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All business communications should be addressed to the Manager, "The Listening Post," 70 King Street, Perth.

All other communications should be addressed "To the Editor.

This journal is published monthly on the third Friday, and all advertisements and matter for inclusion must reach our office not later than the second Friday.

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.

March 23rd, 1928

OUR OLDEST INHABITANTS.

Some days ago a deputation of Australian aborigines waited on the Premier and made certain proposals for the amelioration of the conditions under which members of their race live, especially as regards the administration of existing Acts. The leader of the deputation, Mr. Harris, denounced his arguments clearly and succinctly, so that Mr. Collier fairly beamed upon him and promised to do his best for them.

Clearly the time is ripe for bringing the whole question of the aborigine and his future under review, for, if we allow him to become extinct while there is still time to save his race from dying out, our portion will be eternal shame. Looking backward over the range of history, we are compelled reluctantly to admit that black brother has suffered severely at the hands of the whites. Even in districts where there was no actual personal ill-treatment, his lands were occupied by white settlers, his hunting-grounds restricted, and the game itself thinned out or driven away. Then, too, the change from primal ways to white man's ways, from native food to white man's food, has in many cases been detrimental to the native's health. From an ethical standpoint we should do more than we are doing for this child race, whose country we have taken.

There is an economic side to the question also. The aborigines make good domestics and good stockmen. There is no reason why they should not be utilised more in these spheres. The difficulties with regard to the settling of our empty North are economic rather than climatic, and if those arm-chair imperialists who talk so airyly of bringing in indentured labour from India and elsewhere would concentrate their energies on training the aborigine to do the work of the North, they would be rendering both Australia and the "abo" a service. That the "abo" can be educated (even in the more academic sense of the word) has been clearly demonstrated by the cases of such men as the Reverend James Noble, Douglas Grant (a full-blooded Queensland aborigine, who became an engineer, draughtsman), and Mr. Harris himself.

It must be particularly galling to educated natives like these men to realise that they cannot go where they like in their own country, that Chinese and Maltese may be served in hotel bars, while they may not. Supervision and segregation are extremely necessary in the case of the wild Myalls, but surely the regulations could be relaxed in favour of individuals who, by education and training, have proved themselves capable of accepting the white man's civilisation. They should be encouraged to take their natural place as leaders of their own race.

New Zealand did this sort of thing with regard to the Maoris, and the result has been a lasting benefit to both peoples. Canada acted similarly towards the Canadian Indians, and even the tardy Yank took measures to educate the red men before it was too late to save them from extermination.

We in Australia leave such things to the poorly supported efforts of a few devoted missionaries, and while Mr. Harris and his deputation were astounded and extremely capable Premier with their erudition, a motley gang of Maltese, Russians and Southern Europeans—all representatives of races whose own whiteness is by no means an establishment—were permitted at Darwin to boycott hotel keepers who presume to give the aborigine a job in his own country.

March 23rd, 1928

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That feeling life's not much!
When every plain seems rut or hill
And things get out of touch.
Then don't we think it's utter rot
To say: "Don't grumble; smile!"
Why, all the world's just gone to pot,
And nothing seems worth while!
But wait; hang on a bit and see
If that small patch of blue
Is not just somewhere working round
And making aim for you.
You see, all life must have its shower,
What use the bows and arrows?
It could not make the perfect flower
If things were not that way.

Glady's M. Barden
EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

29/2/28


Federal Correspondence.—The Tobacco Industry. A letter was received from the Federal Executive concerning Resolution 128 of the 12th Annual Congress dealing with tobacco industry, and showing a report of the Development and Migration Commission to the Federal Government on the subject.

The letter was received and the Secretary was instructed to give the matter full publicity.

British Pensions.—The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a letter from the British Empire League dealing with the time limit for pensions for ex-Imperial Soldiers, stating that all efforts to have this abolished had been unsuccessful, but consideration could be given to cases on their merits, where ex-soldiers suffering with War disabilities were not receiving pensions. It was decided that sub-branches be advised in the next circular to be sent out.

Pilgrimage to War Areas.—The Federal Executive forwarded particulars of expenses for this pilgrimage, and the matter was left in the hands of the State Secretary for further action.

With reference to the resolution carried at the last Executive meeting dealing with the Perth Sub-Branch suggestion that an Art Union be run for expenses for such trip; it was decided that the Sub-Branch be advised that the Executive cannot see its way clear to accede to this recommendation.

Greetings.—The Federal Capital Territory Branch extended greetings, and expressed the hope of the continued success of this Branch. The letter was received.

Certificate: Vice-President.—The Gutha Sub-Branch wrote stating that they were desirous of presenting their Vice-President (Mr. Way) with a Certificate as awarded to Presidents and Secretaries. They desired to know if this was constitutional.

It was decided to inform the Gutha Sub-Branch that the constitution did not provide for the presenting of certificates to vice-presidents.

Survey Fees.—The Secretary stated that efforts had been made to secure land for an ex-soldier without his having to provide the necessary survey fee. The Under-Secretary for Lands had advised that the Minister had ruled that as it was a matter of policy, the concession could not be granted. The case in question was submitted to Mr. Pady to ascertain if hardship existed, in order that further representations may be made.

Art Union: Narembeen Hospital.—The Secretary of the Narembeen Hospital stated that the Committee was conducting an art union, and requested the Executive to supply the names of secretaries of sub-branches in order that they might be asked to assist.

It was decided that, in accordance with the usual custom of the Executive, the information be not supplied.

Address by Prime Minister.—The State President informed delegates that he had been in communication with the Federal President and endeavoured to induce the Prime Minister to address the soldiers of this State on his next visit. The Prime Minister had kindly consented to do so.

Bert Hinkler.—The "Daily News" forwarded a list in connection with the "Bob in" testimonial for Bert Hinkler. This was received.

Moved by Rev. Riley, seconded by Mr. Yeates: That the ex-Service men and women of W.A. desire through the Federal Executive to congratulate Mr. Bert Hinkler on his achievement in flying from England to his native land in record time and with such remarkable success. English and Australian members of the League join in this expression of thankfulness on his safe arrival, and keenly appreciate his effort in bringing the Motherland closer to Australia.—Carried.

Settlement of Ex-Service Men.—The Secretary advised that he had communicated with Mr. Banks Amery, the British Government representative, concerning the settlement of ex-Service men, in an endeavour to obtain cropping assistance for those who went on the land. The Assistant British Government representative had advised that Mr. Amery would return to Melbourne on the 29th instant, and the matter would then receive consideration.

Employment of Incapacitated Men.—The Secretary advised that action had been taken to call a Conference between the Pensions & Employment Committee, and Employers' Federation, and the Australian Labour Party, with a view to finding employment for incapacitated men. Both the outside organisations had consented to the conference, which would take place in the near future.

Influx of Aliens.—The West Guildford Sub-Branch forwarded a resolution carried at their last meeting, urging the Executive to continue in their efforts to have alien immigration restricted. The letter was received.

T.B. Association Appeal.—The Red Cross Society forwarded copy of a communication received from the Secretary of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Busselton, asking for contributions for the noble work of the Red Cross, to be forwarded to the Red Cross Society, Fremantle.
of the T.B. Sailors' and Soldiers' Association of Western Australia, asking for further assistance to provide games and other amusements for the inmates of Edward Millen Home. It was moved by Mr. Riley, seconded by Mr. Philip, that this matter be referred to the Pensions Sub-Committee to consider the matter of this appeal in conjunction with representatives of the Red Cross Society, the Repatriation Department and the T.B. Association.—Carried.

Reports.—The State Secretary read the report of the operations of the office for the preceding fortnight. He dealt with land and matters and visits. The report was received.

Anzac Day.—The State Secretary delivered a report of the meeting of the Anzac Day Committee, held on the 21st February. The report was received and adopted.

Art Union Committee.—The auditors' report on the result of the No. 7 Art Union, together with the report of the Art Union Committee, which showed a very satisfactory result, was received and adopted.

Moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Pady, that the thanks of the Executive be tendered to the Art Union Committee and staff for the successful conduct of this art union.—Carried.

Land Committee.—Mr. Yeates delivered a report of the activities of the Land Committee, dealing with interviews with Mr. McLarty, the Controller of Soldier Settlement, and visits. The report was received and adopted.

R.S.I. Co-op. Co. Ltd.—Mr. McAdam submitted a report on the R.S.I. Cooperative Trading Co. Ltd. for the previous year. The report was received and adopted.

Discussion ensued concerning the League's asset, as represented by shares held, and it was ultimately moved and seconded that the League's Auditor be requested to report on the position.—Lost.

An amendment was moved that a committee, consisting of Messrs. Sadlier, Tozer and Wells, be appointed, and in co-operation with the League's Auditor and the League's Solicitor peruse the Articles of Association of the Company, with a view to bringing in a recommendation for the consideration of the Executive.—Carried.

R.S.L. Relief Funds.—The report of the activities of the Relief Fund for the month of February was received and adopted.

House Committee.—Mr. Philip submitted a report of the House Committee meeting held on the 28th instant, and which stated that a special meeting was being called to consider important matters relating to the Soldiers' Institute. The report was received.

Finance Committee.—Mr. Tyler read the report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 13th February. The report was received and adopted.

Employment Bureau.—The report of the Employment Bureau for the month of February was received.

Mr. Lovell stated that men were being employed at the Railway Workshops, and a very small percentage of those engaged were returned soldiers. It was decided that an official communication be forwarded to the Commissioner for Railways concerning employment at Midland Junction Workshops, and pointing out that it was reported that a very small percentage of returned soldiers was being included.

Tour of the Wheatbelt.—The State President submitted a report of the tour of the wheatbelt and visits to Kellerberin, Merredin, Narembeen, Bruce Rock, Quairading, and York. Mr. Wells and Mr. Bader accompanied him. He also submitted a confidential report in connection with Alien Immigration.

Moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Tyler that a vote of thanks be tendered to the State President and delegates for the good work performed on the tour.—Carried.

York Sub-Branch.—In view of the lack of interest taken in the soldier movement at York, the State Secretary was instructed to make every effort to revive the sub-branch.

Soldier Settlers' Conference.—The State Secretary submitted replies received from sub-branches in connection with the Soldier Settlers' Conference.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Wells, that in view of the absence of any important issues in connection with land settlement, and the lack of interest displayed by sub-branches, no Soldier Settlers' Conference be held this year.—Carried.

Leave of Absence.—Mr. Tyler applied for leave of absence from 12th March to 2nd April. Leave was granted.

Mr. Sadlier applied for leave of absence for the next meeting. This was granted.

Mr. J. Cornell was also granted six weeks' leave of absence.

Fremantle Sub-Branch.—Mr. Riley reported on a visit to the Fremantle Sub-Branch. The report was received.
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14/3/28.


Apologies.-Apologies were received from Revs. Riley and Nye, Messrs. Yeates, Logie, and Wells.

Anzac Day.—It was decided to call a meeting of representatives from Unit and Allied Associations and Metropolitan Sub-Branches for Thursday, 22nd instant, at 8 p.m.

Pat Hanna’s Diggers.—The Secretary stated that an invitation had been extended by Mr. Hanna to the Executive to attend the Theatre Royal on a suitable night. It was decided to accept the invitation for Tuesday night next. All members of the Executive to be advised.

Federal Correspondence.—Empire Trade.
—A letter was received from the Federal Executive, showing copy of resolution 34, which was carried at the 3rd Annual Conference of the B.E.S.L. This resolution urged each member organisation of the B.E.S.L. to do everything in its power to encourage, promote and develop a right understanding and reciprocity between the constituent parts of the Empire in regard to inter-Empire trade.

It suggested the extension of the B.E.S.L. Trade Information Bureau through the Member Organisations and asked that suggestions be forwarded as to how goods of British Empire manufacture could be best substituted for foreign goods now imported. A questionnaire was prepared and forwarded for completion by Branches and Sub-Branches.

Moved by Mr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Watt, that the request as outlined be acceded to, and the League give its whole-hearted support to the suggested procedure and a Committee of five be appointed with power to co-opt to collect the necessary information and forward it to the B.E.S.L. The Committee also to have the power to act.—Carried.

Messrs. McAdam, Yeates, Margolin, Saddler and Watson were appointed.

Hodgkin’s Disease.—A resolution from the Federal Executive dealing with resolution No. 20 of the Federal Congress dealing with Hodgkin’s Disease was received, and referred to the Fisions Sub-Committee.

Invitations.—Yarloop Sub-Branch extended an invitation to their Smoke Social, to be held on the 14th March, was received.

Letters of Appreciation.—Mr. R. Hope Robertson acknowledged the letter of appreciation forwarded by the League.

H. Wilson wrote thanking the League for assistance rendered in obtaining him employment.

Honor Avenue, King’s Park.—Mrs. M. Lodge requested the Executive to convey to the West Perth Sub-Branch the appreciation and gratitude of their proposed sweep and suggested that tickets be sold in Perth streets.

Moved by Mr. McAdam, seconded by Mr. Bader, that the State Secretary inform the Sub-Branch that the Executive is totally opposed to the sale of Boulder Sweep tickets in the streets of Perth.—Carried.

Weekly Entertainments.—The Commissioner of Police, in a letter to the State Secretary, stated that it had been found necessary to stop the playing of the game “Housey” at the Boulder Rest Rooms by various parties, such as foot-ball clubs, etc. He had received an application from the Sub-Branch requesting that permission should be given for this game to be played weekly in connection with euche entertainments.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Margolin, that the matter be left in the hands of the State Secretary, and that he obtain further information from the Police Department and the Boulder Sub-Branch.—Carried.

Employment Disabled Men.—The State Secretary read communications from the Employers’ Federation and the A.L.P. in which these organisations agreed to confer with the organisations in an effort to place disabled ex-soldiers. The Secretary stated that a Conference had been arranged to take place on Wednesday, 21st inst., at 4 p.m., at the Soldiers’ Institute.

Soldiers’ Funerals.—The West Guildford Sub-Branch asked the State Executive to approach the heads of the various religious denominations with a view to ensuring that an ex-A.I.F. padre would officiate at the funerals of all ex-A.I.F. soldiers.

The matter was deferred until next meeting.

Settlement of Ex-Service Men.—In response to a communication addressed to Mr. W. Bankes Amery, the British Government Representative in connection with the settlement of ex-service men, the State Secretary had received a reply in which Mr. Amery advised that he was collecting further information, and would communicate at a later date. He was afraid, however, that there was no possibility that the British Government would directly or indirectly be in a position to
find such sums as £450 for 50 ex-Imperial Service Men, to enable them to take up Crown wheat lands.

T.B. Association.—The State Secretary reported on a discussion which took place between the Secretary of the T.B. Association, representatives of the Red Cross Society and Repatriation Department, and himself, concerning the appeal launched by the above Association for funds. He dealt with the privileges enjoyed by accepted T.B. cases, as provided by the Repatriation Department and the Red Cross Society.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bader, that the report be referred to the Pensions Committee, and that they be given power to act in connection therewith.—Carried.

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

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee, held on the 29th February, was received and adopted.

House Committee.—The Chairman of the House Committee (Mr. Philp) submitted a report of the recommendation that the dining-room be closed at the earliest possible moment, owing to the heavy loss which had occurred over a long period. It was ultimately decided that owing to the sparse attendance at the meeting that evening, further discussion and consideration be deferred until the next meeting, and in the meantime copies of the report and statement be forwarded to each member of the Executive.

EMPIRE TRADE.

The British Empire Service League, of which the R.S.L. forms a part, is making a big drive in furtherance of trade within the Empire, and members are asked to do all in their power to promote this worthy objective. In any case we do not want a repetition of past history by assisting potential enemies to create navies and armies to fight us. The following resolution was passed at the last B.E.S.L. conference:—

'That this Conference urges upon each 'Member' organisation of the B.E.S.L. to do everything in its power to encourage, promote and develop a right understanding and reciprocity between the constituent parts of the Empire in regard to inter-Empire trade.'—It therefore directs that the machinery already in existence in the form of the British Empire Service League Empire Trade Information Bureau shall be extended primarily through the 'member' organisations in Great Britain and Overseas which are in direct touch with over six thousand towns and villages throughout the British Empire. It is therefore suggested that Empire Headquarters should send to the Headquarters of each constituent organisation a questionnaire inviting suggestions as to how goods of British Empire manufacture can be best substituted for foreign goods now being imported. It is also urged that the British Legion in the Homeland should encourage in their branches throughout the cities and towns of the British Isles an insistent demand for Empire goods and produce.

HINKLER'S ACHIEVEMENT. ITS GENESIS.

(By WINGS.)

The Arabs have a saying which is eloquent of the spell of Egypt and the glamour of the great lands beyond Egypt—"Whoso setteth his lips to the waters of the Nile shall return again to taste." Of the calls that come to men—the call of the desert, the sunshine, the sea, and the hills—the latest is held by the elect to be the greatest—the call of the wing. They say that the air takes a man "for keeps." Asleep or awake, there comes back to him the mighty paean raised by his engine when she sang the praises of her builder, man, in regions where aforetime no sound of the sky had been known, save the scream of an eagle, the quiver of the wings will ripple through his being as it did in the rushing wind over the world. And he will desire again to realise the mighty surge of clean, human pride that swept over him up there above the clouds.

Naturally there are exceptions. The man with his senses dulled, and his nerves shattered as a result of war experiences, has no feelings of the kind. Here we may pause and reflect on the calibre of these war fliers.

The Air Service looked death in the face from the outset. Nothing could disillusion the personnel, because it had no illusions. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, bearing the tablets of stone on which were the Ten Commandments, no man could look on his face because of the glory of it, so that he was obliged to cover himself with a veil.

And so, in a measure, no ordinary being can look on these Service pilots, if he possesses one grain of imagination. You are looking at someone who is a little more than human, because he has travelled in spirit beyond the fear of death. When death no longer holds any terror, the spirit of him who is not afraid, has reached far beyond this world, and that is why these pilots have something remote, inexplicable, passing the ordinary understanding.

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AN EPISODE.

(Suggested by a recent experience of some members of the R.S.L. Executive.)

It happened when Brown, Jones, and Robinson were on tour. The car was running well, but the strength of the east wind, and the amount of flying dust, made the going irksome. The sight of a wayside hotel promising temporary relief, the party de-bussed and made for the bar. Finding that position occupied, a flank movement brought the thirsty ones opposite to the little window beloved of the shy or promiscuous drinker.

There was no delay, but the glasses were only half emptied when a figure emerged from the bar room and, in language and accent suggestive of the neighbourhood of the banks of the Cherwell or the Cam, invited the travellers to "partake of the hospitality of T—"

"Whilst the idea of "having another" was not foreign to the Perth men, natural diffidence, and experience which had bred caution, induced them to temporise. On examination their would-be host did not appear dangerous. A slight resemblance to Cassius was evident, but the hungry look had given place to a thorny one—partly satiate. Nor was he bad looking, although his manner, generally speaking, suggested a man more at home in a club than one wrestling with the problems of the wheatbelt. He met the demur with an emphatic "Oh, you must have a drink with T—" and rejoined his other friends, taking with him an assurance that his offer would be gratefully accepted.

The first part of their duties being ended, Brown, the leader of the tourists, said "Well, we better have the drink with these people." He spoke incautiously and was overheard. The figure again perturbed and comprehensive term and covers all good will you have, suggested a man more at home in a club form "spout?"

He entered, and wanted to introduce him to each worthy in the room separately. He offered to recite, to tell a story, to deliver a short address on the comity of nations. In regard to all of these he was referred to the chairman of the gathering who, politely, staved him off until about 10.30 p.m.

By that time Smith had gone further along the road. His ascent of the platform was deliberate; he faced his audience with calmness and dignity; he opened his story deliberately and with careful enunciation. He began "When I was in Palestine with the Nth Light Horse. Palestine, you know, is the place that the Jews came from."

Here he halted. Someone in the audience had called the first number. Another called the second, and the company checked off the series of ten—in full accordance with a custom of the A.I.F. Smith waited unperturbed and resumed "After that unseemly disturbance—"

But the audience would have none of it. Orchestra and voices resumed the "long way to Tipperary," and Smith, recognising the rights of democracy, gracefully vacated the dais and wended his way to a seat. Later in the evening he approached Brown and tendered an apology for "that unfortunate affair," "But," said Brown, "don't take it like that, it was a mere episode."


WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The question is not so much "What's in a name" as what name is in it? By the Xmas mail from the Old Country arrived a case of eyeglasses which had been found in a public building at the corner of Tooting Bec Road, Streatham, London. The case bore the name of Mr. B, The Optician, of 283 Murray Street, Perth, and the glasses came safely home from their world tour and will be restored to the rightful owner. Shakespeare has said "What's in a name?" There is safety in the name of Mr. B. It will bring your glasses home to you from the other side of the world. But more important than this, if Mr. B. is your optician the name is a guarantee that your eyes have had the best attention that scientific skill can provide.

DRINK

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16th BATTALION HISTORY

Mr. R. C. Yeldon, of 596 Hay Street, Perth, the Hon. Secretary of the 16th Battalion Association writes:—

Your issue of January 20th contains an article under the above heading, and same has been especially brought to my notice.

As one of the very early members of the 16th Battalion, and Hon. Secretary to the 16th Battalion and 4th Brigade Association, I wish to convey to you my sincere thanks for the publicity given in The Listening Post of January 20th.

Unfortunately no mention is made in your article of any address to which data can be forwarded, and as I have a great and sincere desire to see the history of my "old battalion" definitively recorded, I invite ex-members of the 16th to address any matter they may have to me at the above address.

Photographs, diaries, etc., will be most carefully registered and acknowledged and due care returned to the sender, so there should be no fear of losing items forwarded in the interest of the history of the Battalion.

The Executive is to-day in a most unique position to properly write the 16th Battalion History, as Mr. Longmore, of the "Daily News" staff, has consented to "group" the material gathered by my committee, and Mr. C. P. Smith, managing editor of the "West Australian," and incidentally War Correspondent to the 4th Brigade, has very kindly offered his services as "editor."

As you remark, "time is passing," and "it is up to the 16th" to come forward with each individual experience, leaving it to us to extract therefrom those paragraphs needed to help complete the work we have undertaken to perform.

Already my Executive is in communication with Headquarters, Melbourne, asking for the Battalion's official diary and such other information as may be available through that channel.

Colonel Pope has kindly consented to place his records in our hands for perusal and so we are progressing slowly but surely toward our goal.

However, we are sadly in need of the testimony of the individual members of the Battalion, and I ask each man who reads this to give a little of his time toward the writing of the History of the 16th A.I.F. Battalion by jotting down a few notes and sending same to me. We do not expect a brilliant journalistic effort from any one, but merely a form of letter as from one "digger" to another relating dates of actions taken part in by the writer, starting with his joining the Battalion at such and such a place on such and such a date and proceeding with his experiences up to date of leaving the Battalion.

As The Listening Post says "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."

It will probably interest a great number of your readers to learn that the resuscitation of the 16th Battalion and 4th Brigade Association has started last September and was progressing very favourably, and to-day I claim that the 16th Battalion and 4th Brigade Association leads in general activity. Last Xmas members of the Executive ascertained the names of the 16th men who were in hospital, and personally visited these men, distributing cigarettes as a reminder that the Association remembered their less fortunate comrades.

On the 16th day of each month a 16th Battalion luncheon conversation is held at the R.S. Institute (should the 16th be a Saturday or Sunday, or public holiday, the luncheon is held on the next following ordinary day).

These functions are proving a huge success, and its simply great to see "Jack" meet a "cobber" he has not run across since the 1915 or 16 days.

It is said that "imitation is the most sincere form of flattery," and as I hear the 28th Battalion and 10th Light Horse have followed suit by holding a similar function on the 28th and 10th respectively, we can perhaps be pardoned for publicly claiming originality as far as the luncheon ideas goes.

Last, but by no means least, is my appeal to ex-members of the 16th Battalion for their names and addresses, and their half-crown annual subscription, in order that I may advise them of our activities, forthcoming functions, etc., from time to time. Don't hesitate, write or call and become a financial member of your Association to-day, and so help to keep the "Old Battalion," where it always has been—right in the front.

RETURNED SOLDIERS' ZOO

The proposal to establish a Returned Soldiers' Zoo is meeting with a good response, and we gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

1. The Federal Octopus (presented by the Editor, "The Sunday Times").
2. (a) McGinty's Bull, and (b) Thompson's Horse (presented by the Editor, "The Listening Post").
3. The Barber's Cat (Anonymous).
5. An Alien Influx (rara avis), presented by Comrade "Sid" Morelong.
6. A Rabbit (presented by the Hebrew Community).
7. A Belmont Chook (kindly loaned by Mr. J. W. Hawkey).
8. A Protectionist Bug (gratefully given by Mr. S. G. Swett).
9. A Wild Bosh (captured and donated by Mr. S. Clift, C.V.).
10. Two Tripe Hounds (by Mr. Bowwow Tower).

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(By Wings.)

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For the development of commercial flying, Australia has big topographical advantages also, which make the establishment of the large aerodromes required for this work comparatively simple. Owing to the fact that Australia's small population of the interior is scattered over an enormous area, the high speed of aerial transport is of the greatest assistance in opening up the interior and reducing congestion in the big cities. But such services cost money and have to be carried on at a loss during the pioneer stages. This is where the Government is helping. Monetary assistance may take either of two forms: first, the subsidy for mail-carrying, which will pay the bare cost of mail transport; or, secondly, a sufficient monetary reward spread over a number of years for a reasonable service carried out consistently. At the end of such time the service would be sufficiently established to carry on independently.

It is indeed encouraging to note that not only Governments, but popular opinion endorses the sentiments expressed.

WITH THE 16th ON THE 16th.

The 16th Battalion and 4th Brigade Association held its monthly smoke social at the R.S. Institute on the 16th. The guests of the evening were Generals Brand and Jess, and Colonel Roberts. The "Old Brig." speech was a running fire of battalion history and anecdote, but the best one told was not a war yarn. Shortly after the war he was travelling in uniform, and a bibliobulous civilian in the compartment addressed him as "Sergeant-Major," adding the query, "You are a sergeant-major, ain't you?"

"I was a sergeant-major in South Africa," the General informed him, "but not now."

"Ah! the booze, I suppose," was the other bloke's sympathetic comment.

All the speeches contained many references to different aspects of battalion history, and when the "History of the 16th," which is in process of compilation, is finally published it should be a valuable acquisition to the ever-increasing number of unit histories.

The news that the "Old Brig," was to be present ensured a bumper roll-up, but notwithstanding this, it was patent to all that the success of the evening was largely due to the energy of Secretary Yeldon, who has got his Association on such a sound footing that it is practically a league within the League. Incidentally, the 16th is out to capture the flag for the best turn-out in the march on Anzac Day.

Now then, you other units, what are you all going to do about it?

IF I HAD A BOY.

If I had a boy, I would say to him: Son, Be fair and be square in the race you must run,
Be brave if you lose and be meek if you win,
Be better and nobler than I've ever been,
Be honest and fearless in all that you do,
And honor the name I have given to you.
If I had a boy, I would want him to know
We reap in this life just about as we sow,
And we get what we earn, be it little or great.
Regardless of luck and regardless of fate,
I would teach him and show him, the best that I could,
That it pays to be honest and upright and good.
I would make him a pal and a partner of mine,
And show him the things in this world that are fine.
I would show him the things that are wicked and bad.
For I figure this knowledge should come from his dad.
I would walk with him, talk with him, play with him, too;
And to all of my promises strive to be true.
We would grow up together and I'd be a boy,
And share in his trouble and share in his joy;
We would work out problems together and then
We would lay out our plans when we both would be men.
And, oh! what a wonderful joy it would be;
No pleasure in life could be greater to me.
—F. C. Nelson.

An After-the-Armistice Hymn.

(Sung by the soldiers in Egypt awaiting repatriation.)
We came from Turkey's mountains
To Egypt's blazing strand,
Where Afric's sunny fountains
Are mostly choked with sand;
We've seen its ancient river,
We've seen its palmy plain;
Our greatest hope is never
To see the place again.
We've been to Pompey's pillar,
We've fished in the Canal;
And if we have no sunstroke,
No doubt in time we shall.
We've placed us east of Suez,
Our heads are fit to burst,
We quite agree with Kipling;
"A man can raise a thirst."
From Sidi Bahr to Kubri
From Suez to El Shatt,
There's nothing there but niggers
Each blacker than your hat.
The sun has scorched our noses,
And our idea of bliss
Is for another Moses
To take us out of this.

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VARIA

Pointsmen.—The number of motor accidents in and around the metropolitan area for 1928 has reached an alarming total. During the first four days of February it is estimated that there were 78 accidents and mishaps sufficiently serious to be reported to the police. Although we are not in the same category as New York, the position is of importance enough to merit attention from all. It is in the power of every person to keep the number of accidents down to a minimum. If everyone was careful there would be far fewer casualties. This applies not only to motor vehicle drivers, but pedestrians, horse vehicles and push cyclists. Such things as suddenly stepping off the footpath into the street, walking at angles across the street, speeding past intersections, and hanging on to the tail of the man in front, are contributing causes to this staggering state of affairs. A vigorous educational campaign in the schools, with the assistance of the R.A.C., would be of great help, and for adults the film would be a valuable means of propaganda.

“Fascist.”—Professor Murdoch, who recently returned from a tour of Italy, occupied half a column of the “Australian” in denouncing Fascism and prophesying Italy’s coming doom. Almost immediately afterward a Sydney professor passing through Fremantle extolled Fascism, but was content to do so in a dozzen lines of print. My experience of Italy and Italians inclines me to disagree with Prof. Murdoch. The temperament of Latin peoples is quite amenable to a dictatorship, be it Fascist or Soviet. During the war the insidious propaganda of the emissaries of Moscow was beginning to have its effect in the Italian army, and disastrous reverses were suffered, despite the iron rule of General Cadorna. Post-war Italy was a sorry spectacle, and slowly but surely Sovietism was strengthening its grip. Appeared one, Mussolini by name, who, after taking stock of the situation, made himself master of it, and Fascism superseded Sovietism, and Italy prospered. To British people such rule is almost as distasteful as that of the Bolshevik, but by the Italians it is regarded patriotically as the one way of placing their country among the foremost nations of the world. Mussolini is not Fascist. He has outgrown it, and is jeopardising his cause as a result. Long after he is dead, Italy will continue to prosper under Fascism. When it goes Italy will fall behind, and anarchy and terrorism, inseparable from a Bolshevik government, will take the place of the severe but necessary Fascist regime.

“Student.”—Britain is the most successful colonising nation the world has ever known. “No complaints” is the reply of her dominions, colonies and protectorates. Even the Boers are proud of the Union and General Smuts, in his most seditious speeches admitted it. When the 1914-1918 argument cropped up and the “subject” races rallied to the help of the Mother Country, the renegades and extremists looked silly. My memory in particular takes me to a certain camp in Italy where a battalion of West Indians from Jamaica were in training. These “niggers” were gentlemen in every sense of the word. Speaking perfect English and exhibiting polished manners, many of their “white” comrades showed up unfavourably in comparison. Their code of ethics and of behaviour was of a high order, and at “soccer” and cricket they excelled. On the march their appearance evoked favourable comment from their “Tommy” officers, and with rifle on the slope and exhibiting a long, slow swinging gait, they looked businesslike. I have not heard of them serving in the firing line as did the little Ghurka devils, but their morale appeared to be as firm as the Bank of England. West Indian loyalty to the Crown is very marked. Their African brethren, although not so civilized, are quite peaceful under British rule. So the story goes on. Amazed nations with colonial empires a thing of the past, or rapidly dwindling, stand by and ask “How is it done?” Well, there is no secret about it. Simply the doctrine of love, peace, sympathy and understanding being put into practice, as opposed to that of force, oppression and cruelty, which besmirches the records of so many colonial powers.

Spot.—The other day a burly dentist met one of his erstwhile victims who had overlooked the little detail of paying for a set of false teeth. The dentist forced the forgetful one into a doorway and pulled the bogus teeth out of his mouth. I am in fear and trembling now that my tailor, who is also entitled to be called “Tiny” will hear of this news and gather in a bright idea for collecting a little balance owing on the suit of clothes I am now wearing. If I could raise the necessary deposit, I would, like friend Mac, safely dispose myself behind horn-rimmed glasses.

Percy of Mt. Barker.—In connection with our library, two members recently started an argument over the comparative merits of Shakespeare’s and Burns’ writing. The Scotty remarked: “Ye think a fine lot of Shakespeare?”

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"I do, sir."
"And ye think he was fairer than Robbie Burns?"
"Why there's no comparison between them."
"Maybe no; but ye tell us it was Shakespeare who wrote 'Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.' Now Robbie would never have written sich nonsense as that."
"Nonsense, sir!"
"Aye, just nonsense. Robbie would hae ken fine that a lion or a queen either, disna gang to bed wi' a croon on their head. He'd hae ken they hang it over the back o' a chair."

P.G.—So many arguments about Roll- em and White City reminds me of a speech made in the House of Commons by Col. White (unionist member for Southport) who said: "In the Australian Camp in France, while 999 out of 1000 were magnificent men, the residue were not nervous, trembling and shrinking lads as Mr. E. Thurtle described them, but big burly fellows who ducked off to the woods to play crown and anchor, and they openly boasted that was a better way to make money than by being in the line at 6/- a day."

For years that cluster of buildings in Francis Street which contain Military Headquarters has been without an official name. Now, according to a recently published Army Order the place is officially designated Swan Barracks. The aforesaid official designation has absolutely no reference to any marked predilections of the officers of the Headquarters staff. Still it hardly seems fair to the Emu people.

In a recent issue of one of our dailies the cables gave prominence to America's plans for outlawing war, to her naval construction programme, and to the despatch of reinforcements to Nicaragua. On the whole it looks as if the U.S.A. will fight readily enough if the other power is a small weak one. Perhaps her pacific intentions should be spelled with a capital P.

HAIG AND FOSS.

On the roadside between Morbecque and Morbecque during the morning of the 27th March, 1916, the then General Sir Douglas Haig first became acquainted with Australian Infantry. The 7th Brigade was drawn up for his inspection with the 28th Battalion on the flank that he approached. There was a bitterly cold wind blowing, but all present on that parade were eager to see the Commander-in-Chief of the Empire's Armies in the West. Nor were they disappointed.

The simple pageantry of a smart cavalry non-commissioned officer bearing a Union Jack affixed to a lance, the company of two or three staff officers, were all that was needed for such a winning personality. His eyes were clear and keen; his glance comprehending, and his questions, quietly and directly put, compelling confidence and frankness in reply.

The C.O. asked permission to introduce his officers. "Yes, I want to meet them" was his assent.

Foss was the first to be presented. He was the adjutant. Six feet or more in height, well set up, dark, with a small moustache and nice teeth, a credit to the Antipodeans. The General shook hands.

"Were you on Gallipoli?" he asked. Being assured on that point he went on: "Well, you don't look any the worse for it. What do you hope to do in France?" This was a poser for Foss, who could only blush and stammer out "I'll do my best, sir." "That is all we ask," said the C-in-C and then placing one hand on Foss's shoulder, he turned to the C.O. and remarked: "My word, Colonel, he's a fine boy, isn't he?"

Therein the adjutant's brother officers afterwards found some excuse for gentle ragging.

And Captain Cecil Maitland Foss fully justified the compliment paid him. On the 6th June following, he very successfully led the first Australian raid on the western front. He was the first Australian in the German trenches, and the first Australian officer in France to be awarded the Military Cross.
Is War According to God's Plan?

"Critic" sends along a contribution to this debate which was written by the Rev. Chas. E. Jefferson, of New York, and published under the title "A Mischief-Making Assumption." "Critic" in commenting, states:—"When the millennium as mention­ed in Revelation xx. is reached, which ideal the Rev. Jefferson is no doubt honestly striving for, it will be time to assume that war is not inevitable. In this far from perfect age it is something more than 'a mischief­making assumption' to fail to assume that an organisation for the defence of one's country is necessary to national self­ preservation."

Mr. Jefferson's article reads:—

The war system is built on the assumption that war is inevitable. "You cannot abolish war. You cannot escape it. You may evade it for a season, but soon or late it will overtake you again. It is an afflic­tion which cannot be permanently got­ ten rid of. Periodically it must run blood." That assumption lies at the basis of all the militaristic thinking in the world. It is the fundamental belief taught in every military and naval school. It is the founda­tion stone on which every advocate of the war system stands. The first article in the creed of all who extol the virtue and glory of military drill is "I believe in the inevit­ ability of war."

If you accept the assumption, you are in the military habit. It is impossible after that for you to get away. If that assumption is sound, then nothing which you can say against big armies and navies is of convincing force.

For, if war is inevitable, a nation ought to prepare for it. If war cannot be escaped, we should be ready to meet it. It if is absolutely certain to come, the government which fails to fortify itself against it is recreant to its trust. National preparedness is a solemn duty if war is unescapable. The preparedness must be adequate. Inadequate preparation is no preparation at all. If a nation is to fight, it must fight to win. Defeat is a most horrible calamity. No nation can win if only half prepared. The defenses must be equal to the demands made upon them, and only military and naval experts—can determine what adequacy is. The military policy of a nation must, there­ fore, be turned over to technical specialists who know the location and power of every gun on the planet. These men alone can tell us the amount of equipment which will render us secure.

In the opinion of all military and naval experts, the equipment of a nation must exceed that of its neighbours. Its guns must shoot a little farther, its ships must sail a little faster, its bombs must be a little more destructive, its poison gas must be a little deadlier, for otherwise it has small chance of victory. For this reason competition becomes inevitable. Nations run races in war preparations. The experts spend their time in computing the comparative strength of rival armies and navies, and in devising new ways of securing superiority for the war machine of their own country. If war is inevitable, there is no escape from this competition. Should one nation accelerate its speed, its competiti­ tors must also quicken their pace, and thus little by little the race becomes more eager, and at last quite furious, the taxpayer, of course, paying the bill. Once admit that war is inevitable, and the militarist has you by the nose, and he can lead you whither­soever he will.

But war is not inevitable. This is the article of faith which must now be taught to the young and the old in every country throughout the world. Every time a voice is heard saying war is inevitable, let us immediately deny it. Let no one say it in your presence without a swift and emphatic contradiction. It matters not who says it, he is saying something which is false. He may be sincere, but he is mistaken. His mistake is deadly and must be courageously corrected. He may look as wise as an owl, but he is ignorant. He may be finely edu­ cated, but he is misinformed. He may be in a high position, but he is deluded. He may be a professing Christian, but he is wrong. It is a devastating superstition that war is inevitable, and the superstition must be banished from the earth.

When men tell us that war is inevitable they assume that it is a part of nature, a feature of the world order which cannot be altered. They class it along with vol­ canoes and hurricanes and tidal waves. It does not belong in this class at all. There are experiences which are indeed inevitable, because created by forces which lie beyond human control. But war is a man-origi­ nated institution. It does not come out of the earth or out of the heavens, but out of the human heart. It is not the creation of the cosmic forces, but of the human spirit. If it is man-made, it can be man­ controlled. If it can be man-controlled it can be ended by man. It is for man to sign death warrant. It is for him to see that it is banished from the earth.

No change in human nature is necessary. Duelling was banished, and so were the hanging of witches and judicial torture and slavery, without the slightest change in human nature. Men give up inherited cus­ toms and traditional methods when they once realize they are making fools of them­ selves and see that another course of life
is better. When some wiseacre says “men have always fought and, therefore, they will always fight,” the proper reply is that up to a certain date men had always died on the Isthmus of Panama from yellow fever. That was no sufficient reason why they should go on dying there for ever. They had died for thousands of years, but men of knowledge and courage finally stepped in, and now the reign of yellow fever is forever ended. Up to a certain date, Europe was periodically swept by the black plague. It carried off thousands, even millions. But the black plague comes to Europe no more. The plague was the penalty inflicted on Europe because of its filthy way of living, and as soon as she learned how to clean up her back alleys, the plague lay down and died. War is the result of vile thinking, and, as soon as we clean up the back alleys of our mind, war will come to our world no more.

Everybody now sees that war is beastly and ghastly, but that is not enough. Everybody knows that war is expensive and leaves the nations which engage in it body knows that war is not the world. Multitudes confess that war is silly and stupid, but even that is not enough.

The one thing which must be seen is that war is not inevitable, and, when the world is once convinced of that, nations will cease to lift up sword against nation, neither will they practice the arts of war any more.

An inspector had been examining a class of one of our city schools in English composition. To drive home a point he had just made, he walked over to the blackboard and wrote on it:-

“Never use a preposition to end a sentence with.”

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Boys’ Fancy PULL-OVER SWEATERS, marl effect, spotted collar and pockets, fawns, blues, greys or browns, 22in., 5/11; 24in., 6/3; 26in., 2/9; 28in., 7/6; 30in., 8/6; 32in., 9/6.

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THE MONTH.

Lord Rawlinson’s Journal.

The publication of the late Lord Rawlinson’s journal of the Hundred Days’ fighting should effectively silence those ill-informed and prejudiced persons who, while professing to concede that the Australian soldier was a gallant fighter, refuse to admit that he was amenable to discipline out of the line. Lord Rawlinson’s journal abounds in glowing tributes to the valour and efficiency of the A.I.F. and he records cases where mistakes that had already been placed on record by General Montgomery as a matter of fact, the Digger saluted or fed-up men recently discharged from the Diggers were the only portion of the A.I.F. that he at the Hotel Continental.

Those British officers, who, like Lord Rawlinson, were associated with Australians in the front line, had nothing but the highest praise for the Digger and his discipline. In fact, their glowing tributes were unequaled. Moreover, apart from their fighting qualities, the Diggers were the only portion of the British forces who did not indulge in rioting after the Armistice.

Discipline is not a mere matter of spit-polish and saluting. It is a mental state fostered and developed by training and experience which enables troops to carry out their duties when operating against the enemy. That the A.I.F. carried such duties efficiently and successfully is well borne out in the recently published extracts from Lord Rawlinson’s journal, and the feats described therein could never be performed by ill-disciplined troops.

AN AUSTRALIAN FILM.

This month the Prince of Wales Theatre presented “The Romance of Runnibede,” a film version of Steele Rudd’s story of the Queensland cattle country, in which Eva Novak plays the leading part. Though for some reason or other it is not advertised as plausibly as imported films usually are, it was quite a good production and a decided improvement on most of the idiotic salacity with which Hollywood periodically inundates us. This being so, it is the best possible answer to those slinky tentacles of the American octopus who assure us with nasal blatancy that good films cannot be produced in this country.

The acting was natural and restrained, as all good acting should be, and there was a complete absence of that idiotic grinning and posturing so characteristic of the Hollywood people. However, a few irritating Americanisms were allowed to creep into the production. No self-respecting Queenslander would speak of a “herd” of cattle. He would say a “mob.” No Queensland police inspector nor stockman would use the word “trail” for “track.” We fear that Miss Eva Novak herself has been responsible for these slips, because she has produced a rattling good film which has given Australian actors and others employment in their own country, she is hereby let off with a caution.

The Last of the “Egyptian Times” Announcements.

Public Notices.

Mr. Mohamed Ali wishes to notify Australian Light Horsemen that he will give two donkeys, four fowls, a goat, a camel-hair coat, a bit of the Sphinx, and twelve “disasters” for an Australian horse. Lemnos Island for Sale.—Allies have no further use for it until the next war with Jacko, which will be about 2,500 A.D. To those in a position to deal.—The King of the Bedouins is anxious to exchange wives for camels, cattle, horses and rifles.

French polish available in any quantity at the Hotel Continental.

Miscellaneous.

Man with good memory would like the job of taking messages from the troops to friends in Cairo.

To Let.

Nice dug-out on the sky-line. Owner leaving for field hospital.

Wanted.

The address of a good barber. One able to cut hair and shave preferred. Apply any platoon.

“Dad” Fanning

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WOMEN'S WORK IN THE R.S.L.

There is unlimited scope for the work of women in connection with R.S.L. activities. Although comparatively few are entitled by reason of service overseas to be actual members of the League, there are thousands of others who are allied by a very close bond of sympathy with its ideals. A big proportion have relations and friends who served in the Great War, and consequently the fact that the work of the R.S.L. consists of conserving the interests of the ex-soldier and his dependents in whom they are interested gives rise to a desire to help on their part.

Many sub-branches of the League in this State are well served by loyal and efficient bodies of womenfolk organised as women's auxiliaries. Their work is purely local and varies according to the special needs of the ex-service man and his dependents in the particular district in which they function. It goes without saying, however, that wherever they are formed they supplement the efforts of the local sub-branch and enable it to fulfil its objects in a manner quite impossible without such assistance.

There are still sub-branches of the League which have not yet organised their women helpers in connection with the local work for which the sub-branches were formed, and it is suggested that the matter be discussed at an early date. The initiative of formation must naturally come from the sub-branch and the first thing the ladies will want to know is how they can assist in its work. It, therefore, behoves the officials of the sub-branch to have a well-thought out plan of operations for the proposed auxiliary to discuss.

In some fortunate districts the work may only consist of social activities for the entertainment of members of the sub-branch, but in others the regrettable need exists of helping those who have fallen by the wayside. Experience of successful women's auxiliaries shows that the more work the ladies are given to do, so long as it is necessary and useful, the happier they will be. Some suggested avenues for their activities are: (1) the collection and distribution of literature and smoking requisites, etc., and the organisation of concert parties to visit hospitals and institutions where ex-soldiers are still inmates (this field is not covered at present as it might be); (2) the organisation of functions to raise funds for sub-branch amelioration purposes (difficulties among ex-soldiers and their dependents is very acute just now and most sub-branches find that funds are insufficient to meet legitimate demands); (3) the selling of poppies on Poppy Day (this is a day set apart every year, 11th November, for the sale of poppies, the proceeds to be used for amelioration purposes. The public response is growing, and, properly organised, the day's efforts should yield a substantial sum); (4) the sub-branch Xmas Tree for soldiers' children.

The above are a few of the activities which should interest and occupy the attention of the women supporters of the R.S.L. There are other duties which would arise from time to time, or which would be referred to them by the sub-branch. The main purpose of this article is to direct attention to the matter and to have it discussed at future meetings. In this connection it will be well to remember that:

(a) Properly organised women's auxiliaries are a decided asset to a sub-branch.
(b) There is scope for any amount of useful work.

(c) The more useful work the sub-branch can give its women's auxiliary the more the latter will thrive.
(d) If it is not organised properly in the first place and its work set out along certain defined lines, the sub-branch concerned can rest assured that, like the old soldier, its women's auxiliary will never die; it will simply fade away.

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The Truth.

If you would have me sing you

The glory of your face,

That my refrains might bring you

A niche in beauty's place;

Lest I should have to fake up

Some idle dream of youth,

Please wash away your make-up

And let me see the truth.

The Good Old Days.

Private Ruff, overseas, had taken unto himself, as a wife, a pretty mademoiselle, but on his return the romance did not prosper and the bride returned home, announcing she would sue for divorce.

"I suppose you feel pretty badly about it," consoled a friend.

"I dumo, at that," replied Ruff. "It seems good to get back to pre-war conditions."

In view of the fact that the Southern European is so favourably treated at the expense of the native-born, a frivolous correspondent suggests that brass bands be hired to play on the wharf when shiploads of such immigrants arrive. "The Ding Boys are Here," and "The March of the Men of Garlic," he thinks, would be appropriate melodies.

Again the eternal fitness of things. In a local court a milkman named Calf was fined for stealing milk from his employer.

Smith-Premier Typewriters, Monarch Typewriters, Kardex Filing Systems, Inocicible Supplies, Eversharp Pencils, Wahl Pens, Electric or Hand-Driven Smith-Premier Accounting Machines, and Adding and Subtracting Typewriters, Monroe Calculators, Sandstraut Adding and Listing Machines, Ten-Sad Chairs. These are some of our many lines in Office Equipment.
Personalities.

A familiar figure has been missing for some time from our City streets, owing to his having been a victim of a motor accident. This is Mr. W. Jardine, of "The Leader" staff. His rakishly-tilted felt hat, and double-breasted coat with the white camellia and the red-and-white ribbon of a long-forgotten war on the lapel, made him the very model of a modern retired sea-captain. "Jardie" took part in what must have been the first battle between modern iron-clads. During the war between Peru and Chile, well back in the last century, he was an officer on the Peruvian warship "Huascar," when, after a gallant fight against a whole Chilean squadron, she was battered into submission. The Listening Post wishes this debonair veteran a speedy and complete recovery.

Our Goldfields readers will recall that no couple worked harder during the war for the soldiers than Mr. Steve and Mrs. Beston, Mayor and Mayoress of Boulder. Mr. Beston did not long survive his war efforts and Mrs. Beston continued her good work. She recently left the Fields for Sydney, and prior to her departure the local Boulder Sub-Branch with their Women's Auxiliary honoured her at a farewell function at which suitable gifts were presented.

The "Listening Post" in the last issue published an article, a copy of which was posted by the editor to returned soldier journals in the Eastern States. A portion covering fully half a column was telegraphed from Sydney and published in our local papers a few days ago. Strange!

When the year 1928 dawned, all the State Executive delegates were well and truly married, with the exception of George Shaw and Carl Bader. Padre Eric Nye, after receiving due notice of motion, called on George to say "I will" last month, and Carl will face a similar ordeal on the 14th of next month; the fortunate young lady being Miss Vi. Carpenter, who is well known as a sweet singer of songs. Good luck to them all.

If an Aussie had ever succeeded in buying a big business connected with the Show, we were not aware of it until recently, when it came to our knowledge that Digger Jack Brown, well known in the old "11th," had bought the fruit and vegetable business of Ah Ling & Co., of Barrack Street, Perth. Naturally, Jack is changing the trading name, and it is hoped that he will receive the support of his fellow diggers in his new venture.

It is pleasing to see Miss Mary Meares about again after her long spell under the Doctor. Mary, as she is known to all her Digger friends, has taken upon herself the task of supplying transport for hospital patients for the "big parade" in Perth on Anzac Day. Anyone who will help with a car, is asked to write to Mary at 3 Ventnor Avenue, West Perth, or to ring A 1140.

Secretary R. H. Roberts, of the Waroona Sub-Branch has been re-elected to office for the 9th time in succession. The Digger who can beat this record will, on calling at our office, be led to any "pub" advertising in this journal—with or without prejudice.

Dear old Tom Lennon is still an inmate at the Repat. ward of the Perth Hospital. Tom is a patient and cheerful sufferer, and it is the wish of his host of friends that better health shall be his lot.

There died at Edward Millen Home on the 15th inst., a good member of the League in Charlie Cann, of Caversham. Charlie served as a Sergeant with the 2nd and 6th Brigade F.A., and was a public spirited fellow, being hon. secretary of the West Swan District Association at the time of his passing.

Brigadier-General C. H. Brand, who commanded the 4th Brigade in France, and who now holds the appointment of Second Chief of the General Staff, is at present visiting this State on duty. "The Digger" as he is affectionately known by all members of his own brigade needs no introduction to our readers, for he was one of the outstanding personalities of the A.I.P. The General was entertained to a dinner at the Soldiers' Institute by Colonel Collett and Executive delegates on the 14th inst., and was present at the 16th Battalion Smoke-O on 16th March, where he renewed old friendships with former comrades-in-
arms. Like most of our senior officers, he "hails from Queensland's icy mountains."

Colonel Tommy Flintoff has, since the war, been a good, if somewhat passive member of the League. His goodness remains (we hope), but the passive spirit has departed. He is the new president of that once premier sub-branch, Mt. Lawley, the Colonel is determined that the past, so rich in achievement, shall be outshone in the near future. We were fortunate in the Australian Imperial Federation at that Anzac functions on the goldfields.

The Remarkable Extent of the Growing of Field Peas in South Australia, and What it has Done for Wheat and Sheep Farmers in That State.

During December last the writer visited South Australia and whilst there investigated the growing and harvesting of field peas in that State. What he saw was a revelation, and not the least remarkable is the wonderful enthusiasm of the South Australian farmers towards the growing of field peas. Right throughout the State and wherever the rainfall is sufficient (17 to 20 inches yearly average is required), field peas were being harvested by header harvesters to which a special front is attached.

There are several factors which make the growing of peas very attractive to South Australian farmers and they may be summarised as follows.

Increased returns on the capital value of the land due to the fact that peas are invariably grown on stubble land which returns from 6 to 10 bags per acre and are valued at approximately £1 per bag. The succeeding crop of wheat, barley, or oats is greatly increased because the pea plant leaves the soil rich in nitrogen, which is available to the following crop. The sheep grazing value of field peas land, immediately after the crop is harvested, is 3½ to 5½ per acre for a period of 4 to 6 weeks. The capital value of land in South Australia is high, but a crop of peas immediately following wheat, which has been grown on fallow, means that another crop, either wheat, oats, or barley can succeed the peas without following the land, and the returns will be almost equal to a crop taken from well worked fallow. After the third crop, it may be desirable to again place the land under fallow.

It is any wonder that South Australian farmers are enthusiastic over the growing of field peas and that from less than 200 acres grown a few years ago, there are now over 20,000 acres under this crop yearly. This fine result would, however, have been impossible of achievement without the aid of Australian made agricultural machinery, as before the event of the pea header, the crop had to be cut and carted to a thrashing machine which necessitated much labour and expense. The modern harvesting machine, however, is capable of handling a pea crop as easily and efficiently as it harvests wheat, oats, or barley.

Farmers in this State have not yet awakened to the value of field peas and this, probably, is because they have been in the dark as to the great possibilities. There are, without doubt, great areas in this State that would grow peas perfectly and profitably. The climate, soil, and average rainfall are right, and it only remains for the farmers to experiment and prove results.

The general practice in South Australia is to sow ½ to 2 bushels of Dun Peas per acre during the months of May or June. The ordinary drill or combined drill and cultivator is used and the peas are sown 7 inches apart through the cause side of the grain runs. There is difference in the pea harvest for the next few years many thousands of acres of peas will be sown and harvested in this State.

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Independent Politically.

We wish to announce that hereafter our policy, politically, shall be independent. On all other questions, we will endeavour to print the truth.—Carolina Jeffersonian.
HABIT.
(By Karl Reiland.)

Habit is really a great thing. Nature says to you, "What you decide, what you wish to make a part of your life, I will make strong, and will cut the record on the disc of behaviour very deep and clear, so it will play truly what you plan." If your initial idea is good, all is well, but if it is evil, all is ill. Habit may thus be good or bad; it may make or unmake a life; it may obey a fine character, or it may command a foolish weak nature and spoil one's whole career.

Habit takes an action and makes a trail or path in sensation, till you have an action pattern so clearly defined in personality as a trail through a pasture. Repetition does this. If these paths or patterns are good, repetition helps life, relieves the mind of thinking about the detail, and makes the pattern a "second nature" affair so that you are unconsciously safe, sane and decent. But if the habit is bad, one may become unconsciously evil and the victim of a hard taskmaster from whose power it is not easy to escape. One makes this power for himself. It will certainly rule and regulate conduct and may redeem or ruin him accordingly as it is started, nourished and practiced, either for good or ill.

Few people appreciate what a great "faculty" of personality is at our disposal in this thing called habit. We can become what we wish to become, and in the long run our life's desires are built into our characters as stones in the wall of a building. The thing to do is to watch the beginnings of habit; that first action, that little walk of thought over the countryside of consciousness which may make a trail, a path, an indelible action pattern in personality, but which may mean failure or success.

Said a teacher to his class: "What is a man o' war?"
"A cruiser," was the prompt reply.
"What makes it go?"
"Its screw, sir."
"Who goes with it?"
"Its crew, sir."

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SUB-BRANCH NOTES.

VICTORIA PARK.

This branch held its usual Monthly meeting in the Library Hall on Friday evening the 17th February, when the newly elected officers commenced their duties. In the absence of their Chairman, Mr. Wells, who was visiting Country Branches, the chair was occupied by Vice-President Nicolls. There was a large attendance of members, and numbers of pensions cases and grievances of the Diggers were gone into. The balance sheet for the past year was presented, and showed a very creditable state of affairs. A report of the Committee was read which showed from the matters being dealt with that they are a live body. Special efforts are being made to raise funds for Amelioration purposes, and with that object in view an Easter Gift is being conducted, to be drawn at a Smoke social to be held on April 5th. All the leading lights of the League have promised to attend this function. A weekly dance will also be conducted; commencing at an early date, and a Woman's Auxiliary Branch of the League is being formed, and promises to be a big asset to the Branch. Mr. Gaynor has presented the Branch with a Type writer, his action being much appreciated by the Secretary.

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

This progressive Sub-Branch tried a new stunt on Friday, 9th March, at the Soldiers' Institute, by having a quarterly meeting followed by a social evening. Business was pushed through quickly to allow as much time as possible for mental and bodily refreshment.

The chief item for the social was the presentation of the Past President's certificate to Mr. J. Kane, who had held the presidential position for the three years, 1925-6-7. Mr. Kane was also presented with a suitably inscribed pocket watch as a token of esteem from branch members.

Mr. D. M. Benson, the State Secretary, had the privilege of making the presentations, and pointed out that he was an old friend of Mr. Kane's and on that account he was very much pleased to be given the opportunity of saying a few words of praise to what sort of a man Mr. Kane was in private life. Also, officially, he was pleased to say that during the recipient's term of office, the branch had shown a marked improvement in several ways, including an increase of about 70 members.

Mr. Kane suitably responded and thanked the officers of the branch for their loyal support during his term of office.

Mr. R. Gibson, the President of the branch, in proposing the toast to the "State Executive" eulogised the work done by that body, and stated that the League could not wish for a better leader than Col. H. B. Collett. (Cheers.)

Mr. Gibson apologised for the Colonel, who was unavoidably absent.

Mr. R. Tyler replied on behalf of the State Executive. Other members of the Executive present were, Messrs. G. Philp, C. W. K. Sadlier, V.C., and C. G. Ferguson, Assistant State Secretary.

Mr. Sadlier was asked to say a few words on a subject of his own choice. Rather a risky thing to do, but Mr. Sadlier
chose a good subject which was well received.

He spoke on the very early stages of the R.S.L. in W.A., and referred to the Executive meetings of those days, when a certain vice-president, together with other members of the Executive had to take their coats off and settle arguments with the visiting Diggers out in Barrack Street.

Incidentally he mentioned that it was a hard "fight" in those days for the men who were doing their best for the League in general.

Through the League being unfinancial in those days, it could not afford to pay an organiser, so three gentlemen (none of whom were politicians) put in their money each week to pay the organiser (Mr. Sadlier, V.C.) £7 per week. The names of the three men are known to a few, but if as Mr. Sadlier said, the history is the League is ever written, then those names will be included.

The artists for the evening included Jesse Frankish, Baden White, and Bill Lovell with straight songs; "Scotty" Kimber straight and Comic songs; Jim Hilton gave a comedy turn at the piano, and Bob. Marks rattled his bones to some tune, especially in his fight with Dempsey.

Mr. Bert. Ford proposed the toast of the "artists," and Mr. C. Philip opened the proceedings by proposing the toast of "Our Chairman."

WAROONA

Under ideal weather conditions this Sub-Branch held its sports' meeting at Waroona on 18th February; trots, chops, motor events, and sports for children being the order of the day. A hard working Committee of both ladies and gentlemen are responsible for the splendid success of the afternoon and evening.

A Committee comprising Messr.s. Roberts, Berry, Drummond, and Alyward, made the soft drink and cake stalls a payable proposition.

Messrs. Weller and Buchanan (President of Yarloop Sub-Branch), were responsible for the horse events, Messrs. Patterson and Seager for the log chops; Messrs Stacey and Richmond for sheffield, and kiddies' events; R. Walmesley, the motoring; whilst Messrs. R. H. Roberts and Buchanan were the Secretaries, ably assisted by H. Forrington.

After a very enjoyable and successful day on the course, the Sub-Branch held a ball in the evening. The Swanee Jazz Band was in attendance, and the Hall was crowded, and the music being kept constantly on the go. Mr. M. O'Rourke acted as Master of Ceremonies, and every one went home in the early hours of the morning thoroughly happy and tired.

The Sub-Branch held their annual Smoke Social on 10th March, at which the State Secretary was present; it was a great success.

Sub-Branch Officials for the year 1928 are as follows; President, G. Seager (returned second year); Secretary, R. H. Roberts (returned ninth year); Vice-President, B. May; Treasurer, G. Walmesley.

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NAREMBEEN.

This sub-branch held their annual reunion on Friday, 17th February. Amongst the branch's distinguished visitors were Col. Collett (State President), Councillor Wells and Mr. Bader.

On arrival, the visitors were entertained by the Chairmain of the Narembeen Road Board. After that ceremony, members of the Narembeen Executive then adjourned with their guests to the Benbow Hostel for afternoon tea, after which they left for a tour of inspection at Waddelin Dam. At 6.30 p.m. a choice dinner was put before the guests and members of the Narembeen Executive. At nine p.m. a smoke social was held, and there was a good roll-up of the members. After the loyal toast, the toast, "Fallen Comrades," was proposed by President C. G. Latham. Other toasts were 'Navy, Army and Air Force," proposed by Mr. J. Pollett. "The R.S.L." was proposed by Mr. H. Webb, and responded to by Mr. Bader, of the State Executive. "Our Guests" was proposed by Mr. Rex Barch, and responded to by Councillor Wells.

Col. Collett gave a very instructive address on the policy and of the good work of the R.S.L. and, much to the diggers' delight, told a few of his best yarns.

The last toast of the evening was "The Chairman" (President C. G. Latham), proposed by Mr. Wallace Dunn, who in a felicitous little speech conveyed the diggers' sentiments to Mr. Latham and wished him bon-voyage on his world's tour.

At 9 a.m. on Saturday morning members rolled up to have the last spot with
the Col. and his colleagues.

The Committee held a meeting on Friday, 24th February. Present: Messrs. McLure, Ward, Reffell, Webb, Hardwick, and H. A. Boyes (Secretary).

The Secretary reported he had communicated with the Hon. the Premier regarding the provision of railway facilities for settlers east of Narembeen. The Hon. the Premier immediately passed the letter to the Chairman, Railway Advisory Board, for attention, and the Secretary reported he had received a very encouraging letter from the Chairman to the effect that the matter would receive consideration at the hands of the Board when making investigations into the provision of railway facilities east of the settled area along the Great Southern Railway, and when the Board would be making the necessary inspection, that he (the Secretary) would be communicated with and given an opportunity of placing the views of interested settlers before the Board. With regard to the employing of foreign clearers, the Secretary reported he had communicated with the General Manager of the Agricultural Bank on the matter, and received a reply to the effect that the Hon. the Minister would not withhold consent to the employing of foreign clearers where the settlers to gave these men a chance. A note could be sent to the local Secretary of the Narembeen R.S.L. or a wire to R.S.L. Head Office, Perth. Next general meeting will be held on Saturday, 31st March, to discuss suitable arrangements being made for Anac Day. Diggers are reminded to come forward with their subs.

CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE.

At the annual meeting held in the Council Chambers on 6th March, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, M. Brown; vice-presidents, Messrs. Gladish and Kemp; secretary, A. G. Cook; treasurer, S. V. Barwood. The members expressed regret at the resignation of the Hon. the Secretary, who for four years had most ably carried out his duties. When he took over the secretarialship the branch was not sinking, but was down on the bottom. By his efforts and constant vigilance he has brought the branch to a state of prosperity and sound financial condition. The branch made him a present by the way of an honorarium of £10 10s. Mr. Brown expressed his regret at having to give up his work, and said that it was only pressure of business which induced him to do so. He would still be an active member of the branch and attend all meetings. It was decided to hold a smoke social to wind up the financial year. The date, probably, will be 3rd April.

At the annual meeting, Mr. Tozer, sub-branch representative on the Executive, attended and was accorded a warm welcome. Mr. Tozer, in speaking, stated that it was his desire to help along the branch all he could, and for that purpose he would pay it occasional visits to ascertain their wants, in order that he might place them before the Executive meetings. It was pointed out to him that the late representative paid the branch not a single visit, and consequently members thought that the Executive was giving them but slight recognition. After obtaining information concerning the position of the branch, numerically and financially, Mr. Tozer was given a vote of thanks for his visit.

MT. BARKER.

Last general meeting was held on 28th February, President T. G. Sounness presiding. Quotes were read from firms for the supplying of identification plates for trees planted in memory of fallen soldiers of the district, by Toe H. Bronze plates suitably lettered will be supplied, and the Sub-Branch has decided to pay for those without known relatives. Others are going to be given the opportunity to purchase plates for the tree of their own loved one.

The Branch Library now has a good stock—about 400 books, and it was decided to enlarge the Book Case for further consignments to arrive, also to vote another "Tenner" to the Library Fund. The books now being purchased are a better class, and members generally should let their friends know these are obtainable on application to the Secretary or W. Millons. The more collected in rent, the more books can be purchased. Keep this in mind.

Re the Annual Re-Union: The date fixed for this event was April 10th or 12th, but to be left to the State Executive to finalise, to enable their members to be present. It was also decided to send along invitations to His Excellency.
Sir William Campion and Brigadier-General Jess, State Commandant, also other sub-branches in the district.

Provided the invitations fill, this event should be the best held. It is up to the Sub-Branch members to do their best and to roll up and also notify their Digger and ex-Imperial cobbers when the date is finalised. All members will be notified by mail when the event is to eventuate.

The branch is losing a good member in Dan. Scott, who for some time has been off colour, and has decided to give the metropolitan area a burl. Dan. has always taken a keen interest in Branch affairs and a keen "flicker" helper. His "Scotch" will be missed at the ticket window when patrons call for their ticket on Saturdays. To keep the Barker R.S.L. in mind a small present was handed to Dan on Saturday evening at the pictures on behalf of his comrades, also the members of Toc H., which Dan took a keen interest in. Best of luck, Dan, from all R.S.L. members in your new sphere.

The new quarter starts on April 1st. Members whose subs. are due will be reminded in due course, also any outstanding members, we do not want to lose any locals. Transfers, of course, cannot be helped.

BUSSELTON.

Little has been heard from Busselton Sub-Branch, but this does not mean that the boys are slipping, for some very good work is being done by the Executive, the Entertainment Committee and the Ladies' Auxiliary. One item alone, a great credit to the Sub-Branch, is that they have spent £179 on renovations to the R.S.L. Hall, and shortly hope to spend another £200 to £300 in the erection of further extensions. Every man employed on this job was a returned man.

Progressive Bridge Evenings are meeting due success. The hall has a good dancing floor, and although the dances are not a great financial success they help to keep the diggers together. A Carnival Dance will be held on Easter Monday night.

At a General Meeting held on 6th inst., it was resolved to hold the General Meetings on the first Wednesday in each month and the Executive Meeting on the Monday preceding the General Meeting.

A good roll up of members is expected on Good Friday evening to meet our state sec., Mr. Benson, who we understand is, together with his good wife and kiddies, going to spend Easter in this area and will combine business with pleasure. He has "great expectations of landing some enormous bags of our noted fishes, and all the diggers hope that his expectations will be realised.

BOULDER.

The recent cyclone left the Rest Rooms intact, but the newly painted walls suffered, as the guttering could not carry off all the storm-water. The annual meeting held recently was the most successful held by the branch, the attendance being a record.

Secretary Vic. O'Grady submitted a report on the activities of the sub-branch, which disclosed that for the past year there had been a substantial increase in membership, despite the fact that many diggers had left the district. The finances, although not rosy, were in a satisfactory position; 32 pension cases had been dealt with, much success resulting, and 33 positions had been found for out-of-work diggers; 63 cases of relief had been approved, involving an expenditure of £162. Many enjoyable social events were held, for which the Women's Auxiliary were highly praised.

President Ted Lennell also submitted an instructive report. The election of officers resulted as follows—President, Mr. E. Lennell; vice-presidents, Messrs. P. Wilks and W. Cramp; treasurer, Mr. G. Newnham; auditor, Mr. E. King; secretary, Mr. V. O'Grady; executive committee, Messrs. E. Bosustow, A. Younger, W. Deering, G. White, and D. Elliott.

After the meeting a pleasant social was held. The branch will hold a concert once a month at the Rest Rooms.

The Distress and Rest Room funds are almost depleted, and with the object of amending this, an art union will be drawn on June 5th.

Snapshots.

Popular Boniface Alex McCallum has given up the filling of pots with beer in favour of filling buckets with ore. In spite of blisters, Alex prefers the latter.

It is rumoured that Tom Edgar is going farming. At least he can grow cabbages. Ask Jack Northey.

Ted King is at present catching monster "kingies" at Esperance.

Bill Gummary, who is a ganger at Norseman, and a good Leagueite, was seen in town during the month.

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