

There was Harry Murray—a sleeper cutter from the South-West. He left Blackboy as a private, was commissioned on Gallipoli, fought through Gallipoli and France, and finished with more wounds and fighting decorations than any other man in the whole of the mighty British Army. A V.C., C.M.G., D.S.O. and bar, D.C.M., and Croix de Guerre, and the lowly machine gun private of the Blackboy Hill days of 1914 was the colonel commanding a battalion of 64 guns in 1918.

Of Fat McCarthy, of Bill Lynas, and of many others in the fighting Sixteenth—they were all names with which the later A.I.F. was inspired. It is sad to think that the exploits of these men and of the famous unit to which they belonged should be forgotten with the passing of their own generation. Even at this late day it is to be hoped that the History Committee's efforts will be successful and that the result will be a written record which will make this and future generations thrill with pride. Success can only be achieved by members of the battalion writing and forwarding to the Committee their own impressions and experiences of periods, men, and stunts. The co-ordination of stories into a composite whole is easy.

Time is passing. The job has been commenced, and it has yet to be said that the 16th Battalion A.I.F. started a stunt which they did not complete. Sixteenth! it's up to you!

The flash Ding was at his busiest time when the Chow blew in with a cartload of carrots. In an effort to show off in front of his white customers, the Dago inquired: "How muchie callots, John?"
The inscrutable Chinaman replied: "Two-a-da-seex."

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VARIA.

"Wings": The British Empire Service League is growing in status, size and influence. This body is a federation of the ex-service men's associations of the Empire and, of course, our own R.S.L. is a member. Every two years a conference representative of the various associations is held and the decisions arrived at are characterised by clear-thinking and weighed reasoning. The Grand Patron, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and the Grand President, Field Marshal Earl Haig, make it their business to be present at these deliberations and moreover they are practical workers for the cause of ex-service men. The venue of the meetings to date have been Canada, South Africa, and Great Britain. It is hoped that it will be deemed practicable in a few years, when airship communication is established, to meet in Australia. The value of such deliberations to the Empire's well-being is very obvious, for co-operation in all spheres of life is pronounced by statesmen to be essential and effective.

J.G.P.: No doubt the Home Office in London considers it "policy" to select for the office of State Governor men who have had an inspiring naval or military career or who have achieved prominence on the golf course or athletic sphere, perhaps owning a couple of dozen racehorses as well, besides being a connoisseur on cocktails and cigars; in other words men who will "hit it" immediately with the sport-loving, hero-worshipping Australian public, which likes its sporting aristocracy as well as the most patriotic Englishman. Thoughtful and reasoning Australian citizens, however (and there are many) would welcome the appointment of a noted scientist, musician, author, or artist to the office of State Governor, the necessary personality and qualifications being forthcoming, of course. He may or may not have signed a document requesting the introduction of the totalisator on English racecourses, but his term of governorship in this young country would be of inestimable benefit, starved as we are comparatively in men of genius in the realms of art and music. The moral and ethical effect would be great and welcomed, however, for Australia is full of promise in these spheres and possessed of many young men and women seeking to win their spurs.

"Economist": The Commonwealth, it seems, more than most countries of the world, is beset with a plethora of industrial troubles likely to be of serious hindrance to its development. Whether the cause be an "enlightened labour movement," the "good as my master" attitude of the Australian workmen, or the result of the sowing of the seeds of discontent by the "reds," one would not care to say, but certain it is that a remedy must be found quickly.

Sir Alfred Mond, who is a leading employer in Great Britain, contends that the only satisfactory method is to make all workmen partners in the business and therefore profit-sharers. This, he says, is the greatest possible inducement to greater output and greater profit. His years, his ten thousand employees have case is most convincing for, in twenty-five years, has been in continuous work and all strikes have left them cold.

A scheme of profit-sharing may not be suitable for all industries, but the great ideal is the wiping out of the gulfs between "master" and "man," and if employers work for this industrial peace will be within sight.

The system of high hourly rates of pay is most unsatisfactory as in many cases less work is being done for more pay than formerly. It will lead nowhere.

Employees under a bonus or profit-sharing scheme earn more the harder they work and all concerned benefit to the greatest possible degree. I earnestly request employers' organisations to give consideration to this principle, without delay and to fling from them cast-iron ideas, now obsolete, they may have on the subject.

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Don't scrap the Rifle, Gun, or Revolver that's out of order—we'll fix it. We open Safes, repair and adjust Scales, Lawnmowers, etc. Please service at moderate cost.

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“Hiker”: The efforts of the State Tourist Bureau to popularise holiday resorts in W.A. are bearing fruit. During the recent holiday season record crowds were in evidence at most of our beaches and other pleasure resorts, and the exodus to the East was the lowest for many years. As one who has travelled widely I have no hesitation in declaring that we compare favourably with other parts of the world in possessing ample holiday facilities. The geniality and evenness of the climate is a great factor in this respect and the comparative safety of the beaches; the facilities offered and the moderate prices prevailing also contribute largely to the increasing patronage of W.A. resorts, not only by the residents but also by visitors from other States.

The R.S.L. dining rooms are growing in popularity, and should be the lunch-hour rendezvous of all diggers with their friends.

Mundijong R.S.L. has its annual reunion on Saturday, 14th inst. Clem Piper (President), doing the honours to League Headquarters representatives, Messrs. Bader and Benson, and other visitors including our friends Messrs. Devereaux and Egan from Armadale. A first class musical programme was a special feature of the evening. Miss V. Carpenter (Perth), and Mr. J. Scott, of Cardup, being the “stars.” “Dollie” Gray and Paddy Melville sang a duet, which, however, was timed a little early, and would have been more effective in the closing hours, which happened to be the one spoken of by an old poet as the “Witching Hour.”

Torbay sub-branch recently broke the long sequence of appreciative resolutions concerning the R.S.L. Land Committee by seriously recording its condemnation because the Land Committee had not seen eye to eye with the local sub-branch of the Torbay District Committee. The State President’s (Col. Collett) itinerary to the Wheat Belt sub-branches includes Nungarin, February 15th; Merredin 16th, Narembeen 17th, and perhaps Kellerberrin 18th. Likely that the party will include Rev. E. H. O. Nye, Mr. H. E. Wells, and other Executive delegates.

Although not shouted abroad, it is surprising to see the number of claims made each week for assistance to the R.S.L. Trustees, Messrs. G. H. Philp, E. S. Watt, and F. J. McDermott. Applications include all sorts of proposals, from a man who has bought a motor car or truck and gone back in his payments, to the agonised benefic or deserted wife of some digger who appeals to the League. Applications are considered in a sympathetic spirit, absolutely devoid of any selfish interest, and, although the great majority of requests emanate from those who hitherto have never given a thought to the League, the Trustees patiently consider the merits of the case, and, where women and children are concerned, obviate their intolerance of the male in consideration of those whose wants obviously cannot be disregarded. A frequent exclamation, however, heard at Trustee meetings is: “Whatever would some people do were there no R.S.L. to appeal to.”

A troubled question was recently ventilated at a State Executive meeting, following upon a report by Mr. Pady concerning the foreign influx noticeable on boat days at Fremantle. Delegate Bill Logie, in a following discussion, asserted that although headquarters of the Agricultural Bank decreed that approved advances would not be made available to settlers employing foreign labour, payments were made with the knowledge of the district inspectors in cases where Southern Europeans had done the work. Mr. C. Longmore regarded this declaration as most serious, and it was finally agreed that certain enquiries be made by the State Secretary. Recently Mr. E. A. McLarty, Managing Trustee of the Bank, informed the State Secretary that complaints were coming from soldier settlers that, owing to the scarcity of competent British labour, clearing contracts had been let to foreigners. Instances were quoted where clearing jobs had been attempted by British labourers, only for them to clear out in the initial stages, after huge store bills had been piled up. Commenting on the cases quoted, the League offici-
al has notified Mr. McLarty that no requests had been received by the R.S.L. Employment Officer for clearers, and therefore the soldier settlers who had employed foreigners had done this at their own risk and ignorant of the conditions prevailing in the city, where hundreds of Britshers were out of work. The R.S.L. could at any time during the last three years have supplied 50 competent clearers monthly, and this fact should be broadcast in the country.

It was in 1897 that the late Mr. A. M. Paterson, who served with the 28th Battn. and Imperial Camel Corps during the late scrap, met with an adventure in Coolgardie which, although not, probably, unique in goldfields history, is of sufficient interest to find a place in this publication. It was during the period of the erection of the telegraph from Southern Cross to Coolgardie before the railway was built. There was a camp of men at the Coolgardie end engaged in the construction of the telegraph line. On pay nights the camp naturally was more or less full, many of the outlying workers coming in for the occasion. At that time there were a number of Afghan traders engaged in bringing food supplies from Southern Cross to the Coolgardie Camps. The journey was made by camels, which were familiar beasts on the "fields" in those days. Mr. Paterson was acting as paymaster for the P.M.G.'s Department at the time, and had occasion to sleep with the pay under his pillow on the night in question. It was about midnight when he awoke feeling that all was not well. He later heard a faint noise outside and gripped his revolver. Presently a knife was poked through the tent and a long slit was made near his pillow. A brown hand and wrist presently came through the hole. Now "A.M.P." as he was known locally, was no weakening; in fact, he was a strong man. That Afghan might have saved himself the trouble after all. His wrist was held in a vice-like grip and slowly twisted until he woke the camp with his yells. In a few moments he was in custody, and "A.M.P." wisely secured the money on his person and resumed his interrupted sleep.

THE VIRTUES

I—Temperance: Drink does not drown care, but waters it and makes it grow faster.

II—Silence: Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself; avoid trifling conversation.

III—Order: Let all your things have their places; let each part of your business have its time.

IV—Resolution: Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

V—Fugacity: Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself; that is, waste nothing.

VI—Industry: Lose no time; be always employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions.

VII—Sincerity: Use no hurtful deceit; think innocently and justly; and, if you speak, speak accordingly.

VIII—Justice: Wrong none by doing injuries or omitting the benefits that are your duty.

IX—Moderation: Avoid extremes; forbear resenting injuries, so much as you think they deserve.

X—Cleanliness: Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes or habitation.

XI—Tranquillity: Be not disturbed at trifles or at accidents, common or unavoidable.

XII—Charity: Be kind and virtuous—you'll be blest and wise.

XIII—Humility: Imitate Jesus and Socrates.

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THE ALIEN MENACE.

No one is more entitled to be heard on the alien immigration question than the soldier who fought for the country in which he lives. The R.S.I., both Federal and State, has definitely expressed its hostility to an undue proportion of foreigners arriving in this country, holding that, even in Australia, which wants population, purity of race is preferable to quantity without quality. Representa tives have been made by the Federal Executive asking that the Federal Government shall devise means to deal with this admittedly difficult question. Already it has been announced that Signor Mussolini intends to restrict the flow of Italians. It should not be impossible to get similar curtailment in the country of their origin of other, and less desirable, Southern Europeans. Failing that, legislation is necessary in Australia.

The foreigner for many years has had almost a monopoly of the underground work on the mines of our goldfields. No one, apart from the principle, would begrudge him that, for gold mining is not a calling which one would choose if choice of employment were possible. Since the war, however, the timber industry of the South-West has also been over-run by Southern Europeans, and the industry which, during the war, produced the finest type of Australian soldier—the axeman and the bushman—is now in the hands of foreigners almost completely. A big proportion of the unemployment in the State today is due to the displacement of the timber men by their foreign rivals.

If the newcomers conformed to the wage and living standards of their adopted country, their competition in the labour market would be less open to criticism than it is, but all the evidence to date goes to show that the ousting of the Australian worker has been due to the breaking down by the foreigner of the wages and hours standards previously maintained in the timber industry.

The foreigner is also invading the fields of agriculture and it is claimed by his supporters that the Australian won't take clear ing and, if he does, that he will not do a fair day's work like the foreigner. That is gross misrepresentation made in many cases to excuse the employment of foreigners. Probably the real reason is that the foreigner is working at a very reduced scale of wages. In other words, the issue is not that the Australian will not do a fair day's work, but that, unlike the foreigner, he demands a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

In the towns the foreigner is even less desirable than he is in the country. Perth is overrun with its foreign element, mostly in the restaurant and fish and chip business. These callings are necessary, but it is regrettable that Australians should bolster up by their patronage of these shops an undesirable foreign city element, when there are Australian eating houses open for business.

In any case, the Australian returned soldier would like to see Australia populated by a stock predominately British. We wrong no nation in that desire and fearless legislation towards the attainment of that ideal by the Commonwealth Government—even at the risk of international complications—would meet with the approval of an overwhelming majority of dinkum Australians.

28th BATTALION (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dunkley presided over the annual general meeting of the 28th Battalion (A.I.F.) Association held last month, at the Soldiers' Institute.

The committee's report was read and disclosed a very satisfactory state of affairs. There had been a substantial increase in membership during the year; several successful social functions had been held, and assistance had been rendered to several members of the old battalion who were in need.

As sufficient funds had already been raised to take over the liability on the first volume of the battalion's history, it was hoped that the printing and publishing of the second and final volume would be proceeded with at an early date.


The s.s. Zephyr has been engaged by the 28th Battalion Association for its annual moonlight river trip, which has been arranged for Thursday, January 26th. These trips are always popular and given seasonable weather there should be a record gathering of the men who wore the blue and white diamond.

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"ESPRIT DE BATTALION"

Much ink has been spilled since the Great War over the alleged lack of discipline shewn by the Aussie soldier. It can be admitted that he had for "eye-wash" discipline a hearty contempt, but for "battle" discipline he was the greatest exponent of all the fighting nations. Comparisons are always odious, so let the digger's battle performances silently testify to his battle discipline.

However, one of the outstanding instances of discipline did not occur in action, nor would it appear that a mutiny (for such it was) could furnish a very good instance of any sort of discipline. Yet it did and the circumstances are these:-

During September, 1918, the Australian Corps was out of the line resting near Peronne, and one day on a route march the company to which the writer belonged passed through a village occupied by another Ausie battalion. It was an eye-opener the way the adjutant and the O.C. and stood to attention when the company marched past. Unused to observing these details themselves the company put it down to the battalion's rotten luck in having a C.O. who was an adjutant who misdirected his energies, and company commanders who had been too long in training camps in England.

However, the company was wrong. It appears that an order had recently been issued that, owing to casualties and the reduced strength of battalions, one in each brigade was to be disbanded and its personnel distributed among the other three. The battalion in the village was the unlucky one picked for breaking up and on the appointed day the C.O. had lined them up, after previously issuing detailed lists as to distribution, to say farewell. With a parting speech he wished everyone luck and gave the order to move.

The men stood fast! There was no argument and there were no ringleaders. After consultation the officers and sergeants moved off and reported to their new units, leaving the men to themselves on the assumption that they would follow. Instead, they hoisted a lance-corporal as C.O., appointed an adjutant and company commanders, and filled every vacant job in the battalion and "carried on." There was a sudden tightening of discipline. Parades were held and all the usual routine duties carried out, including "orderly room" (where offenders were dealt with in the utmost severity) and returns to Brigade Headquarters. To all appeals the one reply was sent, viz.: "As the battalion we came into the war, and as the battalion we intend to finish it." Then Brigade threatened to cut off supplies. The answer was effective: "If supplies are cut off, extreme steps will be taken to provision the C.O."

The C.O. was held on Sunday under a padre sent over by Brigade, and afterwards the new C.O. took the salute as the companies marched past with all the ceremony and dignity of a regular colonel.

Then the officers and sergeants were sent back. Peace was restored by a message from Corps Headquarters saying that "owing to the imminent of battle no further disbandments of battalions would take place."

During the next few days the same mutineers went into action in the final stunt of the war—the taking of the Hindenburg line. The esprit-de-corps which had been built up over a period of strenuous war years, which had risked the ignominy of the term "mutineer" by refusing to be broken up, was much in evidence when the battalion played a very gallant and successful part in the final fight of the Australian Corps in France.

SPLINTERS FROM BENJAMIN'S BUTTONSTICK.

Gentlemen prefer blondes. Soldiers like all colours. A wosser is one who cultivates the miserly virtues at the expense of the generous sins. The club was the case man's weapon for winning a wife. It is the modern marriage device for avoiding one. Refinement is the ugly step-sister of culture. Chastity is the sole asset of ugliness. Snobbishness is mediocrity's method of demanding attention.

The other day I heard a stupid man in a bar order a small glass of beer. ALL beer glasses are small. Americans have a high regard for the institution of marriage. It is such a convenient breathing space between divorces. A Hollywood film star, introducing a gentleman to one of her girl friends, explained: "Steve is a real old pal. In fact, he was the co-re in my maiden divorce case."

A communist is a bloke who will share your last shilling with you. A friend of mine has made New Year Resolutions. After a moral stocktaking he realised that his chief failings are wine, women, and song. As reformation is essential he has decided to cut out music. The cables have been making quite a fuss over the fact that Marshal Foch possesses the Napoleonic gift of being able to sleep at will. After all, it is very little to rave over. The accomplishment is fairly general in the State Civil Service.

Newspaper headline: "Shocking Juvenile Depravity." Evidently it should be called The Rising De-Generation.

When trouble is brewing it takes more than hot air to kill the germ of suspicion. Laughter is the sound a man hears when his hat blows off and rolls in the mud.

Health Hint.—An onion a day keeps the flippers away.

There was once a bonnie Scotch laddie, who said, as he put on his plaidie: "I've just had a dish O' unco' guid fish."

Now what had he had? He had had haddock.

The Tight Little Island.

The English instructor was drilling a bunch of newly-arrived Australian recruits, and had given the order to form fours. One burly son of the Commonwealth did not move.

"Why didn't that man step back?" roared the instructor.

There ensued a muttered colloquy between the huge one and the corporal. "Please, sir," volunteered the latter, "he's afraid he'll step off your island."

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IS WAR ACCORDING TO GOD’S PLAN?

C. "SID" LONGMORE GIVES HIS VIEWPOINT.

(In our December issue Mr. Watt stated a case in the affirmative. It was said that Padre Eric Nye would state his views in this issue. Mr. Nye’s comments, however, will be published in our February number. Mr. Longmore has some interesting and instructive comments to make on this important question.)

War is part of God’s plan—but not civil war. Science and invention have now more or less internationalised the peoples of the world and, therefore, all wars between nations can be classed as civil wars.

The only wars that are part of God’s plan are man’s war against the forces of nature; the war against pestilence and disease; the war against crime and corruption; the war against greed and ignorance.

To me it is a strange thing that the man who preaches that war between nations is necessary because it is part of God’s plan is, if he be an employer, the very man who strikes (i.e. war between employer and employees) should never be, and never would be if the two parties “got together” around the conference table. As an employer he would not preach that war between employer and employees was part of God’s plan. Why differ when it comes to nations?

No fighting man who went through the last Great War can ever honestly believe that war is necessary or that it is part of a Divine plan. History has proved that almost every war is the result of greed and corruption, of lust for power or profit.

There are countless instances when Might has-warred against Right, but in few instances has Right conquered. If war was God’s plan, Right would be undefeated.

No one who thinks for himself will believe that the Great War was what we fought for—the war to end war. But that is because civilisation has not yet reached that stage of understanding when it can turn its fighting spirit into useful channels. It will only be able to do that when it has fought and conquered humanity’s common foes—greed and ignorance—for greed and ignorance are the root causes of all wars.

HARVESTING IN THE RIVERINA.

The Modern Way.
(By R.W.)

Remarkable has been the advance in grain harvesting machinery during recent years. We Australians of the present generation had become familiar with the hum of the stripper-harvester, and took a certain amount of pride in the fact that it was a purely Australian invention; but we had no conception of the changes that were to come.

It seems only a few years since the header-harvester made its appearance and rapidly took pride of place in the harvest field; and now an Australian agricultural machinery company has perfected and placed on the market an auto-header, undoubtedly the most efficient harvesting machine in the world to-day.

It was my good fortune to witness one of these machines working on a farm at Morundah in the Riverina in a wheat crop of about 600 acres. Some idea of the extraordinary rapidity with which a crop is harvested by the auto-header may be gauged from the fact that this farmer took off between forty and fifty acres each day, and this with only a reasonable day’s work, and a stoppage of at least an hour for the midday meal.

For the benefit of those not acquainted with the machine, it might be explained that the auto-header is a self-propelled header-harvester, cutting a 12ft. swath. The power is derived from an internal combustion engine mounted on the machine, which both drives the propelling wheel, and direct drives the threshing mechanism. The lightness of draught is at once apparent, and no more than a tin of petrol was used in the engine for every ten acres of crop harvested.

The cutting and gathering arrangement spreads right across the front of the machine and forms its greatest width, so that there was no need for the farmer to cut tracks with a binder. He drove the auto-header straight into the crop without knocking down a single head of grain, and the rapidity with which the wide strips were taken off was astounding. The crop was harvested, threshed, and bagged, at the rate of more than a bag of wheat per minute.

Two men only were required to operate the machine. One sat forward driving with a wheel similar to that used on any car or truck, whilst the second man stood on a platform on the side filling bag after bag as fast as he could shift them.

Undoubtedly this wonderful machine is far in advance of anything used in other parts of the world, and the Australian farmer is again first in the field, with a better harvesting machine—better because of its proven efficiency, and the immense saving in labour and time due to the extraordinary acreage that can be covered each day.

LAND FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Applicants Present Position.

The League recently wrote to the Minister for Lands asking if he could make reservations for the settlement of those ex-service men who hold the necessary qualification certificates and desire to be absorbed in the Soldier Settlement Scheme. In reply Mr. Troy stated:

“At this stage I regret I cannot make reservations for the settlement of these men, but I understand the Land Board always deals sympathetically and if possible, preferentially with such cases.

“I am assured by the Surveyor-General that a considerable number of locations will be available for selection before the end of this financial year. The opportunity should provide for settlement of a great number of settlers and Returned Soldiers will have the fullest opportunity of having their claims considered.”

H. V. McKay, Pty., Ltd., have received notification that the Sunshine Header Harvester for harvesting peas was awarded the gold medal at the Christchurch Royal Agricultural Show in November last.

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R.S.L. ART UNION.

The Seventh R.S.L. Art Union will be drawn on Saturday at the Soldiers' Institute at 3 p.m., and when going to press it looked as if the consultation would again be over-subscribed. As the committee, consisting of Messrs. R. E. Tyler, Cliff. Sadlier, V.C., F. J. McAdam, T. P. Lennon and C. Bader, with the State Secretary as Organiser, did not advertise much during December, less than £100 was in the Bank when the New Year dawned. This left the committee with the task of getting over £6,000 in a month, and both the State Secretary (Mr. Benson), and Bob Tyler admitted, when interrogated as to whether this could be done, that "we could do it on our heads." Country diggers may be surprised to know that from Perth alone sales average £100 per day, and an extensive returned soldier staff is employed counting, classifying and banking. If any tickets remain when this publication reaches sub-branches, all diggers should help the committee by advertising the R.S.L. Art Union in their own immediate circle.

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SONGS OF SOPHISTICATION.

By Benjamin Buttonstick.

Hey diddle diddle, George Hipe and the fiddle,
Kinsella upon the bassoon.
Fred Spargo's best manner upon the pianiner;
And the symphony rocks the old moon.
Adam and Eve returned to earth
To study the fashions designed by Worth,
And Eve remarked: "Why, Adam dear,
They're much the same as when I was here."

Drink to me only with thine eyes
While I drink deep to the skies.
For if thy lips touch not the glass,
There'll be the more beer for me.

The Minstrel Boy to the floor has gone,
With a rank, rank breath you'll find him.
His dad's decanter he has taken on,
And he swamped enough to blind him.

Hark, hark, the bots do bark
About our Memorial Site,
As thought the hot air they have to spare
Would blow it to atoms, quite.

In the Air.

He proposed while they were sailing
Through the blue serene of heaven,
And he raved about her beauty.
From nine-ten until eleven.
They were high up in the cloud fields,
Far from whispering of clover,
And the poor girl had to take him,
For she couldn't throw him over.

Exit the Muse.

I cannot sing the old songs
I used to sing, Viola.
The instalment man came round and he
Foreclosed on our victrola.

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CHAPTER VII.

The Middle Ages.

The Norman Conquest brought about two sweeping changes with regard to the Englishman's manner of taking exercise. Hunting became the monopoly of the ruling class, and the tournament, already popular on the continent, was introduced into England in Stephen's reign. In addition, the coming of the Normans brought the English Church into closer relationship with Rome, and the organisation of that system of military service in return for land tenure which historians call feudalism.

The Church and the Feudal System were the two main institutions of the Middle Ages, and each had its characteristic ideal as regards the training and the discipline of the body. That of the Church was the ascetic, that of the feudal system was the knightly or military ideal.

1. The Monastic or Ascetic Ideal.

Possibly because all the great religions are of oriental origin, asceticism is a feature of them all. The early Christians soon adopted this mode of life. Retirement into the wilderness, fasting and prayer, were merely following the example of our Lord and His Apostles. Then again, the second coming of Our Lord was eagerly expected. The things of this world did not matter, except in so far as they could be made a preparation for that which is to come. Consequently the body came to be looked upon as something inherently vile, something that must be punished for the sake of the soul. Thus we find St. Jerome, writing to the Lady Leda on the education of her daughter, forbidding baths and long hours of sleep.

In itself, and always provided that it is not carried to extremes, the ascetic life is a healthy one and the self-discipline on which it depends is of high moral value. Even in the Middle Ages it was rarely carried to extremes. The mediaeval Church was fairly tolerant and provided that men conformed to its doctrines and lived reasonably respectable lives the Church interfered very little with their pleasures. Moreover, at every stage of the English Church's history the sporting parson has been in the ascendant. Bede tells us that St. Cuthbert acquired marked proficiency in swimming, wrestling, running, and jumping. Chaucer's monk was fond of hunting and proud of his horsemanship.

As the clergy were the only educated men of the time, it was natural that they should control education. Corporal punishment of a particularly severe nature was a recognised method of instruction; so much so, that we find the gentle Anselm of Aosta protesting against the brutal thrashings to which schoolboys were subjected.

No definite physical training was given in the monastic schools. Asceticism was a system of self-discipline rather than of exercise; but the mediaeval boy was like the human boy in all ages. He had his games and it was in and through them that he acquired his bodily development.

A CHRISTMAS TALE.

A man there was and he had a friend (Even as you and I)
And he tried to think of a wish to send.
Original "stuff" with a subtle trend.
The kind that a highbrow might have penned.
(Even as you and I).
But the man was stripped of his foolish pride
(Even as you and I).
For he saw at last that the wish is tried,
Not by the words, but the thought inside.
So "Merry Christmas" he wrote and sighed
(Even as you and I).

HORSES VERSUS LIZZIE.

An exchange prints the following poem eulogising the four-footed friend of man:
Oh! Horse, you are a wondrous gift—
no buttons to push, no jack to lift; you start yourself—no clutch to slip, no spark to miss, no gears to strip; no license
buying every year, with plate to screw on front and rear; no gas bills climbing up each day, stealing joy of life away; no speed cops chugging in your rear, yelling summons in your ear; your inner tubes are all O.K.—and thank goodness they stay that way! Your spark plugs never miss or fuss, your motor never makes me cuss; your frame is good for many a mile, your body never changes style; your wants are few and easily met—you've something on the auto yet!

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AN INGENIOUS RUSE.

It was while stationed with the 8th King's Liverpools at Oswestry that the following remarkable plan of escape emanated from the brain of a "prisoner" held in the guard room for previous desertion. No doubt many which are even more clever will have come to the notice of readers, but the one in question is worthy of "records."

We had a great many Irish-American recruits culled from occupations ranging from beach-combers to cow-punchers, and whether this particular one had ever appeared as a music hall performer in a vanishing act, I am not in a position to state, but that he had a penchant for the part we cannot doubt, after the following:-

Having been confined for some hours, the "prisoner" expressed a desire to "leave the room." He was duly escorted to the appointed place for his natural function, and the guards took their stand at the door. During the first few minutes there was little anxiety on their part, but after a lengthy period of waiting, their curiosity was aroused. The latch was lifted, and they peeped. The "prisoner" had vanished, and it did not take them long to find that he had removed the container, wriggled through the aperture like a perfectly good snake, and vanished. As I was shortly after sent on leave, pending sailing for "somewhere in France," I never learned to this day whether he was re-captured, but who will dare say that our friend did not deserve his liberty. With the magnificent Irish spirit he no doubt enlisted elsewhere, and for all we know, he may be the "unknown soldier" who rests in eternal glory and peace in the hallowed precincts of Westminster Abbey.

"SUBALTERN."
During the month Colonel F. B. Heritage, Commandant of the Royal Military College, Duntroon, and formerly military commandant of this State, has been visiting Perth for the purpose of interviewing local candidates for Duntroon. For many years before the war the Colonel was commandant of the Small Arm School at Randwick, and he is recognised throughout the British Empire as an authority on musketry; in fact, a well-known official booklet on this subject, though ascribed to another instructor, is largely the work of Colonel Heritage. On one occasion this led a would-be clever subaltern into a direful trap. Noticing the similarity between the wording of the Colonel's lecture and that of the aforesaid booklet, this student wrote in his notebook the opening lines of the lecture, adding the parenthesis, "For the remainder of the lecture, see Bostock, pages soandso." Imagine his consternation when the notebook was returned with the appended words, "And for the sequel, see Heritage, Orderly Room, 9 a.m."

In Perth as one of the South Australian delegates to the Australian Treachers' Conference, Major E. S. Davies, late 46th Battalion. Major Davies was a member of the old A. and I. Staff, and as he was stationed in this State during the early days of the war, he has had the opportunity of visiting quite a number of local friends.

Major Ken Nicholl, of the Welsh Guards, lately A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Williah Campion, goes to Melbourne as A.D.C. to Lord Stonehaven, Governor-General. This is the heaviest staff appointment in the Commonwealth, and the Major is honoured in receiving it. During his stay of three years in W.A., he has made himself extremely popular in social and sporting circles, and by many is described as a "true English gentleman"—a title much coveted by many. Major Nicholl is keenly interested in the Boy Scouts. It is encouraging and significant that a professional soldier should take such an interest in a peace movement, and emphasises what the Major declares occasionally—that he abhors war." All who had occasion to seek an interview with His Excellency were met with every courtesy from him, and in many instances the A.D.C. himself went out of his way to oblige. Tall, erect and soldierly-looking, the Major is a typical Guards officer, and his awe-inspiring full-dress uniform occasioned many curious glances during public functions in Perth. He has our best wishes for a successful career in his new life.

Alf. Rogers, of the Railways, recently did the bravest deed of his life, when he married his best girl. Alf. was born and bred in Aldershot, and when a nipper worried the regulars there with his baffling questions on all things military. Later he joined the Territorials, and served in India and West Africa on active service. Australia then beckoned to him, with the result above-mentioned. He is the scoutmaster of the Railway Troop of Boy Scouts—a very keen body of youngsters. Alf. and his wife have chosen to live at Osborne Park. Good luck to them is our wish.

Fred Mackean, who acted as publicity officer to the Fremantle sub-branch, has taken up duty as a group foreman on the Peel Estate, which should be a lucky move for some groups.

No more genuine digger ever soldiered than Fred Bateson. Fred was a tower of strength to the Midland Sub-Branch, and for two or three years was a State Executive delegate. Failing health forced Fred to leave the metropolitan area, and he took up his abode further south. His latest move on behalf of the cause that he has so near to his heart, is to form a new sub-branch, which is called the Forrest Grove and District Sub-Branch. With a hundred men like Fred throughout the country, there would be few diggers outside the fold.

Bill Hunt, the new vice-president of the Perth sub-branch, is a likeable chap, who generally makes a success of any job he undertakes. He has been an energetic committee-man of the sub-branch for the past two years, and his promotion is the result of honest endeavour in the interests of the ex-soldiers. Bill was the 44th Battalion's transport officer for the greater part of its period in France. When his captaincy came along he was transferred to command a company and took it over the top against the Hindenburg line on September 29, 1918. He soon got the worst of the argument with a 5.9, and didn't bother much about who was winning the war until the nurse said, "Drink"
this!" After the war he went back to his farm, but was eaten out by dingoes and a few years ago started in business in Perth as a furniture manufacturer. He and his partner (also a digger) are now successfully established and have only recently built a fine new factory at Victoria Park.

R.S.L. Land Committee Chairman, Alf. Yeates, went east on Thursday, 19th, on Dried Fruits business.

League certificate of merit holder, Mary Meares, has recovered from an unfortunate accident experienced a couple of months ago. This good friend of the digger, in bravely defying the superstitions, walked under a ladder, just at the moment when a hammer was let fall by a careless workman, which fell on her head, causing a concussion of the brain. This necessitated a six weeks' sojourn for Mary in a dark room. The unlucky experience, however, has not in any way dimmed our good friend's bright nature.

Big Jim Gunn, late captain of the 28th Battalion and general manager of the W.A. Fish Coy., Ltd., is at present enjoying a six months' holiday in England.

One of our readers desires to purchase an overseas volume of "Aussie." Please send particulars, including price desired, to the office of THE LISTENING POST.

Digger Lén Gibbons, Town Clerk of Guildford, writes asking for brief descriptive pars regarding two trophies which are placed in the Guildford Town Hall. Perhaps some of our readers can assist us.

The official reference reads—

"Heavy Machine Gun captured by the 16th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces, during the attack on Vaire, Hamel Woods, on the 4th July, 1918, in the battle of Hamel."

"Light Machine Gun captured by the 28th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces during operations near Morlancourt, in France, on 10th June, 1918."

George Mellor, the Secretary of the Perth sub-branch, has returned to duty after touring Canada and portion of America with the Commonwealth Brass Band. He found time during his tour to look up the ex-service men's organisation leaders and represented Australia at a Canadian Conference. The problems and the discussions were so similar to what George was familiar with in this State that it needed no great effort on his part to imagine himself home again. The conference also had its " Dad " Fanning, its " Bull " McGinty, and other similar personalities to our own.

Having his share of private troubles, J. Truman, Vice-President of Calingiri R.S.L., whose wife is faced with a serious operation. Mr. Truman made a little pile contracting in the "Old Dart" after discharge from the 18th Hussars, and putting his savings into W.A. land, has done remarkably well. We wish Mrs. Truman a speedy return to good health again.

We heartily reciprocate the many expressions of goodwill which were sent to us during the festive season, and thank our many friends for their kindly thought.

A live wire and a good citizen is H. A. Boyes, the capable secretary of the Narrebeen sub-branch, and if his town lags behind the development of others in the State, it won't be the fault of H.A. His latest public effort, in which every assistance should be given him, is to organise a big art union in aid of the fund to build a memorial hospital for his district, he being hon. secretary of the hospital committee.

Jim Morgan, ex. 11th Battn. A.I.F., and later 2nd or 3rd in command of Kerensky's unwashed legion, is now out of the quack's hands, and able to take a very little liquid refreshment. February, however, will see him back in Percy Gillam's land of luscious pears and potentialities.

In town on private business, C. J. McDonald, of Balmoral, Cranbrook. "Mac" is prospering, and a bustling type of digger who would succeed almost anywhere.

LEEDERVILLE SUB-BRANCH.

Muster Meeting, 10/2/1928.

The Secretary of the Leederville Sub-Branch received such a good number of promises to join, rejoin, or transfer to the local branch during the Smoke Social on Friday, January 13th, that he decided to make the usual monthly meeting for Friday, February 10th, a mustering meeting of Diggers. As the State President and Secretary were unavoidably absent at the January meeting, efforts will be made to secure their attendance on February 10th. Diggers interested are urged to attend.

Have you any reasons for not joining? Come along and we'll persuade you into it. The need for unity and co-operation is as great now as it ever was.

" Dad " Fanning

Late 46th Batt. & Dingup Sub-Branch has purchased a Fruit Barrow stationed in front of Commonwealth Bank in FORREST PLACE, Perth where he sells the BEST FRUIT at THE LOWEST PRICES

"I don't think," complained little Susie, after her first day at school, "that my teacher knows as much as she thinks she does."

"Why not, dear?" asked her mother.

"Why, she even had to ask what street I live in."

United Typewriter & Supplies Co. Ltd.
81 ST. GEORGE'S TERR. PERTH

Smith Premier Typewriters
Monarch Typewriters
Smith Premier Portable Typewriters
Kardex Filing Systems
Invincible Supplies
Eversharp Pencils and Wahl Pens
Electric or Hand Driven—
Smith Premier Accounting Machines and Adding and Subtracting Typewriters
Monroe Calculators
Sundstrand Adding and Listing Machines
Tan-Sad Chairs

Let us Solve your Office Difficulties.
A DEMONSTRATION WITHOUT OBLIGATION IS INVITED.

T. SAMPSON, Manager.
In the dining room this long but like a saxophone in a symphony was far from divine. It was a nagging, irritable note, why should he be otherwise? Was it not a trip to the first train, it takes more than five years to efface, for Norah Mulqueen has named the day at last, and I’m going down to Perth on tonight’s train to get married.

“Where’s the Boss? Want you an’ him to join me.”

O’Hara emerged from the overgrown sentry box that he called his office.

“Where’s the Boss? Want you a double?”

“Well, it is a double in a sort of way, only better. A pot for me, Boss. Well, here’s luck.”

The cause of all this perturbation was Mr. James Trippick. Mr. Trippick was Mulga Vale’s new butcher. He had bought out his predecessor five years previously, but, in a district where the oldest inhabitants can remember the first gold rush and the younger men can remember the coming of the first train, it takes more than five years to efface newness. Mr. Trippick was an ardent prohibitionist. He was a grand master of an organisation which is rigorously opposed to the tenets usually subscribed to by people with names like O’Hara. He had wrested the local chess championship from Mr. O’Hara, and had beaten him for a place on the School of Arts Committee. Any one of these things might have inspired hatred in a man of lesser calibre. But like another noble Roman, Mr. O’Hara cared for none of these things. He was too good a sportsman to let them worry him. He could not expect to win always, and a sportsman, and prohibitionists, he supposed, were entitled to their place in the scheme of things. Like chilblains in winter, they could annoy but not destroy, and any annoyance they occasioned did not prevent Mr. O’Hara from greeting Mr. Trippick sociably whenever they met. What finally settled the hash and spilled the tea leaves in the sink occurred just after the annual general meeting of the Mulga Vale Progress Association. Someone had commented on the singularity of Mr. O’Hara’s Christian name, and the worthy publican explained.

“It was this way. There was a large family of us, an’ as Oi was the youngest of the brood, the names of all the great Irish patriots an’ liberators was all used up be the time Oi saw the light of day. Then me old grandmother picked out Henge, the name of a great warlike warrior that wastruck conquered England.”

And James Trippick sniggered.

“Why, Mr. O’Hara, Hengest was the first of the English.”

Then followed a general guffaw at Mr. O’Hara’s expense, which the victim took in good part, at the time. But trivial as the incident had been, it served to blow Mr. O’Hara’s smouldering disapproval of Trippick to a white hot hatred.

“The damned fellow’s always putting a spoke in me wheel somewhere or other, but one of these days it’ll get avin’ with the cow, an’ when Oi do Oi’ll plonk me foot down on him with a strong hand.”

Then came a day when opportunity rapped at the bar of Mr. O’Hara, and opportunity wore the clothes of Jimmy McGuirk — not the shabby working clothes, but Jimmy’s Sunday Donegal tweeds and black stetson, the green tie with its horse-shoe scarf pin, the bugled yellow boots, in short, the full regalia of Jimmy’s more festive hours. “Hot stuff,” remarked Flannagan, the barman, in allusion to Jimmy’s attire.

“General is in a pub where they’re too tight to keep it on ice,” retorted Jimmy. “Where’s the Boss? Want you an’ him to join me.”

O’Hara emerged from the overgrown sentry box that he called his office.

“What’s up, Jimmy? Want a double?”

“Well, it is a double in a sort of way, only better. A pot for me, Boss. Well, here’s luck.”

The threefold gurgle of contentment, and then Jimmy explained. “For one thing, Norah Mulqueen has named the day at last, and I’m going down to Perth on tonight’s train to get married.”

“You don’t say so. An’ Oi always thought that Norah was a fairly sensible girl,” Mr. O’Hara commented.

“Just for those kind words we’ll have a round on the house,” said Jimmy with a grin. “And see here, we’ll be back in about three weeks, so you just have the best double room ready, and get the sheets well aired.”

“Hark at the boy, Flannagan. Real domesticated already, ain’t he now. But you were saying something about a double, Jimmy.”

“Oh, that. You know, I’ve been selling Trippick the butcher a steer and a couple of sheep ever week for the last six or eight months.”

“Have you now? Well, well, an’ that accounts for the stringy meat we’ve been getting in the dining room this long time. Now, don’t get rough, Jimmy. Have some respect for an elderly influential citizen. What’s the fine for assaulting a Jay Pay in his own bar, Flannagan?”

“Three pots, Boss,” Flannagan replied, proceeding to fill them and soon a third round was illustrating the scientific axiom that nature and convivial spirits abhor a vacuum.

“But Jimmy,” Flannagan suggested, “I hear that Trippick ain’t too good a way financially.”

“No he ain’t,” Jimmy assented. “I’ve been pegging away at him for payment for weeks, but this afternoon I got twenty quid out of him on account. He just opened his pocket triumphantly. ’Got his cheque here.”

“Cheque,” roared O’Hara. “An’ the bank closed, an’ you going away to-night. Here’s my cheque here.”

Mr. O’Hara scanned the piece of pink paper attentively, for a few seconds.
"Ain't there two 'pays' in Trippick?" he demanded. "Well, the damned scoundrel has only put one in his signature. Not worth the paper it's written on. Them bank boys'll send it back to you marked 'Refer to Drawer!'

"Struth!" remarked the now crest-fallen Jimmy, but over Mr. O'Hara's face there stole the gladsome expression of the bull dog who has been challenged at battle. "Be the Sivin Saints of Connaught O'Ve got him at last, Flannagan."

He dived into his office and returned with a fierce-looking file on which were impaled a number of accounts. Detach one of these he spread it out on the bar.

"Niver mind, Jimmy. O'I'll cash the dommed cheque for ye avin if the bank won't. See here, Trippick's last bill. Oi owe him a tenner for meat, boys, an' be the holy poker he's going to be paid with his own cheque. He'll have to honour it, an' O'I'll get a tenner change into the bargain." — PIP TOK

A Spoilt Day.
A wire to the office,
"Sick; can't come to-day."
A slight prick of conscience,
And then—Belmont way,
A trip in the train, an'
A walk to the course,
A jolly old booklet,
A quid on a horse;
I've spotted a winner! A sigh of relief—
A tap on the shoulder—
Good heavens! The Chief!

BEEF! MUTTON! LAMB!

50 lb. Corned Beef (not rolled). 25/-. Roast Beef, from 8d.; Corned Roll Beef, 8d.; Sides of Mutton, 6d.; Forequarter Beef, from 5d. Dripping, by the petrol tin, 5d.; Pig's Cheek, 6d. each; Pigs' Feet, 3d. per lb.

We also stock SMALLGOODS of every description, including Lard.

ALL COUNTRY ORDERS FREE ON RAILS, PERTH.

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SUB-BRANCH NEWS.

LEEDERVILLE.
Enjoyable Smoke Social.

This sub-branch held one of the most successful yearly Smoke Socials in its history on Friday, January 13th, in the Lesser Town Hall, Leederville. Minutes and formal business starting soon after 7.30 p.m. were quickly disposed of. The Secretary reported a credit balance of the two funds of about £40; and that loans, relief, and Christmas and New Year cheer had been disbursed during 1927. A resolution was passed recording in the minutes the appreciation of the good work of Captain J. H. Jose, who had held the position of President for so many years and who now retires to the position of Senior Vice-President.

The principal office bearers for 1928 are: President, Captain A. H. Davey; Senior Vice-President, Captain J. H. Jose; Junior Vice-President, Mr. W. H. Haines; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. C. W. R. Beechey; Trustee, Mr. H. Peters; Investigating Officer, Rev. A. Schroeder and a strong Committee.

A welcome was extended to visitors soon after 8.00 p.m. and the Smoke Social started well on time. The toast of the R.S.L. W.A. Branch was proposed by Secretary C. W. R. Beechey, who spoke of the continuous and hard work of the State President, State Secretary, office staff, and Executive, and particularly of the public utterances of the State President, their high order and character and the uplifting effect they have had on the reading public generally and the League in particular. Messrs. Longmore and McAdam responded on behalf of the League and apologised for the unavoidable absence of the State President and State Secretary. Mr. C. Taylor (Deputy Commissioner of Repat.) took the toast of Parliament and Hon. H. Millington, M.L.A., in hand and referred to the unqualified success of many diggers on the land and the sympathy of the present administration to returned soldiers on practically all matters coming under its notice.

Mr. Millington spoke well and cheerily in reply and thought that the League would realize that time of reiterated promises was past and that actual preference was the rule and was carried out wherever possible by the Government. He also referred to the question of unemployment and foreign immigration, pointing out that these questions were world-wide, that there was no sudden and certain cure, but that the Government studied these questions closely and tackled them the best way they could. Mr. Millington's speech, in fact, was both instructive and interesting, and helped the Smoke Social considerably. Other toasts were The Visitors by Captain J. H. Jose, responded to by Mr. H. Peters, President of R.A. Branch, proposed by A new toast that of Mr. W. A. Boulton, which was proposed by the Chairman and responded to by Mr. N. Crawford; and The Retiring President by the new President for this year.

A new toast, that of Mr. James, a blinded soldier of Leederville, and all those who lost their sight through the war was proposed by the Secretary. Mr. James had been specially invited, but on account of ill health was unable to attend. In proposing this toast the Secretary briefly referred to the original Blinded Soldiers' After Care Committee, its work, and how the pension and allowances had grown from these beginnings.

Just before the end Mr. Millington proposed the health of the new sub-branch President, Captan A. H. Davey, who had stably acted as chairman, had made the evening a success, and had put the G into go from the first to the last item. Interspersed with all this, songs, stories, and stunts were contributed by Messrs. Clarke, Crawford, Epps, O'Keefe, Ford, "Merchandise," and others.

BOULDER.

The annual meeting and election of officers was held on Sunday, the 15th inst., but at time of going to press we did not have the results.

In spite of the fact that this district has suffered a severe set-back during the past two years, as a result of the closing down of the Golden Horseshoe and Kal-
gurli gold mines, causing a steady decline in the population, the membership of the branch has shown a decided improvement. The present membership is 156, being an increase of 50 as compared with the figures at the end of 1925, and an increase of 20 at the end of 1926. A number of pension cases have been dealt with during the past three months, and several substantial increases have been gained. Secretary Vic. O'Grady desires to thank most sincerely the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation and his staff for the unfailing courtesy and consideration with which they have dealt with all claims made by the branch. During the past year, 63 applications for assistance were dealt with, and the sum of £161 17s. has been distributed in distress relief. This fund is administered by a strong committee, and every application is thoroughly investigated and no genuine case is ever turned down.

One of the Soldiers' Rest Rooms is being turned into a gymnasium, and a punching ball, etc., has been installed, as well as boxing instructor, and it will be in full swing before the end of the present month. It is the intention of the branch to conduct boxing tournaments at least once a month in the main hall, the entrance fee to all parts of the house will be 1/- and the profits, of course, will be for the branch funds. All the boys want to know when the next R.S.L. picnic is coming off, the last one, some weeks ago, being voted a huge success.

Snapshots.

At present, away enjoying his long service leave is Tom Alderson, the popular manager of the Government Savings Bank. Tom is an Executive member, and a good branch worker.

No one takes a keener interest in branch affairs than Jack Reid, now at Port Augusta, Trans. line. Jack is a good correspondent, and his letters are always interesting.

Back from a brief holiday in Perth is Vice-President Geo. Newham, G. E., states that it took fully a dozen pots of big "K" to drown the "Algy" taste of the Swan river when he arrived back.

President Ted Lennell is ever ready to lend a helping hand to a pal. The writer saw him last Sunday busy nailing iron on a roof. Said iron must have been "some" hot, as the temperature was 110 in the shade.

Now on holidays, Ern Bosustow, Ern enjoys a game of billiards, but has not made any sensational breaks up to date.

The Boulder Sub-Branch wishes all members of the League a most prosperous New Year.

MT. BARKER.

The new year has started off well. Subs, which are due again, are coming in freely, which proves that this branch is here to stay. There are also a few new members to replace about half a dozen who have left for other districts. The branch strength is still about the hundred, which is practically every returned man in the district.

Members were very pleased at the success generally of the unveiling ceremony performed by the State President. The Colonel was in good trim, and the branch is very grateful to him for making the journey to "do the job," all hoping it will not be his last visit to Mt. Barker. This branch also owes a deep debt of gratitude to "Jenky" and Ken Sounness for conveying the available members to Katanning Sub-Branch re-union; and again to Ken for staying over-night at Katanning to convey the Colonel to Mt. Barker, the journey to here being made through Kojonup to give Col. Collett a chance to inspect the Kojonup Memorial Hall, through the courtesy of Jack Findlay and others of the Kojonup Sub-Branch.

On arrival at Mt. Barker, the branch committee, with the Colonel, were entertained by the Plantagenet Road Board Chairman and members to a convivial "spot" and short addresses. The committee of the R.S.L. then adjourned to the Park Hotel, with their guest, to lunch.

After the inner man had been satisfied, members lined up outside the new hall, and about sixty of the branch were introduced to the Colonel before taking up their position, reserved seats being provided for them.

The ceremony was gone through without a hitch, and the Honour Board unveiled with that reverence it was entitled to.

At 6 p.m., members generally hopped in for dinner at the Park Hotel, and after dinner the smoke room, to listen to an address by the Colonel.

On Sunday, President T. G. Sounness was unavoidably unable to take charge, so Ken paraded again with his "Wooley Night," and with a few members, ran out to the Porongurups, then back to the "Parks" for dinner, when Tom Skinnin (a brother of one who enlisted from Mt. Barker and paid the supreme) took charge and motored the party along the Blackwood road, calling at Laughton en route, where Wally Mitchell did the rest. After tea at the "Park," the Secretary and a few other members met at the station to say "Au Revoir," and the Colonel expressed his best wishes to all who had helped to make his stay in Mt. Barker one to be remembered, with a promise to return again if possible at the next re-union—probably in March.

Members who had received medical attention from Dr. Buttsworth were sorry to hear of his transfer to Midland Junction. His stay at Mt. Barker was short.
but beneficial. His practice has been taken over by Dr. H. V. Leigh-Barlow from the Eastern States, who, so far, has formed a good opinion among Mt. Barker residents.

Tom Sounness is at present away with the cricket team in the metropolitan area, and Dan Scott is helping by baracking for the team. Billy Millons, the club enthusiast, is also on his annual holidays to the city. Stan, the cool store engineer, is also about to quit work for his brief vacation, and Jimmy Morgan is still away.

Alf Board, late of Forrest Hill, has written from Piessville, enquiring when the next "Dhu" comes off.

FREMANTLE.

Annual Meeting.
The branch brought a highly successful year to a close by holding a smoke social, at which about fifty members turned up to enjoy a very pleasant evening.

The following officers were elected for 1928:—President, T. Brennan; Vice-President, Messrs. Pady and Jane; Treasurer, A. J. Kirby; Secretary, J. Lynch; Trustees: Messrs. Banfield and Richardson; Publicity Officer, T. Hennessy; Committee: Messrs. Beer, Welch, Rutter, Cassidy, Dodd, Crossley, Grifiths, Lawrence, Watson, Walker, Wilson, Hurst; Organiser, R. Watson; Auditors, Messrs. Thompson and Guthrie.

The following are extracts from the Hon. Secretary's (Mr. J. W. Lynch) report for 1927:—

The year just passed, with the exception of a decline in attendances at the euchre parties, has been the most successful year since amalgamation, both from a social and financial viewpoint, due mainly to the splendid efforts put forward by the President and his willing band of committeemen, coupled with the very excellent work of the Women's Auxiliary.

Membership:
At the commencement of the year there was a membership of 256. During the year 61 new members were enrolled, which is a remarkable achievement for this district, the financial membership at present numbering 262. Altogether £105 16s. was collected in membership fees, and of this amount £47 17s. 1d. was paid in capitation fees.

Amelioration:
During the period under review, much good work in respect to amelioration was executed by the sub-branch, the cost totalling £131 12s. 10d., which does not include the assistance granted by our splendid Women's Auxiliary, who are to be complimented on their selfless efforts. The main source of revenue to the amelioration fund was the weekly euchre parties, which were instrumental in raising a good sum of money. To give an idea of the monies handled, the following are the returns:—Income: Admissions, £425 1s. 6d.; art unions, £37 12s. 3d. Expenditure: Euchre prizes, £282; art unions, £24; hire of hall, £26; and in addition the sum of £54 5s. was collected for hire of furniture. Refund loans amounted to £79 7s. 6d., which enabled the sub-branch to loan out further sums of money during the year. I desire to thank the organiser and the other members of the branch who assisted to run the weekly euchre parties throughout the year.

TOWER HOTEL
Corner Charles and Aberdeen Streets
Splendid Residential Hotel
Terms Moderate
BERT TEEGUE, PROPRIETOR

Socials.
During the year three socials were given by the sub-branch, the main being held on Armistice night, November 11, which was attended by over 250 ex-service men, also 20 guests, which included the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson), State Executive members, Mr. Tyler and Mr. C. Sadlier, the Mayor and Councillors of Fremantle, the Mayors of North and East Fremantle, and the District Naval Officer Commander Griffiths-Bowen.

Anzac Day:
Anzac Day celebrations were again held on the Fremantle Oval, the arrangements being carried out by this branch, the attendance being a record one. The number of naval ratings and military troops were well up to standard, thanks to the courtesy of the naval commander and base commandant, who placed all available men at our disposal. Included among those present were Major-General Sir Talbot-Hobbs, Commander F. Griffiths-Bowen, Major Kelly, Chaplains E. M. Collick and C. A. Jenkins.

Repatriation.
Many cases of repatriation have been handled, and, with few exceptions, have been brought to a successful issue in favor of the soldier, sailor, or war widow concerned, due mainly to the fact that the appeal was lodged through a sub-branch.
of the R.S.L., together with the splendid backing by the State Executive and the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson).

Bereavements.

During the past year we have been very unfortunate in losing two of our members, Mr. J. Maguire, who died from the effects of war disable, and Mr. H. Mulvaney, who was killed while working on the wharf. It is with regret that I have to report the passing of some of our members' relatives, and I know that the people so afflicted have the heartfelt sympathy of the whole of the members of the sub-branch.

Meetings.

During the year just passed there were twenty-five general meetings and two special meetings, with an average attendance of 27 members, which is very satisfactory, considering the number of members who follow occupations which do not permit of their regular attendance, but it is my sincere wish that at least 50 members attend the meetings during the forthcoming year, and so give the lie direct that the R.S.L. has outlived its usefulness.

In conclusion, allow me to thank all members who so kindly assisted me to bring the year 1927 to a successful issue.

WEST PERTH.

The West Perth Branch held its smoke social on the 20th December last. Although the functions were, by no means, the annual affair, the attendance might easily be recorded as a "bumper." The accommodation provided by the Soldiers' Institute generally meets the demands of the lesser branches or associations, but it is indeed a little crowded when the West Perth Branch's social account is able to afford a social. Social functions are essential to promote the growth and good fellowship of any body. Such are the words of the President, Major F. J. McAdam. Perhaps some branches might become envious had they been told how the West Perth Branch maintains its membership, but we won't offend. Suffice it to say, financially, little is left to be desired. The improvement of a bank balance is something which every branch of the League should assiduously pursue. We are, perhaps, comparatively young men now, and the time is close at hand when old age will be upon us, and we are forgotten, together with our erstwhile popularity. Such being our fate, let us consider it folly to spend capital on social affairs before the amelioration fund is secured to meet the inevitable expenditure of years to come. However, the present has its appeal and it's only a weak stomach that never rejoices, so let's get on with the social. The usual toasts were honoured in the usual way, which is a high tribute to the branch—being, as it is, such a highly temperate and sober body of men. As to whom the principal speakers and proposers of toasts were, the publicity officer begs leave to omit, there being so many. To favour a few by the publication of names (Nick, Sur and Christian) might cause dissent amongst those of our otherwise congenial members. Harmony was provided with the assistance of Bill Harrison at the piano; by Percy Clarke, the new tenor, who was certainly heard to advantage; Garnett Philip, who never fails to bring an encore, and Comrade Creyer of the Subiaco Branch. Captain Rees of the Water Supply (an Engineer in the mud of France), whose eloquence gave vent to some interesting monologues, is worthy of honourable mention. A visitor from Victoria, Jack Craig, spun some yarns of merit (murmurs of "Razor Gang"). Demonstrations of high kicking by a native of New Zealand (or somewhere else) touched the high spots of mirth. Musgroves Ltd. kindly lent a Brunswick gramophone for the evening, for which we believe, the secretary, Peter L. Ross, duly thanked them.—Good old Pete. The success of the evening might be attributed to the fact of our having three chairmen to direct the proceedings to a happy ending. Messrs. Philip, McAdam and Tyler shared the chair in relays. Whilst one was acting chairman, the other two were attending Col. Collett's "Symposium," to which all Executive members and past presidents were summoned to attend.

NAREMBEEN.

The art union run by the above branch was drawn in public in the Narembeen Agricultural Hall on Friday, 30th December, 1927, in the presence of a large gathering. President C. G. Latham, M.L.A., presided, and was ably assisted by Miss Jean McCaskell and Miss E. Cusack. Mr. M. O'Connor won the first prize, Mr. T. Cheetham the second prize, and Mr. J. J. Brown, 535 Wellington Street, Perth, the third prize. Twenty other consolation prizes were awarded. Results will be forwarded to all ticket sellers. On Saturday, 31st December, 1927, a dance was held in aid of the Narembeen Hospital. President C. G. Latham donated a tea set, which was raffled, and realized the sum of twenty-five pounds.
Mr. Latham ably assisting the committee in disposing of the tickets. Colonel Blewett and H. J. Webb willingly assisted the committee in making the evening a success. A general meeting will be held on Saturday, 20th January, 1928, at 8 p.m. Members are reminded that subscriptions are due again, and should forward same to Secretary H. A. Boyes with particulars. Col. Comett, D. M. Benson (State Secretary), and other members of the State Executive will visit Narembeen on Friday, 17th February, 1928. A special committee has been appointed for the entertainment of our visitors. Diggers, roll up, and give our State President and other officials a hearty welcome.

PERTH.

The annual meeting was held at the Soldiers' Institute on 10th January, 1928. President Tom Lennon was in the chair. There was a large attendance, denoting an increased interest in branch affairs. After the usual opening, Secretary G. S. Mellor was welcomed back after his trip abroad. The presentation of the balance-sheet by Auditor J. J. Prennergast was received with applause. Many speakers congratulated the President and Assistant-Secretary Todd on their work for the preceding year, and commented on the healthy state of the finances. A donation of £5 was made to the returned soldier inmates of Wooroloo Sanatorium to help purchase a set of snooker balls. The following office-bearers were elected:—President: Mr. C. Longmore; vice-presidents: Messrs. G. Cattemole and W. Hunt; auditor: Mr. J. J. Prennergast; treasurer: Mr. A. S. O'Keefe; director R.S.L. Co-op.: Mr. C. Longmore; trustees: Messrs. Lennon and O'Keefe; committee: Messrs. F. Cox, G. Philp, G. Kingsman, G. Todd, R. Sewell, J. Findlay, W. Stockdale, L. Buckingham, and T. Strachan. Regret was expressed that Mr. Lennon had been forced to retire from the presidency on account of ill-health.

The annual smoke social of the branch took place in the Soldiers' Institute on Tuesday evening, the 17th inst. President Longmore occupied the chair, and the visitors included Messrs. Gregory, Prowse, and Mann, M. H. R., Mr. Millington, M. L. A., Col. Collett, State President R.S.L., and the presidents and secretaries of many metropolitan sub-branches. Assisting artists were Messrs. W. Harrison (piano), A. Jennings (comedian), C. Smith (vocalist), and G. S. Mellor (cornet), all of whom delighted those present with their efforts. During the evening presentations were made to Mr. H. Gregory, M. H. R. (certificate of merit), and Mr. T. P. Lennon (gold watch) for services rendered to the branch. Catering arrangements were in the hands of capable Miss Kent (manageress of the dining rooms at the Institute) who received the congratulations of all present for the beautiful display and menu she presented. It was the best evening ever held by the branch.

BROOME.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting was held on the 5th January, and there was quite a good attendance of members. The president (Mr. Macnee) detailed the work done by this sub-branch during the past year.

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