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SEND FOR CATALOGUE
To the Australian soldier in the war the name of Haig was thought of as a driving force and as an inspiration. Although all had confidence in the great leader very few knew more than they read in the papers of his personality. It has been during the post war years that every humble member of the British Empire Service League, of which the R.S.I. forms a part, has learned to admire and love their great leader and champion. Although many of us had never met the Field-Marshal, we had read so many of his inspired utterances on our behalf that we had learnt to know him, and when the tragic news of his passing was learnt a personal loss was felt, together with a pride in having had as a comrade so great and lovable a soldier and a man.

In an article written three years ago that astute and famous politician, Lord Birkenhead, adjudicated that history would have to place among its immortals the Earl Haig of Bemersyde. We opine that this conviction will gain much more of a rating when the passing lapse of time. From 1915 and for three succeeding years the English-speaking world learned officially of the Great War from terse statements appearing daily as communiques. The man inducting these momentous epistles was quite unknown to the world at large. What had their author, Sir Douglas Haig, done that to him should be entrusted a command so supreme? None knew, outside a limited number in strictly military circles.

The antecedents of General Haig when he took over his first command in France could be searched, and all that could be found was a bare, impersonal relation of the professional career of a gentleman who had succeeded. With the First Army Corps in France during the fated August he was reported to have done magnificently; but even that command far exceeded any he had ever held. What would he do with the British army? This was the enigma. The only official League matter contained in this journal is embodied in the published minutes of Executive Meetings, and other items which are acknowledged as such in their text.

February 24th, 1928.

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was his fetish. It was the fundamental theme in his philosophic conception of how the war would be won. To him, as he has said in dispatches, it was a single conflict, great, extended, terrible, hideous, but still one continuous effort. To win it as otherwise he refused with a resolution that had to be dogged to withstand the pressure and the imprecations put and poured upon him as commander-in-chief. The final victory that had to be his if the Allies were to win, could only be wrought with the perfected instrument, which would be the trained army composed of trained soldiers. Schools to teach every conceivable trick and art of the warfare being waged were set up in every back area in France. The finest units were pulled out of the line to be trained to higher pitches of perfection.

Nothing is apt to be more indelicately glib that the pen that writes about the soldier who has risen to great rank, but remained very much the simple soldier, and would have been first to point out that when he was given the high command he was only one of several of his comrades who might have been promoted. It is well, then, to indulge in pyrotechnics, and more profitable to find in the words of an authority, the estimate of the British commander-in-chief in the Great War. This is given by John Buchan, in his history of the war, which has the added value of being relieved by personal knowledge of men who played leading roles in that world drama. Buchan refers to Marshal Foch, who had taken over the Allied command: "If we seek for the first lieutenant of Foch," says Buchan, "the choice must fall upon Haig. He more than any other man made the final conception of Foch possible. He had not the Frenchman's gift for strategy, but he had the scarcely less valuable power of creating weapons for the strategists to use. He was a master in the art of training troops, the greatest Britain has had since Sir John Moore, and under his guidance the British army produced most of the main technical developments of the campaign. He had his failures, as Foch had, but no failures nor disappointments could shake his confidence in the ultimate issue. Drawing comfort from deep springs, he bore in the face of difficulties a gentle and unshakable resolution. The campaign—nay, the history of the war, has produced no finer figure; great in patience, courtesy, unselfishness, serenity, and iron courage amid reverses and delays. He showed high military talent, but he showed a character which was beyond talent, and, since war in the last resort is a conflict of spirit, the finer spirit prevailed. Britain was fortunate indeed in the leader to whom she entrusted her manhood; and of all her leaders he was the most sorely tested and abundantly proved."

PRICE OF WAR SERVICE HOME

The Commonwealth Minister for Works and Railways recently forwarded the following communication to the Federal Secretary:—

I am in receipt of yours conveying the following resolution which was carried at the 12th Annual Congress of your League:

"That in view of the existing anomalies in respect of certain War Service Homes built or procured prior to 1923, Congress recommends that negotiations be entered into with the Commission in order to obtain the writing down of the purchase price.

The position is that in regard to the homes which were built by day labour under the previous regime, an Adjustments Board was created, on which was a member of the R.S.S.I.L.A., to fix the prices of the homes concerned, having regard to the relations between the particular applicant and the Commission. It was also decided as a matter of Government policy that where an applicant went into possession of a dwelling house and did not agree to purchase at a sum in excess of £800, and believed that the purchase price would not exceed this figure, then the price would be fixed at £800. The applicants concerned have accepted this basis and signed their contracts, and I regret that the Government cannot agree to your proposal.

S.S. SUSTENANCE

The League sent a further communication to the Manager Agricultural Bank relative to the sustenance allowance for settlers, but the Trustees refuse to budge from the stand taken by them as is evident by the following communication received by Mr. Benson from Mr. Grogan (Asst. General Manager):—

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 30th ult. and note all you say. As the Trustees are agreed that 9/- per day is a fair sustenance allowance, no useful purpose could be served by the suggested interview. I might add that special consideration, where merited, is given to assisted settlers with large families dependent on them, but usually in these cases it is found that the wages allowance is drawn by the sons, a fact which your committee may not have taken into consideration."
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETING,
18/1/28.

An apology was received from Mr. Saddler.

Matters Concerning War Service Homes.—A letter was received from the Federal Executive showing a reply in connection with resolution 56 of the 12th Annual Congress which asked the War Service Homes Department to expedite all matters, particularly regarding the finalisation of homes. The reply stated that applications were dealt with within the minimum of delay. The letter was received.

Advance of War Service Homes.—Resolution 57 of the 12th Annual Congress requested that the War Service Homes advance be increased by £1000. The Minister for Works and Railways replied that this would require special legislation and it was regretted that it could not be introduced. The letter was received.

Invitations.—Kellerberrin: An invitation had been received from the Kellerberrin Sub-Branch requesting the State President to visit them on his trip to Merredin. The letter was also left in his hands.

Kelscott Sub-Branch advised that their Smoke Social would take place on April 21st and requested representation. It was decided to bear this matter in mind.

Employment of Aliens.—The State Secretary read a communication from the General Manager of the Agricultural Bank with which he enclosed a copy of a complaint received from a Soldier Settler, who had for over a period of four years employed numerous Britishers to do clearing work with very unsatisfactory results. He requested permission to employ aliens. The General Manager, Mr. McLarty, asked if competent clearers were available at the R.S.L. Buraen.
to the O.I.C., Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

It was decided to give publicity to this matter.

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

Finance Committee: The report of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4th January, 1928, was received and adopted.

Employment, Fremantle: In response to the request of the Executive at the last meeting, the Employment Officer reported that he had been unable to offer jobs to Fremantle unemployed, as he had more than sufficient unemployed in Perth to meet his requirements.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Pady, seconded by Mr. Yeates: That work offering in and around Fremantle be allotted to the Fremantle unemployed ex-soldiers through the Fremantle Sub-Branch.—Carried.

Employment Incapacitated Ex-soldiers.—Mr. Nye delivered an interim report on behalf of the Pensions Committee stating what action had been taken in this connection. The report was received.

Administration.—Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Philip: That in accordance with the terms of a paragraph contained in the President's address to the last Annual Congress, a Committee of five be appointed from this Executive for the purpose of enquiring into the organisation and working of the Executive office of this Branch with a view to discovering improvements in method and ensuring economy in administration.

(2) That in this relation the Committee be empowered to investigate the jurisdiction and activities and estimate the results secured by the:

(a) State Secretary and Office Staff;
(b) Employment Bureau Staff;
(c) Trustees;
(d) Finance Committee;
(e) Restaurant Management;
(f) Billiard Room Management;
(g) Relief Fund Committee;
(h) Art Union Committee.

(3) That in regard to (a) above the Committee be guided by the Reports of Special Committees submitted under dates 29th November, 1924, and 25th February, 1925, and record their opinion as to the adequacy or otherwise of the emoluments received.

(4) That the Committee be empowered to call evidence and call for the production of all necessary books and documents.

(5) That the Committee be directed to submit its report for the information of the Executive on or before 11th April next.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Philip: That the following Committee be appointed: Messrs. Cornell, Longmore, Nye, Tyler, and Watt.—Carried.

Baron Richthofen.—Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Riley: That this Executive of the R.S.L. in Western Australia regrets the controversy which has been given prominence in the newspapers of the Empire with reference to the death of Baron Von Richthofen, the German airman, and is of the opinion that further discussion on this matter will not serve any useful purpose.—Carried.

West Swan.—Messrs. Yeates and Shaw reported on their visit to West Swan on Saturday, 14th. The report was received.

Leederville.—Mr. McAdam reported having visited Leederville Sub-Branch on Friday, 13th instant. The report was received.

Spearwood.—Mr. Pady reported having visited Spearwood Sub-Branch recently. The report was received.

1/2/28.


An apology was received from Mr. Yeates, Mr. Cornell, and Mr. Logie.

Federal Correspondence.—The Late Earl Haig: A wire was received from the Federal Executive stating that the Federal President had on behalf of ex-service men and women of Australia cabled Countess Haig and family, and also the Headquarters of the B.E.S.L., authorising them to arrange for a wreath on behalf of the League. His action was confirmed.

It was resolved that this Executive, on behalf of the ex-service men and women resident in Western Australia, deplores the great loss the Empire has suffered by the untimely death of Field-Marshal Earl Haig, and deeply sympathises with Countess Haig and her children in their bereavement. Every sailor, soldier and nurse realises that his great service as a leader in the field have been almost equalled in peace by his unremitting efforts on behalf of his comrades in promoting their welfare as citizens.

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Soldier Land Settlement: The Federal Executive advised that Mr. Justice Pike, of New South Wales, had been requested to enquire into soldier land settlement in all States and report to the Commonwealth Government.

On the motion of Mr. Bader seconded by Mr. Tyler, the letter was referred to the Land Committee.

Collection of Repayments (B.E.S.L.): The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a communication received from the British Empire Service League in which it was requested that the state Branches and Sub-Branches assist them in their efforts to collect repayments of loans made to ex-members of their organisation.

Moved by Mr. Pady, seconded by Mr. Wedd that the request be granted and the sub-branches be asked to give every assistance.—Carried.

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C.P.S.: The Federal Executive forwarded the Prime Minister's reply to resolution 04 of the 12th Annual Congress dealing with this matter. It was decided that a copy of the letter be sent to the West Perth sub-branch.

War Service Home—Transfer to Widow: The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of letter received from the Minister for Works and Railways dealing with Resolution 60, 12th Annual Congress, on this subject. It was stated that further consideration of the resolution was referred pending the introduction of a Commonwealth Insurance Scheme.

Amendment to War Service Homes Act: The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a communication received from the Minister for Works and Railways dealing with resolution 58 of the 12th Annual Congress. The resolution asked that the War Service Homes Act be amended to provide a similar advance as that under the Commonwealth Housing Scheme. The Minister stated that this could not be done.

Pilgrimage to France: A lettergram had been forwarded by the State President from the Federal President, who advised that a cablegram had been received from the Headquarters of the B.E.S.L. requesting the League's co-operation in the pilgrimage to the war areas, which is to take place on the 4th to the 8th August next. The cablegram expressed the hope that Australia would send a minimum of 300. Particulars would be forwarded as soon as available.

Moved by A. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Watt, that as soon as fuller information is available from the Executive Office, the State Secretary give fullest publicity to the matter and endeavour to obtain this State's quota—Carried.

Employment Bureau: The Report of the Employment Bureau throughout the Commonwealth for the month of December was received.

Invitations: The Nungarin-Kellerberrin Sub-branch forwarded an invitation of the State President and Secretary at their smoke social to be held in March. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Noombolin Sub-branch—extended an invitation to the State President, State Secretary and members of the Executive to their social to be held on the 9th February. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Quairading Sub-branch: desired the presence of the State President, Secretary Mr. McAdam, Mr. Bader and Mr. Watt at their smoke social to be held in the middle of March. This was also left in the hands of the State President.

Nungarin-Kellerberrin: The State Secretary explained that members of the Nungarin Sub-branch had called and stated that they were not ready to receive the State President on the 15th February, and suggested that his visit be deferred. It was therefore decided that Kellerberrin be included.

Amendment to War Memorial: The Town Clerk of Fremantle extended an invitation to the State President and State Secretary to attend the unveiling ceremony of a Tablet on the Fremantle War Memorial on Anzac Day. The invitation was accepted, subject to it not interfering with the Perth Service on that day.

Influx of Aliens: a letter signed by the secretary of the Kalgoorlie Sub-branch and the secretary of the Boulder Sub-branch, enclosing copies of three resolutions carried at a conference between the Executive Councillors of both sub-branches was received.

The first resolution directed the attention of the State Government to the remarks of the Resident Magistrate in dealing with a recent court case, and asked that the State Government instruct their mining officials to make their language test absolute, and to rigidly enforce the law in each and every case where employment is sought or held on the mines or in other industries on the Eastern Goldfields.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Tyler, that in the opinion of this State Executive the request of the Goldfields Branches regarding language tests on the mines as outlined in their resolution be acceded to—Carried.

The second resolution emphatically protested against the large numbers of Southern Europeans entering the Commonwealth, and further urged the Government to endeavour to relieve the situation as far as Western Australia was concerned, by requesting the Commonwealth Government to take steps immediately to stop the influx of Southern Europeans into Western Australia, as it is inimical to the best interests of the British workmen.

Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Sadlier, that the Goldfields Sub-branches be informed that the State Executive affirm Congress resolution dealing with this matter at its last meeting, and that their resolution would be forwarded to the Federal Executive—Carried.

The third resolution stated that in view of the startling influx of Southern Europeans, the Federal Executive of the R.S.I. be requested to approach the Commonwealth Government with the demand that the language test and other necessary qualifications for admission of an immigrant to this country be rigidly enforced, as the inability of these aliens to readily understand the language is a serious menace to the lives of all men working in their vicinity in all walks of labour.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Pady, that the sub-branches be informed of the previous resolution forwarded to the Federal Executive on this matter and that they be advised that it is at present receiving consideration—Carried.

No. 7 Art Union:—The Kalgoorlie Sub-branch wrote in connection with the No. 7 Art Union, and expressed the opinion that books of art union tickets should not be sent to Kalgoorlie while they were conducting their own consultation. The letter was left in the hands of the State Secretary to reply.

No. 7 Art Union:—The Kalgoorlie Branch forwarded a list of ex-members who for a breach of the constitution or conditions of membership of their Club, had been expelled. The letter was received.

War Service Homes Commission Report:—The report of the War Service
Homes Commission for year ending 30th June, 1927, was laid on the table for the information of members.

**Broome Sub-branch.**—The annual report of the Broome Sub-branch was laid on the table for the information of members.

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

Finance Committee: Mr. Tyler delivered a report of the Finance Committee held on 18/1/28. The report was received and adopted.

House Committee: Mr. McAdam reported in connection with the arrangements for the Memorial Service —Earl Haig: Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Wedd, that a Committee of six be appointed to organise Anzac Day throughout the State.

—Carried. (Messrs. Nye, Sadlier, Freedman, Tozer, Margolin and McAdam were appointed.)

R.S.L. Co-operative Trading Co.—Mr. McAdam reported in connection with the R.S.L. Co-op. The report was received.

Employment Incapacitated Men: Mr. Nye reported on behalf of the Pensions and Employment Committee, and stated that they had that afternoon met representatives of the Trades Hall, Employers' Federation and Maimed and Limbless Men's Association, and discussed the matter of employment of incapacitated men.

A further report would be submitted later. The report was received.

Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Watt, that an invitation be sent to the Employers' Federation, and the A.L.F. (W.A. Branch) to attend, at a meeting with representatives of the R.S.L. to discuss the absorption of incapacitated men in industry.

—Carried.

Memorial Service—Earl Haig: The State Secretary advised that Mr. Tulloch requested Executive representation at the Service to be held in St. Andrew's Church, on Sunday evening next in this connection.

**WIDENING THE BREACH**

Judging by the cables it would appear that the relationship between Britain and America is not very cordial at present, and instead of trying to heal the breach there are some prominent politicians and war-lords on both sides who seem to delight in making the gap unbridgeable.

The failure of the Disarmament Conference and the recent big increase in America's naval programme have been followed by an open discussion on the possibility of war between the two nations.

America's naval increase is defended on the grounds that it is necessary for the adequate protection of her overseas trade, and it is attacked in Britain by those who interpret it as a gesture of aggression against the Empire's commerce.

Good eas is can probably be made out on both sides, but whether an increase in war preparations by any nation is justifiable or not it is certainly regrettable that, so soon after the last holocaust, and following on months of negotiations on disarmament, any acceleration of the instruments of war should be deemed necessary. The hospitals of the world are still full of shattered humanity who are doomed, for the rest of their weary lives, to pay a bitter price for man's insanity prior to 1914. None of the warring countries of the Great War, with the possible exception of America, has paid its cost yet, and it would be the height of folly if the nations drifted into another such tragedy as 1914-18.

It is sincerely to be hoped that common-sense will prevail in future and that the war talk of the last few weeks will be discouraged by the governments concerned and the Press of all countries. The vapourings of highly placed, though obviously irresponsible individuals, would be harmless if no publicity were given them by the newspapers of the world.

Broadcast as they have been, these foolish talks of war sow hate and prejudice in the minds of the people and increase the difficulties of preventing war when, later on, some first class political crisis happens to arise. And no one who understands what war really means would help in fostering those feelings which would tend to make the chances of war greater than they already are.

### A MATTER OF PENSIONS.

When the pension rates were fixed some years ago the cost of living was considerably less than it is today. The widow of a deceased soldier now gets 10/- for the first child and 7/6 for the second and subsequent children. "Subsequent" children, until recently, only received 5/-, but the extra 2/6 was obtained as a result of efforts of the R.S.L.

It is worth suggesting that a line of inquiry be started based on statisticians' figures to make out a logical case for an increase in the pensions of soldiers' children in accordance with any increase in the cost of living now as against the time when the scale of pensions was laid down.

As a matter of fact, the whole question of pensions should be gone into along these lines. It is all a matter of facts and the suggested inquiry would be well worth the time and trouble spent upon it.

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Remembrances and Reminiscences

The Origin of the High Command

(by "J.C.")

It was my good fortune to have been daily thrown into a close personal contact on two occasions with the late Earl Haig and Lady Haig, for a period of eight weeks in South Africa in 1921 and for five weeks in Canada in 1925.

Along with other Dominion delegates to the inaugural conference of the British Empire Service League, I first met Haig F.M. on the Kenilworth Race Course, Cape Colony, South Africa. His hearty handshake, simplicity of manner, and lack of formality, together with his few kindly words of welcome, at once indelibly stamped upon one's mind the impression that, however great Haig may have been as a soldier, he was just a simple homely man for 'a that.'

A day or so later General Smuts opened the Conference. Haig's opening address to the Conference will endure in respect to modesty, tolerance, vision, and outlook. His reference to our Empire is worth repeating, viz.:-

"We have come to the conclusion in the Old Country that, in our own interests, unity is essential. There is an even greater and more lasting work to be done for the sake of our Empire as a whole in spreading throughout all parts of our Empire and all classes of its many peoples the same spirit of comradeship and mutual helpfulness, the same sane and healthy ideals that carried us ex-service men steadily and successfully through the most terrible of all wars. I ask you, and through you, all amongst us, to stand up in the great lands from which you come, to help me in this work. I ask, knowing that in the old days in France and Flanders, even when the outlook was at its darkest, I never asked ought of you in vain.

The Conference lasted for five whole days, the late General "Tim" Lukin presided. Throughout the whole proceedings Haig rarely spoke. When he did so, it was only for the purpose of directing delegates back to the broad path from which they had wandered. Never once did he endeavour to sway delegates to his way of thinking. He was content to allow Conference to practically work out its own destiny. There is no doubt whatever that had Haig felt inclined to do so, he could have made the Conference a man show, but he was too big a personality for any such action, and preferred to take his part in the Conference just as a humble unit of it.

Two instances of Haig's intervention during the Conference are well worth quoting. I was privileged to have acted as Chairman of the Committee that drafted the present constitution of the B.E.S.L. After the days of much labour, on behalf of the committee I presented the draft constitution, written into one clause of the draft rules. He was content, however, to state that he desired the committee to judge his suggestions solely upon their practical value and not because of the source from which they had emanated.

When feeling ran high during a discussion as to whether or not the ex-officers' association of Great Britain should be included as a foundation organisation of the B.E.S.L., Haig intervened and strongly opposed its inclusion. He said that he alone was responsible for the formation of that organisation and that at the time he had formed it, the position of thousands of ex-officers was so critical that being in such desperate straits as having to beg for a meal. He then said: "It has now fulfilled its purpose and must go and be replaced by one organisation embracing all ranks of ex-service men."

When the Conference concluded a tour of South Africa and Rhodesia began. At Kimberley Haig, Lady Haig, the British, Australian, and N.Z. delegation were the guests of the De Beers Diamond Co. at the Hotel Belgravia. Meal arrangements were such as to seat the party at separate tables. Just prior to dinner on the day of arrival, Haig sent a message through Donald Simson, Hon. Sec. B.E.S.L., to the Aussie and N.Z. delegates to the effect that it was his wish that both tables be brought together and a joint dinner partaken. This message momentarily put the wind up the Aussie and N.Z. delegation. One delegate, however, rose to the occasion and put forward a legitimate South African excuse, lack of dinner dress. Simson conveyed the excuse to the F.M. and returned with a further message that it was the company of the delegates he sought, how they were dressed gave him no concern. The union sought became accomplished and memories of it will endure in the minds of all concerned so long as they live.

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During the stay in Kimberley several of the old battlefields there were visited. Haig accompanied the delegation to Klip Drift on the Modder River where General French crossed with his cavalry in order to make a dash on Kimberley. He informed the delegation that when French and he left the Headquarters of Lord Roberts, both Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener had told French and him that if they succeeded in relieving Kimberley their future career as soldiers would be assured. He took the delegation on to the kopje where French and he, as Chief of Staff, came to the decision to depart from General Kelly-Kenny's plan to advance on Kimberley as mounted infantry, and to deploy their cavalry into line and advance at a gallop on Kimberley between two kopjes about six miles apart, upon each of which the Boers had long range guns mounted. To show the greatness of Haig, this is what he said to the delegation regarding the decision arrived at by French: "I thought then, and with my later experiences both in the Boer War and the Great War, still think that French's decision to act as he did was one of the most masterful decisions of war strategy and tactics in the annals of British warfare, and a decision that only a brilliant cavalry leader could have arrived at."

For the purpose of enquiring into a certain question whilst in South Africa, I left Kimberley for Johannesburg a day ahead of the main delegation. Haig and Lady Haig did so too. Whilst waiting on the Kimberley Railway Station for the train to go out Major Van der Byte, loaned by General Smuts to Haig as his A.D.C. in South Africa, accosted me and informed me that it was the F.M.'s wish that I join him and Lady Haig at dinner in his car that evening. Having recollections of the dinner dress episode I at once accepted the professed hospitality. The dinner party numbered only four: Haig, Lady Haig, Van der Byte, and myself. My stay in the car was about three hours. Much was said and many subjects touched upon. One portion only of the conversation will I repeat. It runs thus:—Haig said, "C——, war is a frightful thing and the most awful catastrophe that can befall any nation, but to me it had some redeeming features. Do you know what appeared to me to be the most redeeming feature of the war?" Of course, I could not hazard an opinion. He said: "It was this: To see the East Londoners come over to France, many of whom were born and reared in poverty with not even a chance to bask in God's sunlight. I watched them from day to day after arrival and saw the effect God's sunlight, warm clothes, good food, training and exercise had upon them, and when called upon to do the real job they came over for, they rendered a good account of themselves." Haig concluded by saying the lesson learned from this experience was that England, given a chance, is not yet decadent.

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Much has been said and will be said and written about who brought about the High Command in France. I give Haig's version of it as he gave it one Sunday morning in February, 1918, to the Aussie and N.Z., Canadian, and Rhodesian delegations in a little hall where the Johannesburg League of Comrades usually met. Now that Haig is no more the compact entered into by the British armies, its objective being Amiens and the Channel ports. My conception of the situation was that, if the British line was to hold until it could be reconstructed and further manned, the French army under Pétain would have to attack. Pétain held another view and appeared to be obsessed with the defence of Paris, and every time the French attack further extended the thinly held British line, correspondingly did Pétain obliquely retire on Paris and thus give my army more time to hold. The situation was desperate and something had to be done to get Pétain's army either to stand fast, but preferably to obliquely retire on Paris and thus give my army more time to hold. The situation was desperate and something had to be done to get Pétain's army either to stand fast, but preferably to go forward. I knew it was useless to suggest that Pétain be put over me or me over Pétain. In order to get the French army to go forward it was necessary that one of two things should happen. Some other French General must supplant Pétain or a French General must be placed in command over Pétain and me. I submitted my conception of the situation to the War Office and Milner and Robertson came to France at once. I met them at my Headquarters at Doullens and plainly told them that there was only one thing to do to save the situation, and that was to unify the commands in France and to put a French General over Pétain and me. I suggested Foch, because I had fought with him on the Marne and at Ypres. I knew his worth, and also knew that if he were given the High Command the French army would move as I thought it should. Milner and Robertson agreed with my contentions, and subsequently Foch was given the High Command, and the situation on the right of my army relieved." This, he said, was the short and simple history of the origin of the High Command, and concluded by saying: "Though the High Command became an accomplished fact, I, as Commander of the British armies, was as free a man after its consummation as I was before it."

The following may serve to show the general feeling of the Boers in South Africa towards Britain's part in the Boer war. The special train in which the delegation was travelling pulled up at Samia's Post, 10 miles from Bloemfontein. Haig and party walked across to the spot where De Wet had surprised a British detachment as it marched into Bloemfontein, and captured eight guns. The only place and habitation to be seen was a Boer farmhouse and the only person met there was an elderly Boer farmer, who served with De Wet when he made his attack. He spoke Afrikaner only, and Van der Byle acted as interpreter and introduced him to Haig. He then asked Van der Byle to inform the General that the reason why he was there to meet him was because he had heard that a certain Boer was to be there that morning to explain to the General the battle of Samia's Post. He wanted to tell the General that that Boer was not at or near the battle of Samia's Post. He was and would explain it to the
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February 24th, 1928

THE LISTENING POST

General; which he did, and appeared as having received the most satisfaction, not from the fact of De Wet having routed the British column and also capturing guns from it, but from the fact of having captured some Boers who were serving with the British and giving to them the option of either being shot or rejoining their commandos. When parting from this most interesting old chap he asked Van der Byle to tell the General that he bore him no ill-will and to tell the Countess that had he met the General during the Boer War he probably would have got him with a Mauser bullet; to also tell the General that he bore no animosity towards the British. They had fought for one thing, and the Boers for another, but he had no time for the damned Khaki Boer who fought for himself.

Recent references have been made to Haig as an ardent Churchman. He may have been one, but left those who accompanied him on the South African and Canadian tours, to follow their own individual bent in this regard. I do know, however, that he held very broad views in regard to the churches in peace and war. Speaking at a Caledonian Breakfast in Maritzburg, he waxed most eloquent in regard to united church services in the war zone, and said how much he admired them, especially when circumstances were such that the denomination of the Padre did not for a moment concern the congregation. These happenings, he said, convinced him of what a wonderful factor the Churches could be in peace if they would arrive at some general understanding whereby similar united services might be held. He said that accordingly he had approached the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who both thought it would be a good thing too. Nothing, however, he said, had come out of his representations, and either rightly or wrongly he had concluded that the Churches preached one thing and practiced another.

When I bade goodbye to Haig and Lady Haig aboard the Kenilworth Castle, Caper­
town, in April, 1921, little did I think we should ever meet again. However, fortune was again on my side and I was privileged to meet them again in Ottawa, Canada, end of June, 1925. It is with reluctance that I recount the circumstances, because they are purely personal and to some may savour of egoism and bombast. I feel, however, that I cannot pass them over. If I do not recount this happening an episode that revealed the real Haig will remain untold. The Australian delegation reached Ottawa from the west the day prior to the arrival there of Haig, Lady Haig, and other delegates from the east. Prior to the arrival of Haig and party's special train from Montreal about 200 Canadian veterans formed themselves into two lines on the Canadian Pacific Railway platform. My colleague, who was attending his first conference, and myself fell into the rear line. The Prime Minister of Canada, together with most of his ministers, was present to welcome Haig and Lady Haig to Canada. The train had hardly stopped moving when Haig alighted from it, without the slightest formality and unattended. He hurriedly shook hands with the Prime Minister and at once left him to inspect the front line of veterans. The rear line then stepped back one pace, and he hurriedly inspected it too. Though he passed me by during the inspection without showing the slightest signs of having ever seen me, as soon as he had completed the inspection he returned along the front line and halted opposite to where I stood in the rear line, then came through the front line, held out his hand and said, 'You have, no doubt, after a lapse of four years, thought I had forgotten you, but I have not.' The warmth of his handshake brought back a flood of memory. He then took my arm, led me up to the Prime Minister, and introduced me to him and to the other ministers present. The only outward alteration the lapse of four years appeared to have brought about was a few grey hairs.

Numerous episodes characteristic of those above written could be related about Haig in his five weeks' tour through Canada. The organisation he had started in South Africa had grown from a strength of six dominions or constituent parts to thirteen, and the delegation to the Ottawa Conference numbered thirty as against eighteen at Capetown. It may not be amiss to state that Haig had his 64th birthday whilst in Canada, and also to state, strange as it may appear, that he there first began to dance.

His mission to Canada was for the sole purpose of uniting the seven ex-service organisations then existing in Canada into one organisation. His efforts in this direction, as in Great Britain and South Africa, were crowned with success, and the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. now alone functions in the interest of Canadian veterans. Right throughout the Canadian tour I have not one single recollection of Haig ever strafing the man from the ranks or a junior officer for the chaos then existing amongst Canadian veteran organisations, but he never spared the senior officers, whom he plainly told that an amalgamation and consolidation of the several veteran organisations was a necessity so far as junior officers and other ranks were concerned, and the obligation to
bring it about was rightly the prerogative and function of the senior officers. 

Be it to their credit, the driving force and advice of Haig did not fail on deaf ears or barren ground. The Canadian senior officers not only rose to the occasion in respect to amalgamation, but, if reports are correct, are pulling more than their full weight in the conduct and administration of the united veterans’ organisation.

Great though the loss to the Empire may be through Haig’s death, that is a general loss. To the ex-service men and women of the Empire it is a personal loss, and I am afraid an irreparable loss. In life Haig was even a greater inspiration in the realm of ex-service men and women than a driving force. Great though his fame is and will be as a soldier, I venture the opinion that posterity will grant that he was a greater humanitarian. In all walks of life it can be said of him that he lived up to the motto:

“Tyde what may betray
Haig shall be Haig of Bemersyde.”

CIVILIAN SECRETARY TO SOLDIERS’ ORGANISATION.

That a non-returned soldier could be appointed as a paid official of a soldiers’ organisation seems a ludicrous suggestion, but such a glaring violation of the preference principle has actually occurred in N.S.W., where a civilian was appointed as secretary of the State Branch of the T.B. Soldiers’ Association.

Feeling that this violation would have a detrimental effect on kindred associations in their efforts in having the law of preference given its full force, the R.S.L. and the Limbless Soldiers’ Association joined forces and appointed delegates to interview the President of the T.B. Soldiers’ Association. The interview failed to move this gentleman to even call a meeting of his executive together to discuss the appointment. Future developments will be watched with interest and concern by us.

Later: Since writing the above it has been reported that the successful applicant was Mr. A. J. Hughes, a son of the former Prime Minister. When applications for the position were called a hundred men responded, including a man possessing the V.C., M.C., and D.C.M. The executive of the T.B. Soldiers’ Association has also approved of the selection of Mr. Hughes. Truth is certainly stranger than fiction.

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(By “Toate”)

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month. The tucker is high class and the

company is—Well, ask each other.

That the nurse who attended the late

Digger Shipway as he lay shattered in all

digger spirit, should term him The Bravest

of Men,” comes as no surprise to those

who served with the youngest enlisted

Digger of the original 28th. Sympathy on

the occasion of his tragic death has been

forwarded to his parents by the 28th Bat-

talion Association in a manner which,

we hope, will tinge their sorrow with

pride.

That every non-financial member of

the 28th Battalion Association is to be

the special “pigeon” of one particular

committee or another was amongst the

things resolved upon at the last meeting of

the committee. Dividing the “ground”

into sectors with a definite objective for

each participant as laid down in F.S.R.

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PERSONALITIES.

Staniforth Smith was in town last week and blew along to the Perth Branch and joined up. A member of the 44th Battalion, Staniforth was with it through some of its most stormy periods in France, until a knock on the leg at Messines sent him back to Blighty. He will be remembered on the Fields in the early days as the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, later as a Western Australian Senator. He then was sent to New Guinea as administrator and held that responsible position when war broke out. He obtained leave and although offered a commission in the A.I.F., refused to take it, came to the West and enlisted as a private. Embarking for overseas with the 44th as a company Q.M.Sgt., he late got his commission in the field. Upon his return to Australia he was sent by the Commonwealth Government to Darwin as administrator of the Northern Territory, following a period of trouble which had almost culminated in open rebellion. Staniforth's "tact and tactics" (with apologies to our evening contemporary) were well directed in this work, for when he left it to return to his post in New Guinea, the Territory had settled down and everything was in order for his successor to take over.

Mr. Smith is in the West on long leave. He owns a sheep farm down south and intends to finally settle in this State. The Major is Chief Commissioner for Scotland, and a world-famous worker amongst slum boys especially. With extensive service in Africa and India, the major is in the grip of fever, but despite this handicap, he is perpetually cheerful. Many men the world over owe their present prosperity to his helping hand, held out to them in the towns of Stirling and Edinburgh, and during his world tour some of these have met and thanked him. Truly a man who deserves well of his country. That he may enjoy health and prosperity for the remainder of life is our wish.

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All personnel as above are reminded that they should report their addresses in writing to Military Head Quarters, Francis Street, Perth, during the months of January or February. Military Regulations provide that those failing to so report their addresses are liable to have their names removed from the list. The advantages to be gained by officers keeping their names on the Roll are very considerable, especially in the event of mobilization.

A.I.F. BADGE REPLACEMENT

The Defence Department advise that with reference to the replacement of lost Returned Soldiers' Badges to ex-members of the A.I.F., information has been received to the effect that same may now be obtained at a cost of one shilling plus postage from the Officer in Charge, Base Records, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne. Applicants should give full regimental particulars when applying for badges.

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Films and Furbies.

The German Embassy in London and many leaders of public thought in England are taking strong exception to the proposed release of a film depicting the martyrdom of Nurse Edith Cavell.

The German objection is quite a natural one. The proposed film represents one of those tyrannically cruel aspects of German militarism which Germany, as a whole, would like the world to forget.

Among our own people, certain sloppy sentimentalists argue that giving the affair such public prominence ten years after the event will tend to engender bitter feeling between Briton and Teuton—and, of course, the kind mild German is waiting, as he always was, for the opportunity of hugging the Briton to his bosom and petting him.

In defence, the producer maintains that his film is anti-war propaganda, and that he has spent a lot of money upon the production.

Nevertheless, the objections raised by such people as the philosophic Chamberlain are, to our mind, sound and valid. The picture is to be shown for purposes of private financial gain irrespective of the facts—that its screening will harrow the feelings of Nurse Cavell's relatives, and that it will not tend to establish more amicable relations between two war-riven peoples. It contains, according to the cables, a deal of extraneous matter belonging to the realm of legend rather than to that of historical accuracy.

Despite the sentimentalist, the war film is necessary. It is a modern reinforcement to the official document and the personal memoir, and, like them, forms part of the raw material of history. Regarded from this standpoint, such films as Mons, Ypres, Zeebrugge, and Armageddon are useful counterblasts to those tyrannically cruel aspects of German militarism which Germany, as a whole, would like the world to forget.

The myth-making tendency, especially in connection with heroes and heroines, has been a feature of every age. Every Digger knows, for instance, the crop of legends that grew up and were associated with the name of Jacka, V.C. Ladies of the aristocracy, even some of royal blood, were supposed to be engaged to him. The Diggers of one division attributed their numerous trips “over the top” to the displeasure of a well-known British general at discovering his daughter was secretary married to this hero. The foreman of the furphy foundry lives “over the shop” and works overtime.

Apart from the questionable taste of harrowing people’s feelings for private gain, a war film should be historically accurate; and it is regrettable that, at the beginning of a labile period to build up a British film industry, such a controversy should be raging over the fate of one of Britain’s outstanding heroines.

Slop and the furphy are well-known devices of the Hollywood people and should be left to such “lesser breeds without the law.” The memory of Nurse Cavell is enshrined in the hearts of Britons and Frenchmen, ranking therein with those other saintly patriots, Joan of Arc and Florence Nightingale, and needs no dubious money-making scheme to ensure its perpetuation.

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Public Notice—Ali Khan and Ali Khant wish to notify “all very good Australians” that they will give an exhibition of snake-charming outside Pasha Giowery’s pub tonight.

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Pupils taken for Two-up School. Best in Egypt. Apply Principal, Mena Camp. Wealthy Egyptian wants to be coached in the sport of “swinging the lead.”

The French preceded the names of their streets by the words “Rue de.” A masterpiece of Aussie originality was the title “Roo de Kangi,” given to a main street in Persia after its occupation by the A.I.F. in 1918.

THE LISTENING POST
February 24th, 1928.

THE MONTH.

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When an Aussie reinforcement in 1917 was marching from the boat at Boulogne to the rest camp, one of its members called out to a Digger, with a bushy moustache, standing on the footpath: “Hallo, Dig! When did you grow the whiskers?” “Waiting for you deep-thinkers,” was the unexpected reply.

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Is War According to God's Plan
(By Eric H. O. Nye)

The Editor has asked me to comment on Mr. Watt's article which appeared under the above title in the December issue of the "Listening Post". I have read Mr. Watt's article with a great deal of interest, also Mr. Longmore's comments in the January number. I find myself very much in accord with Mr. Longmore's comments than with Mr. Watt's argument.

It seemed to me that Mr. Watt's argument was in two parts, not very clearly separated in his article. The first part may be cited in his own words: "We fail to look to the past for our lesson ... God's laws never change. The experiences of the past clearly reflect that the determining factor of human history, of a nation's success, or of a nation's failure, is the efficiency or inefficiency of its armaments in, for, or against it. Throughout the ages the laws of God have never changed, and the same root causes have always tended towards the same results."

The quotations are taken from different parts of the argument. It is in the middle, the end; and they show how closely Mr. Watt's mind clings to the past. It is in this first part that the whole argument on praise of war collapses. It is untenable. It is the stock argument, with the idea of success lies in the application of the doctrine which Mr. Watt quotes with real approval as a sort of final word of God, e.g., "the law of the survival of the fittest." It lays down, as Divine Law, that what has been is and ever shall be.

The question which kept rising in my mind as I read this part of the argument was: By what authority does Mr. Watt make the assertion that "God's laws never change"? I remember reading that One Whose authority is unquestioned in these matters once said: "Ye have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, Resist not him that is evil; but whosoever smiteth thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Is there not in this sentence a recognition of a change in God's law? Is not that change the result of the development in man of a higher moral sense? Or, to put it another way, is it not a fact that, although cave-men obey the instinct of pugnacity, and fight in order to possess, Christian men (or men of the Christian era) may obey another law, that of love, which leads to mutual knowledge and understanding, and so to co-operative effort for the good of both? God's methods, instead of being unchanging and mechanical, are being adjusted continually to every stage of human progress and development. Man is no longer an intelligent brute; he is on the high-road to something better.

"I hear no yelp of the beast, and the Man is quiet at last. As he stands on the heights of his life, with a glimpse of a height that is higher." War may be inevitable for the present —human character being not yet perfect; but it is not going to be so for ever. God's laws, or methods, will change as soon as we pass from the world of the jungle into the world of moral being.

The second part of Mr. Watt's argument is much more plausible, or would be much more plausible, than the first were it not for the extraordinary use he makes of it. He states it in these words: "To me it appears that the ethical essence of progress is sacrifice. If a generation shrink from the sacrifice necessary to self-preservation, then that generation is a traitor to its past and to its future. Self-denial, discipline, obedience, order, method, intelligence, organising power, resolution, industry, chastity, temperance, and hardihood. These are some of the attributes of righteousness which determine this spiritual quality and which exalteth a nation."

With the idea underlying these general statements, I am in agreement, with the reservation that I should not call "order, method, intelligence, organising power, resolution," in themselves "attributes of righteousness." They are estimable qualities when used in a righteous cause; but one can easily imagine circumstances in which any one, or all, of them might quite truly be described as "attributes of the Devil." With the assertion that "the ethical essence of progress is sacrifice" no one will quarrel. But the sacrifice must not be thought of as the price one pays for an article that— he expects to sell at a big profit to himself. When one reads carefully Mr. Watt's whole argument, it appears that this is just what he does mean. He links this idea of sacrifice with military efficiency which is "the deter-
mining factor...of a nation's success, or of a nation's failure." He says that "the decay of the morality of a nation has always been attended with a corresponding decay of the military spirit," and he uses this extraordinary assertion (of which one of our antagonists in the Great War provided a noteworthy denial) to prove that the decay of the military spirit of a nation will always be attended by a corresponding decay of its morality.

To state such a proposition bluntly is to expose its absurdity. Yet what do the following words, taken from the article under review mean other than this: "If war absolutely passed away, then the terrible punishment which war provides for human degeneracy would be removed, and the upward trend of human morality would terminate?" Upon this assumption we are asked to believe that war is part of God's unalterable plan. As a matter of fact, war does not do any such thing as is claimed for it. War punishes the innocent far more severely than it punishes the guilty and the degenerate. That in itself would be a sufficient reply to Mr. Watt's contention. But there is more to be noted—war does more to brutalize man and to lower national morality than any other single cause. Hatred, lying propaganda, cruelty, lust—with broken hearts and ruined homes—these are the natural offspring of war. There never has been a war on any large scale where they have not made their unwelcome and unwholesome appearance. Truly, in every war individual soldiers rise to great heights of sacrifice and of daring; but sacrifice is never the motive of war.

The nations, for which soldiers die so nobly and for which their loved ones suffer, are not moved by altruistic motives. Not yet have nations come to the point of agreement at which they refuse to fight except in defence of right, or for the punishment of wrong.

It is my conviction that we shall not reach that desirable agreement whilst "military efficiency" is regarded as "the determining factor of a nation's success."

Mr. Watt further says that the Germans' military efficiency was 'inefficient' because it lacked spiritual quality. To quote again: "They worshipped at the altar of the false God, Might—but only the might of the bully." To which there is a complete reply: It is simply impossible to destroy the worship of the God of Might by increasing facilities for that worship. You cannot supply the lack of spiritual quality in military preparedness or efficiency in any nation by defeating that nation in war. There is a passage in Green's "Short History of the English People" (1916 edition), written during the early days of the Great War, which subsequent events have fulfilled almost uncannily. I quote the passage: "On the declaration of war all the great powers of Europe, one after another were swept into the prodigious conflict... Notwithstanding that every nation, so long as it had life, would refuse to accept against it as authoritative any decision of war." (page 1006. The bold is mine). That is an historian's prophecy. The world's fear of war is the prophecy of the fulfilment of his prophecy.

In the list of virtues which are claimed by Mr. Watt to be attributes of righteousness—"which exalteth a nation," there is no mention of some which an ancient Christian writer claimed to be the direct result of God's work—always present where God is working. These are "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." When any nation shows forth these, then will it be worthy to be called "a Nation of God"—complete according to His plan. And the good that is in the worst of us will immediately recognise its supremacy.

The false premises upon which Mr. Watt's argument rest are: (1) the unchangeability of God's methods according to the development of human conscience and character; (2) the definition of "spiritual quality" without taking into account the most characteristic virtues of the Christian faith.
BENJAMIN BUTTONSTICK'S VIEW-POINT.

Not being a theologian I cannot answer this question, though my readings of history, both Scriptural and Profane, incline me to the views expressed by Mr. Watt. The Old Testament, and I presume that that portion of the Books of Books is still regarded as being divinely inspired, contains many instances of the Almighty sending the Israelites into battle, or of raising up some foreign power to punish Israel when the latter became lax as regards religious observances and public morals.

In spite of its being a beastly messy business and the wide-spread suffering it causes, there is a glorious side to war. It brings out and develops the virtues of courage, fortitude, self-sacrifice, devotion, and that splendid mateship that was such an outstanding characteristic of the British forces in France. How much better for the world it would be if those aspects of the war-time spirit could be carried into the daily activities of peace. We have the hate and the intolerance which we now feel against those of our own countrymen who do not see eye to eye with us politically or religiously, but what has become of all the nobler qualities?

Our esteemed friend and contributor, C. S. Longmore, would like to see the war impulse directed into an onslaught against disease and other social evils, and in that one must agree with him. But I would remind him that with all its bitterness and all its horrors, the last war did not drag to its conclusion without rendering some permanent services to humanity. It gave a tremendous impetus to aviation. It developed the science of plastic surgery and preventive medicine, and gave wonderful opportunity for research work in industrial fatigue. These are all benefits to mankind which can be carried into the sphere of civil life, and had the war not occurred, they would still be in their infancy.

While not presuming to read the mind of the Almighty, I think it would be blasphemous to assume that His interest in mankind ended with Joshua and Hezekiah. He used war in Old Testament times as a purgative, a means of revitalising man's moral sense. Why, then, assume that this is not one way in which He reveals Himself to-day? No one in these enlightened times would advocate war as a normal or even a frequent condition, but there are times when not only a people, but a world in general requires a pretty drastic lesson. It is just as when one drenches a horse for the bots—dashed unpleasant but very good for the horse.

In a recent issue of the "Sunday Times" there appeared on one page an article on The Federal Octopus, in which was advocated the desirability of placing Western Australia first in every particular. On another page was an able and sympathetic review of James Pollard's new novel, Rose of the Bushlands, while on a third page there appeared a serial by an overseas writer.

VARIA.

Harold Millington, M.L.A. (Minister for Agriculture) told a good one at the Perth Branch smoke social about a casual Digger who was induced to write to his mother prior to going into action to capture Bethel. The said Digger had never written home since he left Australia and on this occasion he excelled himself in brevity. Borrowing pencil and paper, he wrote: "Dear Mother, tomorrow we go into action at Bethel where Christ was born. I wish to — I was in Dubbo where I was born."

"Gunner."—"He made me uncomfortable," General Sir Ian Hamilton complained of a journalist in his war diary, "by an elaborate explanation of why his duty to Australia could better be done with the pen than with the rifle." This very common habit was one of the minor horrors of the war. The odd thing about it was that the provider of the apologia generally managed to make his combatant hearer a rather unworthy character. Perhaps the worst offenders were junior officers and N.C.O.'s in the back area. Their point was that an excess of intellect had ruined them—that if they were only clods and dullards, no objection would be taken to their ambition to plunge into action.
and prove themselves heroes. There was an adjutant at one of the Lark Hill camps, who pointed out to the officer-members of pretty well every departing draft that nothing but his soldierly qualities kept him on home service. Amateurs were good enough for cannon fodder; the real soldier had to undertake the more responsible duties of administration and training. And then there was the civilian eligible who more or less subtly suggested that his friends had enlisted in a spirit of bravado. "Of course, no one's afraid," the non-starter would argue. "Absolutely absurd to talk of such a thing. But some of us have responsibilities and respect them; and others don't seem to care a damn about their obligations." The effect was to make the unanalytical recruit feel rather like a detected wife-deserter. The terrible ordeal turned his hair quite grey, but otherwise he suffered no serious effects. On the amalgamation of the R.N.A.S. and R.A.F. Oliver was appointed to command the 6th Wing R.A.F., and led it to the Adriatic Sea to clean up the submarine pest. The oldest officer in the Wing was Major Hope de Vere, M.C., aged 30; the youngest, 2nd Lieut. Hodgkins, aged 18. The only two Australians were Captain Delarue, of Sydney, and 2nd Lieut. Jim Paterson, of Perth. There were also Canadians and South Africans, and Irish Free Staters. The Wing was, in effect, a large happy family, and cheerfully cleaned up the German and Austrian "subs," before being rewarded by being sent to the Black Sea to try conclusions with the "Bolshies." One has not noticed Oliver tackling any trans-ocean flights since the war; probably his 1914 experience was enough!

"Scottie."—One by one the famous war leaders are passing away. Haig, Wilson, Sturdee, Rawlinson, Milne, Curzon, French, Kitchener, have all gone to a better world. In many cases their death has been hastened by the terrible strain suffered as a result of colossal responsibility. The late Earl Haig was undoubtedly loved and esteemed by the whole British Empire and the Allies. One look at Haig's face was sufficient to convince one that there was no ordinary person, but a truly great man. His simplicity and humility alone showed this. His own countrymen adored him, and they never quite got out of the habit of calling him "Sir Douglas." He was famous before the Great War started, but he emerged from it with a reputation equal to that of Kitchener and the Duke of Wellington. The funeral, magnificent as it was, barely did justice to the man's career. The greatest monument to his memory is the continued existence of the Empire.

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Nervous Passenger: "W—w—why?"
Motorist: "The last time I tried it I lost my back seat."

Every year is leap year for the pedestrian.

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THE LATE EARL HAIG AND COUNTESS HAIG
From a photo taken by an Australian Delegate to the B.E.S.L. Conference in Canada two years ago

SUB-BRANCH NOTES

QUAIRADING

This sub-branch held a very successful flannel dance on Boxing Night, to raise funds for the R.S.L. bed presented to the recently opened local hospital. The function was well attended, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. During the evening the drawing of the R.S.L. hospital raffle took place. An excellent array of refreshments was handed round by the committee, together with crackers and confetti, while ice cream and iced drinks were on sale throughout the evening. The hall was very tastefully decorated and illuminated and the committee is to be congratulated on its work.

The annual meeting was held on Tuesday, 24th January. There was a very fair attendance and a good deal of business was transacted. The election of officers for the ensuing year was carried out, and Mr. Fergie Reid, who has been such a staunch member since the branch's inception, resigned the chair, owing to pressure of outside public work. Mr. P. V. Steinboldt, the late Secretary, was elected President. This meets with unanimous approval, as he has always had the welfare of the branch at heart. Messrs. T. Ettridge and D. McRae were returned, after a ballot, as vice-Presidents. Secretary Mr. R. A. Beall, was re-elected, no other nominations being put forward. Mr. A. Withford was elected auditor.

It was resolved to hold a public meeting on March 3 to ask the support and permission of the residents of the district to remove the war memorial from its present position to a more prominent one in front of the Roads Board Hall.

The annual smoke social will be held on or about 15th March, the date being subject to the convenience of members of the State Executive, who have been invited.

The meetings of the sub-branch, which have recently been held quarterly, will in future be held monthly, on the first Tuesday in each month, alternately at Quairading and Quairading. Three new members were enrolled and the prospects for the year look promising.

The sub-branch is fortunate in having so many of its members engaged in the public life of the town. Mr. Fergie Reid, the late President, is Chairman of the Quairading Roads Board. Mr. C. Shenton, an active committee man, is Secretary of the Roads Board, the Hospital, and Anglican Church.

The branch has three members on the Hospital Board, and the sub-branch Secretary, Mr. R. A. Beall, is also Secretary of the Parents and Citizens' Association.

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VICTORIA PARK
Victoria Park Sub-branch of the R.S.L. held their annual meeting on Friday, 20th January, when the election of officers took place. There was a good attendance of members, and the voting for the different officers was closely contested. Mr. Herb. Wells was again elected to the chair, whilst Messrs. Nicol and Mathews were elected Vice-Presidents; Mr. Fred
Bantock being again chosen as Treasurer and Mr. Sheridan as Auditor. Messrs. Gaynor and Hewson were installed as a special visiting committee to hospitals, whilst the amelioration committee consists of Messrs. Mathews and Smith. Mr. C. Gibb was again elected as Secretary. After the election, Mr. Wells thanked the members for the confidence they placed in him, and stated that the interest of the branch and League in general would not be lacking while he held the position.

Quite a volume of business came before the meeting, and the Secretary will have a busy time in the near future attending to numerous pension claims and other matters. Quite a strong, energetic committee, consisting of Messrs. Gavine, Tolnie, Barker, Chandler and Wren were installed, and it is anticipated that before the year is out the strongest sub-branch in the suburban area will be decided on at the next meeting.

NAREMBOEEN

The above sub-branch held their monthly general meeting on Saturday, 28th January. President C. G. Latham presided over a good attendance. An apology was received from Mr. B. Weir. The diggers are wondering if Hurtle buzzed off again to Annie's room. The art union committee reported a profit of approximately £100. Considering the art union was only on for seven weeks, this is a splendid effort, and members are indebted to Messrs. Ward, Dunn and Pollett for their splendid efforts in this matter. The President complimented Secretary H. A. Boyes for the very efficient manner he had carried out his duties during the session. Mr. W. Dunn also spoke highly of the way the secretary had carried out his work, and moved that an honorable of ten guineas be given to him. J. M. Cusack seconded this motion. As this was too sudden for the Secretary, H. A. will thank members at the next general meeting, to be held on Saturday, 25th February, 1928.

F. T. Ward did some very creditable work relative to finding work for a few unemployed diggers, and found a house for a married man and his family, who were in dire circumstances. The Secretary read a circular from the State Executive regarding the employment of aliens, stating that preference should be given to Britishers. This sub-branch heartily endorses that sentiment, but money will have to be found for aliens who have already done clearing for farmers.

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MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH LEDERVILLE

The above branch is progressing satisfactorily and now has a membership of 31. Many have promised to link up, but have not yet done so. When they do they are assured of a royal welcome. The election of officers has just taken place, and resulted as follows:—President, Mr. G. F. Charles; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. F. Ash and S. Gorton; Secretary, Mr. E. Rogers; Assistant Secretary, Mr. L. Vivien; Committee, Messrs. Damon, Rowles, Mulberry, Noble, Woodward, Young and Standing; Auditor, Mr. J. Prendergast. A concert held in December proved a financial success, and a couple of prize-winning tickets in the art union were sold locally. The first smoker is set down for Thursday, March 1.

COLLIE

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held in the Soldiers' Hall, the president (Mr. A. Beange) occupying the chair. There was an attendance of about thirty members, but quite a number of others were prevented from attending because of the eleven-hour working conditions.

A letter was read from the State Secretary (Mr. D. M. Benson) intimating that it would be impossible for either himself or any representatives of the State Executive to be present at the meeting on account of prior engagements. The communication concluded with best wishes for a successful year.

A circular letter was received from the same source, the chief item of which was in regard to the annual conference of soldier settlers. In view of the fact that the Branch had already made representations to have the gathering held in Collie this year it was resolved to make a further request in that direction.

Printed copies of the half-yearly financial statement were distributed amongst those present and disclosed a credit balance of £26 8/5 at the end of the year. The various items of expenditure during the previous six months amounted to £415 11/-, chief of which was £142 for the purchase of an operating table presented to the Collie Hospital. The assets of the Branch were given as being £2041 15/7, made up as follows:—Buildings, £6163 2/9; freehold property, £5572 10/10; furniture, £222 11/7; loans to members, £87; credit balance at bank, £24 8/5. The statement was briefly discussed, and eventually adopted on the motion of Messrs. J. Giblett and H. Cramer.

The Secretary (Mr. D. Simpson) presented a lengthy and interesting report on the...
Two presentations came with which to carry on its work, and in consequence there was no revenue derived therefrom.

Presentation of an operating table to the Collie Hospital has therefore had a substantial profit, as shown on the financial statement. The hall was let to the general public.

Operating Table.—In regard to the presentation of an operating table to the Collie Hospital, it is pleasing to relate that the cost of this was met fully by the Branch immediately it arrived in the town. Such was only made possible by the interest displayed by the executive officers in closely conserving the funds of the Branch.

Newgate Cup.—This coveted trophy passed out of the hands of the Branch this year after having been held for three successive years. The winners were Mr. Barker, who well deserved the success that attended their efforts.

Presentation Socials.—Two presentations for services rendered were made during the year, the recipients being Messrs. A. E. Anderson and H. May (past president and secretary respectively). Both were well attended, a fact that revealed in no uncertain manner the keen appreciation of the work of the two gentlemen in question.

Vice-Regal Reception.—The reception tendered to His Excellency the Governor (Sir William Campion) and Lady Campion on the occasion of their recent visit to Collie was a pleasant and successful function, and was greatly appreciated by the distinguished visitors.

Employment.—This aspect of the League's activities has received very close attention, the number of pensions are now pending. In the matter of catering, the thanks of the Branch is due to the ladies who have given a lot of their time to the social side of the work, and in consequence there was no necessity to make an appeal to the general public.

Rules governing the club have been drawn up, a membership fee has been fixed, and the grounds have been placed under the control of Mr. S. Simpson, who has evinced a lively interest in the welfare of the courts.

Pensions.—There have not been many pension appeals during the year, but those handled by the Branch have met with a fair measure of success. Two cases of widows appealing against reductions in their pensions are now pending.

Christmas Tree.—Thanks to the generosity of the members and the Collie public, the sum of £33/12/6 was subscribed towards the provision of the annual Christmas Tree for the children of deceased soldiers. Thirty-four children were present at the function and all had a happy time. In the matter of catering, the thanks of the Branch is due to the ladies who evinced such a kindly interest in the children.

Ladies' Auxiliary Committee.—The grateful thanks of members is due to the Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, who have at all times readily assisted in the social side of the Branch's activities, freely and willingly giving their services whenever the occasion arose to call upon them.

Obituary.—This report would be incomplete without reference to the demise of our late comrade "Sandy" Wilson. By his death the Branch lost a most valued member and a true friend.

Appreciation.—Among members who have assisted with social functions and other activities of the Branch, thanks is specially tendered to Messrs. H. May, A. E. Anderson, F. Thomas, S. Hoare, S. Simpson, J. Bredahl, G. Beaver, T. Wilson, C. Hay, T. Allen, J. Digwood, and A. Williamson, who have given a lot of their time to matters connected with the Branch. Appreciation must also be recorded of the services rendered by all the officers, not forgetting the very fair treatment and consideration that has always been forthcoming from the State Executive, the Repatriation Department, the Workers' Homes Board, and the various public bodies and organisations of Collie and district.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mr. A. D.
Anderson, auditor, Mr. A. Wilson; employment committee, Messrs. H. May and A. E. Anderson; general committee, Messrs. H. Cramer, T. Wilson, H. May, J. Bredahl, D. Simpson, J. Morrison, G. Beaver, and S. Hoare. Both the retiring president and secretary (Messrs. A. Beange and D. Simpson respectively) were nominated for re-election. In view of the inability of Mr. Simpson to continue in his office the position of secretary was held over until the next general meeting.

Mr. McDonald (President) and Mr. Giblett (Vice-President) also returned thanks for their election, but Mr. A. Watkins was unavoidably absent.

In recognition of the services rendered by the secretary (Mr. D. Simpson) during the year, it was resolved to grant that officer an honorarium of £25.

The question of applicants for work on the local mines having to undergo a general meeting. H.

by the secreary offcer an honorarium of Secretary was held over until the next meeting. Such tiring president stated that as far as he could ascertain, such medical examinations were made in accordance with the Occupational Diseases Act, and he expressed the opinion that there was room for some investigation in the matter. It was agreed that the committee should make further enquiries and report to a general meeting.

MT. BARKER.

January was the record month for collection of subs by the Secretary. Twenty eight notices were served. 25 subs paid, besides four new members enrolled. The Branch at end of January totalled 101 financial members. There is not much chance of increasing except by the addition of any new man likely to blow along to jobs offering. Which, unfortunately, are not too plentiful this season due to the apple shortage.

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BERT TEAGUE, PROPRIETOR

"Stump" Hards was in town a few days ago from his spud patch at Narrikup. "Stump" looks well and is looking forward to being able to visit Barker at the next “dhu.”

Geo. Smith and Little Tim excelled to their best at the concert given for the benefit of the Show Ground Improvement Fund.

BRIDGETOWN.

Reveille has been sounded in the Bridgetown district and returned soldiers are beginning to “wake up” to their obligations by joining the League. The past year was the most successful ever experienced by the Branch, and personal interest by members increased as the year advanced.

There was a short sharp rush to be first on this year’s membership list, but owing to lack of reinforcements the first thirty are digging in.

At the annual general meeting held recently the election of officers resulted as follows: President, H. E. Klopper; Vice-President, T. H. Savory; Secretary, R. Urquhart; Treasurer, P. A. Veale; Finance Committee, Messrs. Hearn, Vale,
and Corker; Group 127 Representative, W. J. Melbourne; Group 126 Representative, E. W. Dilkes; Auditor, W. A. Hayward.

It was decided to have no general committee and the finance committee was instructed to carry out any necessary duties between meetings.


Secretary's Report.

Membership.—During the year our financial membership reached a total of 74. The highest in the history of the Branch.

Donations.—One guinea each was sent to Perth Children's Hospital for cot, and upkeep of Honour Avenue Fund.

Ladies' Auxiliary.—A Ladies' Auxiliary to this Branch has been formed, and have already justified their existence.

Anzac Day.—A memorial service was held on Anzac Day, which was the best attended service the Branch had held. Nearly every soldier wore his medals.

Children's Sports.—The Branch held the annual children's sports gathering, which proved an enjoyable day for the children. A sum of £22 was spent on their behalf, but through subscriptions and the energy of the Ladies' Auxiliary the Branch came out square.

Relief.—Three cases of distress were reported. One was assisted and the other two applications turned down, after thorough investigation had proved their cases not to be genuine.

Pensions.—Two applications for a review of disability pensions were received, and through the efforts of this Branch and the State Executive, both applicants have had their pensions increased.

Paddy's Market and Popular Baby Competition.—In this connection the Ladies' Auxiliary worked very hard. The gross takings were £220. Thanks are due to those persons who assisted outside the League.

Poppies Day.—Owing to our consignment of Poppies going astray in the post, there was no sale.

Annual Dinner.—The first annual dinner held by this Branch exceeded all expectations, and was attended by the State President and Secretary, Rev. E. H. O. Nye, and Mr. Yeates, State Executive. The Dads of the district who sent sons to the War were invited and a good number were present. It was a great social success.

Picture Agreement.—An agreement has now been signed by all parties concerned and which is satisfactory to this Branch. We now withdraw from the Picture Committee.

Building Site.—A number of propositions have been put forward on which to erect our proposed building, and are being discussed on their merits.

I have much pleasure in presenting this report and express the hope that the ensuing year will be even more successful than the one just gone. Thanking members for their assistance.

The balance sheet showed a credit of assets over liabilities of £337/3/1.

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

Annual Meeting.

At the annual meeting of the Railway Workshops Sub-branch R.S.I, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: President, Mr. R. Gibson; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. J. E. Miller and J. Grier; Secretary, Mr. W. J. Lovell; Treasurer, Mr. W. F. Langdon; Asst. Secretary, Mr. L. Tichbon; Auditors, Messrs. W. Reed and G. Brackenbridge. The Committee consists of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Messrs. Kane, Tichbon, Langdon, Wells, Bickford, Lawson, Hughes, Warn, Summerton, and Weatherall, and the Secretary.

Mr. J. Kane, the retiring President, opened the meeting and proceeded with the election of officers. Mr. Kane then retired and handed over the branch to the new president, Mr. R. Gibson. Mr. Kane thanked all officers and members for their generous support during his term of office, which covered a period of three years, and stated that he sincerely trusted that the new President would receive the same consideration and support. Mr. Gibson suitably responded. Mr. Miller, the senior Vice-President, then spoke in eulogistic terms of the work done by Mr. Kane as President of the Branch and at his instigation it was decided that, besides the ordinary certificate of merit, Mr. Kane should receive a further memento. Mr. Kane by the way has held the office twelve months longer than either of his predecessors and did not seek re-election. The Secretary read his annual report which showed an increase in membership of 48 during the year 1927.

Two deaths occurred in the Branch during the year. Mr. I. Deveren died at Ed. Millen Home, Victoria Park, after a very long illness, and Mr. H. Welsh died at Kogarah, N.S.W., whilst on holidays.

The balance sheet showed a rather healthy account, considering that the Branch relies almost entirely on members' contributions to pay accounts.

It must be stated here in fairness to members that, whenever one is off sick for any length of time, and beginning to
feel the strain on the pocket, an appeal is made to members of the Branch to assist financially. This always results in the sick member benefiting to the extent of some few pounds. It speaks well for the average man and also goes to show that the comradeship of the war still exists amongst the ex-service men of to-day.

Let it also be said that whilst a member is sick he never wants for tobacco or something in lieu, neither does he have to pay any subscription while he remains off work.

Annual Picnic.—On February 4th the sub-branch chartered the launch Valdana to take members and their relatives to Point Walter for the annual picnic. The idea of the picnic is that members’ wives and children shall gather together socially and get to know each other. It is considered it is not fair for the men to have all the fun, so this picnic is conducted mainly for the womenfolk and children. 175 children passed through the barrier at the jetty, and at the hour of sailing there was hardly breathing heard. On board the Valdana was Mr. Hughsten, Master’s Race: Master’s Mackenzie and Misses Cash’s Race, open: Mrs. P. Reilly 1st, Mrs. I. H. Millar 2nd.

Mr. J. H. Mann, a member who puts in his spare time in the making of designs in wild flowers, presented the branch with a sample of his work in a polished jarrah frame, on condition that it was raffled and the proceeds go to the Amelioration Fund of the branch. This raffle took place on the trip from Perth and before lunch at Point Walter, and resulted in the fund being increased by £2/13/6; Mr. M. Gillan was the fortunate winner.

After a glorious day, both in weather and enjoyment, the Valdana was filled again and returned to Perth. On the return trip the President and Secretary expressed the Committee’s thanks to all who had been to the picnic, for the support they had given, and also hoped that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed themselves. This must have been the case, for there wasn’t a complaint made.

It was made known by the Committee that, had it not been for the generosity of a number of city firms in the way of trophies and other donations, the success of the picnic would not have been so great, and therefore, the heartfelt gratitude of the Committee went out to those firms.

It might be mentioned that last year the ladies assisted a great deal where the children were concerned, but this year the committee decided not to ask the ladies to help, but to allow them the whole day for enjoyment.

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Cash 1st, Mrs. Riley 2nd. Potato Race, open: Mr. W. Williams, 1st, Mr. I. Davis 2nd. Ladies’ Sail-driving Competition, open: Mrs. P. Reilly 1st, Mrs. I. H. Millar 2nd.

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