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THE INGRATITUDE OF THE CITY OF PERTH.

The delegates of the last State Congress were invited to help the Mayor and Councillors of Perth spend their 3 cents, at a municipal reception. The same rulers of our Capital City have refused to honour the memory of our fallen mates by subscribing to the State War Memorial fund. The Council bumbles, when confronted with their lack of practical patriotism and their base ingratitude, rushed off to their solicitor for a legal ruling. When it came to fruition, with the obvious degree of councillors in its statement that such a gift would be contrary to the Municipal Act. This particular Act proved a convenient barrier in this instance, but we could quote other instances where councillors decided to ignore their legal advisor and this particular Act because "the object was a worthy one."

What sham and what hypocrisy! We believe that the same Act governs other large bodies in this State, yet we find municipal councils such as Subiaco and many road boards freely giving to this worthy fund. Have our Perth councillors no sense of shame?

It stands to the credit of Counsellors H. E. Wells and Harold Boas that they have persistently tried to wear down their flinty confreres on this subject, but to no purpose.

We understand that the Melbourne Council have donated about £50,000 to the Victorian War Memorial Fund, and practically every local governing body in that State has given large sums of money, with the result that about £170,000 has been subscribed.

Recently the Perth City Council granted to one of its employees who was retiring the astounding sum of £900. This official may have been worth it—we don't know—but the same employee who, we presume, had been well paid for his twenty years' employment, was worth £900 on retiring, the memory of 6,000 men of the State who gave their lives so that institutions such as the Perth City Council should continue to exist, is worth at least £500.

To put it plainly, the action, or lack of action, of the Perth City Council towards the State War Memorial is mean and ungrateful, and unworthy of the capital city of a State which did so much for the Empire and its cause during the vital years of warfare.

ON BOARD THE R.M.S. "ORONSAY" On Anzac Day.

We are indebted to Mr. Reg. A. Nicholas (H.T.C.) of the drafting section of the Lands Department, for a very interesting history detailing how Anzac Day was commemorated on the R.M.S. "Oronsay." Mr. Nicholas also sent an autographed service sheet and a souvenir card of the occasion, which was prepared by him, and printed on the boat. Mr. Nicholas writes:

"On the evening of the 24th, I called a meeting of ex-service men in the smoke-room and we arranged details for parading. Altogether we mustered about 60 men, and about 25 of these were Anzacs, including 3rd and 29th Division, East Lancashires. The following W.A. men were present: W. A. Stacey, 51st Batt. (schoolmaster, Hame;), Frank Mann, 51st Batt. (accountant, Marrinup Mill); W. S. Brown, A.M.C. (C. in C. Accounts, Forests Dept., Perth); and myself, all proceeding to England for a trip. It was decided that markers should take up positions on the port side of the platform which had been erected for the occasion, in the centre of the sports deck, Anzacs having pride of place in the front rank. Punctually at 10.40 a.m. next day about 500 passengers assembled around the flag-draped platform. It was a scorching day and despite the awning overhead the humidity was great and perspiration poured from all. At half-past hung the Australian flag and the Union Jack. On the platform were the Captain, Chief Officer, Major-Gen. Grimwade, Chaplain, and at the piano was Capt. Rose, of the Imperial Army. The order of service was printed and distributed by the ship's officers. The singing was splendid, and the General spoke very forcefully, explaining how this day is becoming in Australia and New Zealand a national day. He also mentioned the "Anzac spirit," as it existed in war, and now the Anzac spirit of peace, which enabled Australia to carry on in tolerance and brotherly love to one another, and tolerance to our neighbours. If the same spirit were to exist throughout the world of industry and politics war should be no more. Punctually at 11 o'clock two short blasts of the ship's siren were heard, all on board the two minutes' silence and ship's officers were placed throughout the boat to ensure its keeping. Surrounded by the mighty ocean, over a thousand souls stood in silence, broken only by the muffled throb and rhythm of the engines. Numbers of Italians, Jugo-Slavs and Indians observed with reverence, but dully comprehending. Then the sharp notes of the "Last Post," sounded by two ship's buglers, from the after bridge, almost bringing tears of remembrance to the eyes of the ex-service men standing, as of old, at the attention. Anzac Day, once more a link between Australia and the Mother Land. Such was the feeling of all on board that no deck games were played, and a fancy dress ball which had been arranged for the evening, was, by common consent, postponed. When we stop to consider that of the number of souls on board, about 80 or so only were Australians, we feel very grateful that our national day should be thus honoured.

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STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS.

23/5/28.

Present.—Messrs. Riley, Nye, McAdam, Philp, Watt, Freedman, Shaw, Yeates, Cornell, Tyler, Saddler, Pady, Wedd, Bader, Lovell, Margolin, Tozer, and Hunt.

An apology was received from Mr. C. Longmore.

Welcome to New Member.—Mr. W. J. Hunt was welcomed as a new member of the Executive.

State President.—It was decided to convey to the State President an expression of the Executive’s pleasure at his recovery from his operation, and also the hope that he would soon occupy the presidential chair again.

Federal Correspondence.—Private Medical Officer.—A letter was received from the Federal Executive dealing with resolution No. 6 of the 12th Annual Congress, which asked that the evidence of the private medical officer of an applicant for pension be always asked for. The Minister in charge of Repatriation pointed out that the applicant is always at liberty to submit such a report in support of his claim. The letter was received and referred to the Pensions Committee, and it was also decided to give it publicity.

War Widows’ Pensions.—Resolution 40 of the 12th Annual Congress dealt with War Widows’ Pensions, and recommended a flat rate of pension. The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a letter from the Minister for Repatriation, which stated that the whole matter had been considered by Cabinet in September last, and it was not found possible to make a flat rate. The practice in vogue at present is to disregard the first $20/- per fortnight income which the widow may have apart from her fortnightly pension. The letter was received and referred to the Pensions Committee.

Re-Marriage of War Widows.—Resolution 41 of the 12th Annual Congress asked that where a widow re-married and subsequently reverted to widowhood, a pension scale be evolved to enable her to live in reasonable comfort. The Minister for Repatriation stated in reply that the present arrangement of granting a living allowance of 20/- per week to such widows was only in vogue in Australia. The Government did not feel justified in making any higher rate available. The letter was received and referred to the Pensions Committee.

Partially Blinded Soldiers.—Resolution 42 of the 12th Annual Congress stressed the insufficient pension now being paid to partially blinded men, and requested that provision be made for further increase of pension ‘where eyesight is seriously affected’. The Minister for Repatriation stated that he was unable to recommend higher rates in such cases. In view of the statement that the pension payable to a soldier who had lost one eye was the highest in any of the British Dominions, the Secretary was instructed to communicate with the Federal Executive and request that they obtain the scale of pensions in other Dominions.

Acceleration of Death.—Resolution 43 of the 12th Annual Congress requested the formation of a Sub-Committee to enquire into the possibility of the hardships endured at the Great War accelerating the death of returned soldiers. The Minister for Repatriation replied that the Commission fully and thoroughly investigated every claim by the dependants of an ex-soldier that his death was due to or accelerated by war service, and considered the formation of a committee unnecessary. The letter was referred to the Pensions Committee.

Concession Fares.—Resolution 44 of the 12th Annual Congress pressed for the payment of fares for wives and mothers to and from hospitals, or the granting of concession rates. The Minister for Repatriation in reply stated that provision had already been made, and he could not see his way clear to make any extension.

Invitations.—Veterans’ Dinner.—An invitation was received for the Veterans’ Dinner, held on the 24th May. This was left in the hands of the President.

Murray Sub-Branch.—The Murray Sub-Branch extended an invitation to the State President, State Secretary and Executive members to attend a welcome to be given to Colonel Heath, D.S.O., who had recently taken over the control of the Fairbridge Farm School. The welcome was to take place on Wednesday, 30th instant. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Corrigin Sub-Branch.—The Corrigin Sub-Branch extended an invitation to the State Secretary to their Re-union, which is to be held at an early date. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Over-Seas League.—The Over-Seas League extended an invitation to attend an Empire Day celebration at Musgrove’s. This was also left in the hands of the President.

Photograph, Menin Gate.—The B.E.S.L. advised that a further ten copies of this photograph had been forwarded. The Secretary was instructed to forward a large number of thanks.

Merredin Sub-Branch.—The Merredin Sub-Branch forwarded a copy of a photograph of a group of their members taken on Anzac Day, with the compliments of the Sub-Branch. The Secretary was instructed to suitably acknowledge.

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June 22, 1928

Anzac Day.—The Federal Executive advised that representations would be made to the Prime Minister in connection with Church services being held at some other time than 11 o'clock on Anzac Day. The General Secretary also stated that Capt. Bracegirdle had reported on the activities of Anzac Day in Western Australia. Uniformity of Observance.—The Brisbane Sub-Branch of the League addressed a letter to this Branch, stating that they had urged the adoption throughout the Commonwealth of Anzac Day being declared a close and sacred holiday, as in force in New Zealand. They requested that the State Premier for Western Australia be approached by the League and asked to support this at the forthcoming Premiers' Conference.

Moved by Mr. Sadlier, seconded by Mr. Watt, that the President, Secretary and Mr. Sadlier interview the Premier and endeavour to secure his assurance that he will support at the forthcoming Premiers' Conference Anzac Day being a 53rd Sunday, or, alternatively, to bring about uniformity in the observance of the day throughout the Commonwealth, based on the condition now operating in Western Australia.—Carried.

Sports on Anzac Day.—Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Sadlier, that the attention of the Maylands Sub-Branch be drawn to the fact that during the Anzacs Commemoration Service at Bayswater, held on the Sunday after Anzac Day, tennis was played on a private court adjoining the Memorial, and that they be requested to ascertain who was responsible.—Carried.

New Sub-Branches.—An application was received from the returned soldiers in Mallewa for permission to form a sub-branch. The necessary approval was granted.

Kondinin.—Mr. Kenneth Young, one-time Secretary of the Beverley Sub-Branch, and now located at Kondinin, requested permission to form a Kondinin-Karlgarin Sub-Branch. Permission was granted.

Press Sub-Branch.—Permission was sought for the formation of a sub-branch, to be known as the Press Sub-Branch. Permission was granted.

Financial Assistance to New Sub-Branches.—Moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Rabbi Freedman, that a committee consisting of Messrs. McAdam, Tozer and Cornell be appointed to consider the preparation of some scheme for submission to the Executive for assisting new sub-branches to send delegates to Congress.—Carried.

Superphosphates.—The Secretary read a communication from Mr. Gregory, M.H.R., dealing with his efforts to bring about a reduction of the duty on superphosphates coming into Australia. Moved by Mr. Sadlier, seconded by Mr. Yeates, that this Executive appreciates the efforts being made by Mr. Gregory, M.H.R., to bring about a reduction in the price of superphosphates.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Rabbi Freedman, that the matter be referred to the Lands Department, with power to act.—Lost.

Buffalo Fly Menace.—The Secretary explained that he had been in touch with the South Australian Branch and had endeavoured to get an opinion from Sir Sidney Kidman in connection with the buffalo fly menace, and its possibility of affecting the dairying industries of the southern portions of Australia. Sir Sidney Kidman had replied stating that he did not think it would affect the southern areas.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Tyler, that this be referred to the Land Committee to be dealt with.—Carried.

Landing at Gallipoli.—Messrs. Lemmon and Weakes requested a list of sub-branches, so that they could circulate them in connection with the photograph of the "Landing at Gallipoli." It was decided that this firm be informed that it is not the policy of the League to supply lists of sub-branches to commercial firms.

R.S.I. Diningroom.—Mr. Tyler submitted a communication he had received from the Perth Sub-Branch in which he, as their representative on the Executive, was asked to take up the matter of re-opening the diningroom. Moved by Mr. Philp, seconded by Mr. Cornell, that this be referred to the House Committee for consideration.—Carried.

Influx of Aliens.—The Secretary submitted information in connection with the influx of aliens, and dealt with a press paragraph which advised that 132 Southern Europeans was the quota for Western Australia from one boat recently. According to a letter from the Prime Minister's Department, this was in excess of the quota for this State for three months.

Moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Hunt, that a communication be forwarded to the Federal Executive, drawing attention to the letter from the Prime Minister's Department, and the influx of Southern Europeans since the receipt of the letter, as disclosed by the press paragraph referred to.—Carried.

Gallipoli Film.—Mr. A. C. Tinsdale advised that this film would be showing in Australia and he would consider any reasonable basis of co-operation to ensure the presentation of the film in every city of the Commonwealth. It was decided to refer this matter to the Federal

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2nd Inter-State Soldier Dried Fruit Growers Conference.—Redcliffe Sub-Branch of the League forwarded information in connection with this Conference, and an invitation to attend. The letter was received.

State War Memorial.—It was moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by M. Yeates, that this Executive as the R.S.L. commends the State War Memorial appeal to all citizens throughout the State, and considers that the form the memorial is to take is that favoured by far the greatest majority of returned soldiers and soldiers.—Carried.

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

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 9th May was received and adopted.

House Committee.—The report of the House Committee meeting held on the 21st May was received and adopted.

The election of another member of the House Committee, which was deferred from last meeting, was then proceeded with. Two nominations were received, Mr. C. Bader and Mr. W. I. Hunt. Mr. Bader was elected on a show of hands.

Selection Committee.—The Chairman read a report of the Selection Committee for the Employment Bureau, in which he stated that out of 83 applicants, Mr. E. A. Norgard was appointed.

Visiting Committee.—Mr. Nye reported regarding the Visiting Committee, and stated that "Lemnos" and the C.H.I. had been visited on the 15th instant. The report was received.

6/6/28.


Apologies were received from Messrs. McAdam, Cornell and Sadlier.

Federal Correspondence.—Letters dealing with the following resolutions from the 12th Annual Congress of the League were referred to the Pensions Committee:—Nos. 37, 38, 31, 23, 17, 25, 27 and 33.

Home for A.I.F. Veterans.—A letter dealing with resolution 143 of the 12th Annual Congress concerning the home for A.I.F. Veterans was received. The Minister in charge of Repatriation stated that no responsibility accrued to the Commonwealth Government for the provision of a home.

Telephone Concessions.—The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a communication received from the Postmaster-General, in which a 25 per cent. concession on telephone rates for local calls was granted to the Federal Executive and State Branches.

Recreation Leave: Temporary Employees.—A letter from the Federal Executive in connection with this matter was received and it was decided that a copy be sent to the West Perth Sub-Branch.

State War Memorial.—At this stage Standing Orders were suspended at the instance of Rabbi Freedman, and at his request the Executive went into committee to discuss the State War Memorial appeal.

After discussion it was moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Logie, that this Executive donate the sum of £100 to the State War Memorial Appeal.—Carried.

Standing Orders were resumed.

A letter was received from the Japanese Consul-General, Sydney, in which it was stated that the Commander of the Japanese Training Squadron desired to lay, on the proper occasion, a wreath on the Cenotaph.

Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Philp, that the letter be received, and the State War Memorial Committee and District Naval Officer be advised that this Executive considers that the wreath should be placed on the State War Memorial in whatever state of completion it may be.—Carried.

Invitations.—The Railway Workshops Sub-Branch extended an invitation to the State President and members of the Executive to their annual smoke social, to be held on the 6th July. The matter was left in the hands of the State President.

Beverley Sub-Branch.—The Beverley Sub-Branch advised that their annual meeting and smoke social would take place on July 14th, and extended an invitation to the State President, Secretary and a member of the Executive. This was also left in the hands of the Acting President.

29th Battalion Association extended an invitation to the President to attend their annual re-union, to be held on Friday, 8th June. The Rev. Riley stated that he would be present.

New Sub-Branch.—An application was received on behalf of returned soldiers at Wiluna for the formation of a sub-branch. This was granted.

Community of Interest Sub-Branches.—The Guildford-Bassendean Sub-Branch wrote conveying a resolution carried at their last meeting in which the Sub-Branch viewed with alarm the formation of unconstitutional sub-branches, and requested the Executive to use every endeavour to induce ex-soldiers to join the sub-branch in the district in which they reside.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Longmore, that a committee of three be appointed to consider the letter and report back to the Executive. (Messrs.

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Nye, Watt and Tozer were appointed.)—Carried.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Tozer that the letter be received, and the Sub-Branch asked to include the matter as an item for the agenda for the forthcoming Annual Congress.—Lost.

Letters of Appreciation.—Mr. D. McRae, of Quairading, wrote thanking the Executive for their successful action on his behalf.

The Railway Workshops Sub-Branch requested the Executive to forward a letter of appreciation to Mr. Watson, the foreman, and other employees of the West Midland Workshops, for their action in having their honor Board renovated. It was decided that the request be acceded to.

Membership.—The Nedlands Park Sub-Branch requested a ruling as to whether a member of a community of interest sub-branch could become an associate member of his district sub-branch on the payment of 2s. 6d. per annum.

Moved by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Pady, that the Nedlands Park Sub-Branch be advised that this matter should be placed on the agenda paper for the forthcoming Annual Congress.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Nye, seconded by Mr. Tozer, that the matter be referred to the sub-committee already appointed to consider the community of interest sub-branches.—Carried.

War Pensions Appeal Board.—A letter was received from the N.S.W. Branch dealing with the policy of circularising Federal Members of Parliament through the Federal Executive.

Letters were also received from the Federal President concerning the War Pensions Appeal Board, and were referred to the Pensions Committee.

Imperial Ex-Service Men.—The Acting President drew attention to a press paragraph concerning the Rev. H. E. Hayes. The Rev. Hayes had stated that one of his missions on arrival in England would be to try to adjust the relations between the Returned Soldiers' League and the Imperial Ex-Service Men's organisations in Australia.

The State Secretary had replied in the press, and it was decided that a copy of the State Secretary's reply be sent to the Federal Executive and they be asked to communicate with the British Empire Service League.

British Migration.—Colonel Manning forwarded a communication in connection with assistance for British migrants. He also stated that he had placed a wreath on the Cenotaph on behalf of the Western Australian Branch of the League. It was decided that Colonel Manning be thanked.

Bunbury Sub-Branch.—Mr. F. D. Slee had written on behalf of the Bunbury Sub-Branch asking if there was anything in the constitution to stop the incorporation of the sub-branch. The matter had been referred to the League's solicitor and he had stated that it would not be unconstitutional. The matter was referred to the trustees for their consideration and report.

Australian War Memorial.—The Federal President advised that information had been received from the Prime Minister’s Department to the effect that the laying of the foundation of the State War Memorial would take place on Armistice Day next. The letter was received.

Capitation Fees.—Victorian State Branch.—A communication was received from the Federal President showing copies of correspondence between the Federal Office and the Victorian State Branch in connection with an amount of £500 owing by the State Branch for capitation fees.

Moved by Mr. Philip, seconded by Mr. Watt, that this Executive wholeheartedly supports the Federal Executive in its efforts to obtain capitation fees due by the Victorian State Branch.—Carried.

Employment of Aliens.—A letter was received from the Under-Secretary of Mines dealing with the employment of foreigners on the Goldfields. It was decided to send a copy of the letter to the Boulder and Kalgoorlie Sub-Branches.

Notice of Motion.—Mr. G. D. Shaw gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting of the Executive that no notices of motion be accepted by Congress other than motions which may arise out of the discussion of items on the Agenda Paper.

R.A.F. Flying Boats.—The acting State President stated that a request had been received by him through Squadron Leader Drummond to provide motor cars for the entertainment of the crews of the Flying Boats. The matter was left in the hands of the State Secretary.

Reports.—The State Secretary read the report of the operations of the office for the preceding fortnight and dealt with his visits to Wyalkatchem, Koorda, Toodyay, and Calingiri. He was supported in his remarks by Mr. Logie. The report was received.

Collie.—Mr. Logie reported having visited the Collie Sub-branch on Anzac Day.

Finance Committee.—The report of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 23rd May was received and adopted.

Veterans’ Dinner.—The acting President reported having represented the League at the Old Veterans’ Dinner held on the 24th May. The report was received.

Land Committee.—Mr. Yeates reported on behalf of the Land Committee and dealt with the visit of Mr. Justice Pike. The report was received and adopted.

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

House Committee.—Mr. Philip reported that the House Committee had fav-
outably considered the suggestion of the Executive in connection with the Dining Room, and that tenders were being called for the letting. The report was received and adopted.

South Perth Sub-Branch.—Mr. Philp reported that efforts had been made to start the South Perth Sub-branch, and the inaugural meeting would take place on the 11th June. The report was received. Inter-Empire Trade.—Mr. Yeates reported that efforts had been made to circularised in connection with this matter.

Murray Sub-Branch.—The Acting President reported having visited the Murray Sub-Branch, in company with Messrs. Sadler, Shaw, and Tyler on the occasion of the welcome to Colonel Heath. The report was received.

The chairman then declared the meeting closed.

32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION

A re-union dinner will be held in Mrs. Keough's Hall, Newcastle Street, Perth, on 21st July, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The committee would like to see a large number of country members present. Tickets, which will cost 5/-, can be obtained from committee members:—Mr. Abjorson, Military Headquarters; Mr. Kennedy, I.O.A. Insurance Co., St. George's Terrace; "Tony" Wolfson, Fruit Stall, Wesley Church, William St.; or Mr. Alexander, of Government House.

28th BATTALION NOTES

On Friday, the 8th June, the 28th Battalion held a very successful re-union smoke social at the Returned Soldiers' Institute. "What with good speeches, bright artists, cheering refreshments and awakened memories of other days, the evening passed all too quickly.

One of the visitors was Colonel Savidge, of Melbourne, formerly with General Dunster's "Hush-Hush" Force, who pleased the company with his account of the doings of our own "Barney" Murphy.

Padre Riley's speech on the War Memorial was interrupted by the inspired cry of "What about a bob in?" and the sum of £4 10s. was poured into the Padre's pocket, despite his protesting, "I hadn't intended anything like this!"

The number of financial members is steadily increasing, and 28th men can pay in their subs. to, or obtain copies of the Battalion History from any of the members of the committee, or a post card to Secretary Kahan (69 River Street, South Perth) will bring an immediate response.

The monthly luncheon will be held at the Cabin Tearooms on the 28th inst. This is always an enjoyable function and it merits a good attendance. The following luncheon will be held on the 27th July, as the 28th of that month falls on a Saturday.

It is pleasing to record that Colonel Collett is now out of hospital, and we all sincerely hope that his strength will soon be recuperated.

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During the week of the unfortunate misprints, a visitor from the Eastern States inquired of a policeman in St. George's Terrace, "Can you tell me the quickest way to get to St. John of God Hospital?"

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Birthday Honours.

Among the honours conferred upon Australians on the occasion of the King's latest birthday are four knighthoods, while one lady has been created a Dame of the British Empire. It is gratifying to note that, in making these awards, those responsible have observed the principle of bestowing honours as a recognition for distinguished public service.

Dame Eadith Walker, the lady in the case, is a Sydney lady of independent means, who has devoted her lifetime and a considerable portion of her income to the alleviation of suffering, quite apart from her efforts on behalf of patriotic and other war-time funds. Dame Eadith's own social and financial position was so well assured that she had nothing personally to gain by such efforts, nor were they made an excuse for an entry into the political arena. On the contrary, she is of those who do good by health and blush to find it receive such belated recognition. Possibly that is why her distinguished services have received such belated recognition.

Sir Alfred Isaacs has had a long and brilliant legal career, and is a Senior Justice of the Federal High Court. Sir George Wilkins, the intrepid airman, needs no introduction to our readers. His exploits, both in the tropics and in the polar regions, are on a par with those of the knights of Arthur, of Drake and Hawkins. He is a worthy member of the brotherhood of the Smiths and Cobham. In this connection we should have liked to have seen some honour bestowed upon Hinkler.

Sir James Melrose, described as a pastoralist, little is known outside his own State, but we have no doubt that his services have been commensurate with the dignity of the order of knighthood.

The fourth knight, Sir James Murdoch, is the head of a Sydney business firm, and for many years has played a prominent part in the commercial and public life of that city. In 1915, when the Federal authorities realized that such things as Red Cross and Comforts Fund organizations are the job of business men and not of fighting soldiers, Sir James went abroad to place his unadorned administrative and business ability at the disposal of the country, and rendered personal service as a high official in the Red Cross organization. His patriotism was of the order that transcended flag-flapping and speechifying on the home front, and though neither very stealthy nor robust enough for the firing line, he gave personal service in the sphere where his ability and experience could be put to the best possible use. The Army gave him the relative honors of rank of lieutenant-colonel and C.B.E. Since the war, Sir James has been at the head of an association formed with the object of ending those scandalous abuses which have made the Sydney City Council a byword for graft, meititude and corruption in high places.

Apparently in each case there has been a recognition, even if somewhat tardy, that knighthood should be reserved for distinguished public service, and that the accumulation of a private fortune is not in itself a distinguishing public service, even when a relatively infinitesimal portion of that private fortune is doled out, probably as a species of conscience money, to political, educational or charitable funds. The Collier Government, profiting no doubt by the example of its predecessors, does not appear to have made any recommendations. In the language of the philosophers, "we've ad some," and it was our experience in the past that caused the "Sydney Bulletin" to christen the "City of Dreadful Knights."

The Lady and the Levee.

In these days lovely women is so fettered to the ideal of sex-equality that she cannot refrain from clanking her chains in public; consequently the exclusion of a lady, a member of a municipal council, from the South Australian government's levee, has caused the tea-cups to rattle and the lipsticks to be branded throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth. Twentieth-century woman has already established her right to enter most of those spheres which used to be roped off and labelled "For Men Only." She represents electoral constituencies with men, sits on town councils and juries with them, teaches school, practices law and medicine, competes successfully with men in almost every walk of life. During the war a battalion composed of women fought on the Russian front, and an Australian lady held a lieutenant's commission in the Serbian army. There would appear, then, to be no logical reason why a lady engaged in public life should not be allowed to attend a governor's levee along with men similarly engaged, especially as something similar has been permitted on a previous occasion; but viewing the matter from a historical standpoint there is some justification for the action taken in Adelaide.

In the days when kings and pro-consuls really governed it was the custom for ministers and other subordinates to attend at the great one's bedside every morning with their reports and recommendations. While the royal pants were being pressed, the royal chin lathered, and the royal chocolate or other form of morning reviver consumed, public business was transacted. This was the origin of the "private entree." In the meantime the less important courtiers who had called to pay their respects, suppliants who wished to present petitions, and others, waited outside in the ante-chamber for the great one's levee or getting-up. Ministers, great noblemen, and others also had their levees. In the past they were part of the regular business of carrying on the government, but the modern institution of the cabinet and the public service has caused them to atrophy and be whisked down to mere social functions. For obvious reasons, ladies could not attend and witness the morning toilet of the masculine great, and probably some vestige of old-world modesty was responsible for the action taken in Adelaide.

The State War Memorial.

The Archbishop's appeal on behalf of the State War Memorial Fund is still meeting with a good response, but at the time of writing nearly two thousand pounds are still required. The donation of a hundred by the R.S.L. Executive should prove a stimulant to further giving. In the meantime, what of the State Government? After all, the Memorial is a State affair, and the Government should
fall into line with other public bodies in giving towards it. It would be a politic move on the part of Mr. Collier and would go far towards eliminating the nasty taste left by the Government's attitude towards the celebration of Anzac Day in the State Schools. But perhaps there are those who do not wish to be reminded of the war or the part they themselves played while it was being fought.

"The King of Kings"

This month sees the filming of the excessively advertised picture, "The King of Kings," at the Prince of Wales Theatre. As with most lavishly advertised shows, the realisation succeeding the anticipation is something in the nature of a slump. The screening is generally good, even artistic in parts, though at times the harrowing details of the Passion verge on the gruesome. The choice of H. B. Warner for the principal role was a wise one. His acting is dignified and reverent, but then, Warner is an Englishman, and one of the few film actors who look like a gentleman on the screen. With the exception of Saint Peter, the disciples are made mere lay figures, and the attempt to introduce an element of comic relief into the portrayal of Peter is uncalled-for and dammably Hollywood. There are many other features with which Biblical students will quarrel. The sayings of our Lord are taken out of their context and the circumstances under which they are said (in the gospel according to Hollywood) differ materially from those recorded in the four authentic gospels. The calling of Matthew is historically inaccurate. According to the New Testa-

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ern Goldfields is a rowing school. The latter, by the way, is built on a bare patch of ground halfway between Kalgoorlie and Boulder City. Consequently, their representation in the victorious crew was altogether disproportionate. This must, indeed, give food for thought to those in control of rowing at those schools which compete annually to decide who is to be head of the river. If one non-rowing school can get four men into the 'varsity crew, and four or five rowing schools only four between them, not only must the standard of rowing at these schools be poor, but the annual competition would appear to be too restricted.

Modern School is an institution which is more than holding its own, both athletically and academically. It has produced two Rhodes Scholars within the last three years, and Campbell, the Cox of the 'varsity eight, an "old boy" of "Mod." has more than a sporting chance of gaining the Rhodes scholarship this year. Modern School has not had the opportunity of competing in athletics with other secondary schools. It is the only State high school within the metropolitan area, but so far it is not included in the Greater Public Schools Sports Association. If there were so many schools in this association that the inclusion of still another would make it unwieldy, and therefore render it difficult to conduct annual competitions, the attitude of the non-State schools could be more easily understood. If the personnel of Modern were inferior scholastically or athletically to that of the other schools there might still be a reason for this attitude. But such is far from being the case. Both on the playing fields and in the examination room, Modern is a power to be reckoned with, but perhaps the mere fact that it is a State school debarrs it from recognition by non-State institutions. It is high time that those in charge of sport in the non-State schools widened their outlook. Fortunately, the University viewpoint is broader and at our 'varsity the highest academic and athletic distinctions are open to merit, irrespective of where the individual received his early training.

Well, anyway, they couldn't say to Adam, "Who was that lady I saw you with—"
the honors to two League officials in Messrs. Benson and Logie, and also welcomed several prominent citizens of the district. The excellent arrangements for the night had been capably completed by Mr. E. J. McCarthy, the local hon. secretary. At this sub-branch the leading officials represented units of the A.I.F. and ex-Imperial Forces, Mr. Lambert having served with the 16th Battalion A.I.F., whilst "Mac" saw service with the Irish Fusiliers, and has been a resident of Calingiri for over three years. The views of local residents were expressed by Mr. Ludeman, who said that they stood behind the men who were sent away to the Great War. He considered it a great honor to be there that night, and endeavoured once more to show the diggers of Australia the great respect in which they were held by their fellow citizens.

Another citizen, in Mr. W. Strickland, said that the League was fighting a great and honourable cause, for it was up to every soldier to see that their comrades left behind overseas had their dependants provided for. Perhaps the greatest local identity present was “Submarine” Joe Leece, who is reputed to have sunk at least one enemy U-boat. Towards the latter part of the evening’s function Joe’s description of the happening led one to again think of the bridge deck of a destroyer, so heavy were the showers.

Amongst a very representative gathering at this function, the following diggers may be mentioned:—Fordham Bros., Guy Lukin, D.C.M., of the 12th Battn., S. Tate, 10th A.I.F., Jack McPherson, 3rd Battery and now soldier settler at Bolgart, Tom Sawyer, S.A. veteran, Jas. McGill, and many others.

**Wyalkatchem**

A visitor is not long in Wyalkatchem before realising the excellent standing of the local R.S.L., formed a few months ago under the presidencies of Dr. O. R. Corr, an ex-digger of the 28th Battalion and a member of the local Road Board. The local pictures are owned and conducted by members of the Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch, 23 of whom subscribed £200 to purchase the plant. All the staffing is done by soldiers, the chief of whom is George Riches, an electrician and soldier settler, who also served with the 28th Battalion.

Fifty per cent. of the profits from the pictures will benefit the local hospital, the remaining 50 per cent. going to any other local charity deemed worthy by the Sub-Branch Committee. Wyalkatchem, among its soldier settlers, can boast of a real live count in Vicomte de Pierees, a Frenchman who served with the British Forces, and a Guernsey Islander in John Solosy, who is also an R.S.L. stalwart: whilst Mick Miller, a local business man, R. A. McQueen, hon. secretary, H. A. Sear and W. H. Snowball, manager of the local National Bank, have all done yeoman work for the R.S.L.

On Anzac Day this same sub-branch carried out the planting of an Honour Avenue, the actual planting of each tree being performed by the mother of the fallen soldier. Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch has set a high standard for every country centre, and what they can do can be done elsewhere.

**SUCCESS A BYWORD.**

**R.S.L. ART UNIONS.**

The success of the R.S.L. art unions is now a byword in W.A., and the news that another one is now open will be appreciated by everyone who knows the good use the profits are put to. This time 75 per cent. of profits will go to country hospitals, and 25 per cent. to the Amelioration Funds of country sub-branches. It is up to country residents to support their own local institutions.

**THE PACIFIC FLIGHT.**

The recent flight across the Pacific was indeed a triumph in aerial navigation. This, one of the youngest among sciences, has made remarkable strides during the last decade, and it is not too much to say that Australian airmen have maintained a position in the very foremost rank of the movement. That Australia has no intention of lagging behind in the matter of scientific progress is no less true in other directions. The most up-to-date scientific methods in the treatment of the eye and the latest appliances and machinery for the manufacture of spectacles and eye-glasses are the outstanding features in the consulting rooms and workshop of Mr. B. The Optician, at 263 Murray Street, Perth. Make a call there the first opportunity. Your eyesight deserves the best that science can offer.

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D. M. BENSON, STATE SECRETARY R.S.L.
The following resolution was submitted to the Minister in Charge of Repatriation by the League:

"That the definition of a widowed mother under the 3rd Schedule of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, 1920-22, be amended by the deletion of the requirement that widowhood must have occurred either prior to or within three years of the son's death."

The Minister's reply is as follows:

"The following resolution, passed at the last Federal Congress of the League was submitted to the Minister controlling Repatriation:

"That the definition of a widowed mother under the 3rd Schedule of the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, 1920-22, be amended by the deletion of the requirement that widowhood must have occurred either prior to or within three years of the son's death."

The Minister's reply is as follows:

"I have to inform you that the present procedure and extent of the medical benefits granted to widows and widowed mothers of deceased unmarried soldiers were granted after full consideration by Cabinet. It is considered that the present provision is sufficient, and that it is not reasonable to extend it as desired."

The following resolution, passed at the last Federal Congress of the League was submitted to the Minister controlling Repatriation:

"That a local medical practitioner be allowed to sit upon Medical Board Pension reviews."

The Minister replied:

"I have to advise that, with the proper medical review, a local medical officer in regard to any case where, in my opinion, such action is necessary."

"I am informed by the Repatriation Commission that this instruction is given effect to in appropriate cases, and in view of this the request contained in your League's resolution appears to be suitably covered."

PENSION RATES.

The following resolution was submitted to the Minister in Charge of Repatriation recently forwarded the following letter to the League:

"I have to acknowledge receipt of a copy of a resolution passed at the 12th Annual Congress of your League reading:

"That the Federal Government be urged to bring about an amendment of the Repatriation Act, increasing the war pension of those returned soldiers who receive a full pension of under £4 per week at present, owing to the high cost of living."

"This is a matter which was considered by the Government last year but it was not possible to increase the basic rate of pension which was considered adequate. There are two factors which appear to be frequently overlooked in regard to the adequacy of ordinary disability pensions, viz.:

(i) That supplementary pensions are payable where there are wives and children.

(ii) That in a considerable proportion of cases in which pensions are paid at 100 per cent. rate as a result of schedule rates, a medical board assessment the soldier still has a working capacity at a remunerative occupation, and he is therefore by no means entirely dependent on his fortnightly pension."

"As you know, the Special Rate Pension and the Schedule Allowance provide considerably increased rates for the most seriously injured men. Take, for instance, the man who is totally and permanently incapacitated—he receives the special rate of £4 per week plus the pensions of his wife and children and other dependants.
In the case of men who are temporarily totally incapacitated for a period of more than three months special allowances are provided in the Regulations.

"In conclusion, I may say that I have given the matter careful consideration, but in the circumstances I am unable to make any recommendation for increased rates."

PENSION DISABILITIES.

The following resolution, emanating from this State Branch, was submitted to the Repatriation Minister:

"As many soldiers and dependants of deceased soldiers have difficulty in obtaining pensions proportionate to their present disabilities, Congress considers that the actual fact of war service should influence the Repatriation Department in the consideration of pension claims, and, further, is of the opinion that service in the forward areas should carry more weight when dealing with pension claims."

To which the Minister replied:

"I have to advise that the general practice of the Repatriation Commission in extending to any ex-soldier applicant for medical treatment the full benefit of any reasonable doubt that his disability is due to war service, is now so well known that the request conveyed in your League's resolution appears to be fully covered."

ANZAC DAY—INDUSTRIAL HOLIDAY.

The Queensland Branch have been anxious for quite a long time to have Anzac Day included in the Industrial Awards and so make the day a sacred holiday. An Act of Parliament has been in operation for a number of years, declaring Anzac Day a public holiday, with certain stipulations in regard to closing hotels and prohibition of race meetings, etc., but the day is not strictly observed by some employers.

Recently the Premier of Queensland, Mr. McCormack, speaking on Anzac Day last, gave an assurance that at the coming Premiers' Conference he would support, on behalf of his Government, the gazettal of Anzac Day as a Close Industrial Holiday, if the other Premiers were willing to fall into line.

The State Secretary of the Queensland Branch says that it is felt that this will have a marked bearing in the advance of the League in Queensland if success is realised; they are anxious that no stone should be left unturned, and request that the officials of the State Branches approach their Premiers with a view to influencing their outlook on the subject when it comes up for discussion at the meeting of Premiers.

The W.A. State Branch have been working for a similar objective for many years. They have appointed a committee to interview the Premier on the matter.

BUNKERED BY THE BENCH.

A mere bloque was up before a magistrate, charged with driving a motor car while under the influence of drink.

"But I was not drunk, Your Worship," protested the accused under oath.

"You'd had a few drinks," the Beak barked back at him.

"Only twelve pots, Your Worship."

"Ha," snapped His Worship. "Twelve pots! You are convicted by a jury of your peers."

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In a recent Children's Court case a court official referred to a certain man as a friend of a woman witness. "Indeed he is no friend of mine," retorted the lady. "He is my intended husband." Evidently there is no friendship in business, war—or marriage.

A lady friend who was greatly impressed by the Anzac Day service on the Esplanade remembered to a member of the staff: "It was splendid, and that man played the Listening Post beautifully."

A German scientist predicts volcanic and earthquake disturbances, during which the greater part of Australia will disappear under the sea, and Western Australia will be completely separated from the rest of the continent. They must read the "Sunday Times" in Germany.

Spot: Why all the fuss about the Edith Cavell film? I agree with "Camelot" (May "L.P."), when he states that the spirit of the day is one of goodwill, but he is certainly playing for effect when he uses such sentences as "revive the smouldering embers of hate." I doubt very much if the British race ever harboured hate against her enemies of the Great War. The picture, which I understand is accurately portrayed, must teach the nobility of heroic nature and thus act as an inspiration for good. We have fought hard to win freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. Why should we meekly connive at such interference with the freedom of the film?

J. G. Findlay, Secretary, Kojonup Sub-Branch:—"Traveller" in May "L.P." criticises the Kojonup Road Board for working their men on Anzac Day. Unfortunately, this is true, but in justice to the members of the Board it should be pointed out that Anzac Day is listed as a close holiday for their employees, and it appears that the men in question quite forgot that it was Anzac Day. When this was pointed out to them, I am told that they took another day off work in lieu. I am not sure, but I am inclined to believe that the men who worked were not returned soldiers, which would account for the oversight.

Your correspondent is right when he mentions the record of the Kojonup people during and after the war, and if he had called into Kojonup about 3 o'clock in the afternoon he would have seen a very fine parade of returned soldiers and school children, who marched to the Kojonup Memorial Hall for the Anzac Service, while, if he had peeped into the Hall, he would have seen that it was full, almost to the doors, of people who had remembered that it was Anzac Day, and very much if the British race ever harboured hate against her enemies of the Great War.

The Railway Department by-laws are very strict as regards people trespassing on the permanent way. The supervision, however, seems to be rather lax, for within recent weeks school children have been killed on suburban railway lines. The last instance was the case of a little boy being crushed between two trucks while playing about in the vicinity of the East Perth Railway Station. So far the kitchensink press have refrained from trying to fasten the blame on to some defenceless school teacher.

According to the personal column of the "West," a recent visitor to Perth is a gentleman named Guttman. He is connected with the Bingle Proprietary Limited.

Came into town the other day on a Caisley Bus from Guildford. The driver had frequent occasion to sound his horn, and the sound had a familiar ring. After the umteenth repetition it dawned on me. The horn was sounding the first four notes of Annie Laurie, and in good sooth its brays were bonny.

BRITISH FLYING OFFICERS Entertainment by Broome Sub-Branch.

It is very gratifying to know that the first social function tendered to the R.A.F. Far Eastern Flight on their arrival in Australia, was a League affair.

Broome Sub-Branch has an annual Ball, usually quite the best show of the year. On this occasion it was decided to hold the Ball on 1st June—the day of arrival of the Supermarines at Broome.

At 12.45 p.m. on the 1st, the boats swept majestically over the town—flying in perfect close formation, and alighted on the beautiful water of Roebuck Bay, near the moorings prepared for them. The landing was a sight which will long be remembered by us in Broome. The eight engines harmonised into one steady hum; the sun of a gorgeous "Broome winter day glinted on the symmetrical form of Britain's latest naval fighting boats," and they took the water simultaneously.

Refuelling was commenced immediately, and was finished by 5 p.m., when Group-Captain Cave-Brown-Cave, with part of the personnel, came ashore.

At 8 p.m. our function commenced in the gaily decorated Institute, and at 8.30 p.m. Group-Captain Cave-Brown-Cave and officers arrived and were received by our President, J. Hay. The flying men were naturally tired after their long flight from Koepang, but it was not long before they all entered into the swing of things.

Over 150 people were present, and the ball was pronounced much the best function of its kind for years. The supper was excellent and the catering department worked at top speed throughout, necessitating the services of two honorary chief barmen and several honorary temporary assistants.

Music was supplied by the Mac- Robertson Round-Australia Expedition, in rather a novel way. Gramaphone music was amplified and sent through a loud speaker. We are much indebted to the MacRobertson Expedition for their generous assistance.

The flying men retired to bed somewhere before 1 a.m. (we are not too sure of times), but a very solid mass of dancers kept the floor until 2 p.m., when "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem were sung enthusiastically, if unmusically, rendered.

Altogether, a most successful evening, and one reflecting great credit on Secretary, H. E. Thurkle, and a very efficient Ladies' Committee. Last but hardly least, the branch expects to make a reasonable profit.
THE OVERTMIGHTY SUBJECT.

A thorn in the side of any government and a menace to any community is the overmighty subject, the individual who, while yielding a nominal allegiance to the central authority, deliberately flouts any law which does not operate in his own favour.

The Feudal System of the Middle Ages was peculiarly favourable to the production and growth of this type. Under that system all land, in theory at least, belonged to the king. He parcelled it out among his immediate followers who directly from him, during the reconstruction period that followed the Battle of Hastings, and instead of tenants-in-chief, that is, those holding directly from the king, subdivided their estates among their own relatives and adherents: but this system of sub-infeudation (sub-letting as we should term it now) did not release a main tenant from his military obligations. Every state had to furnish its quota of fighting men. When the practice of allowing sub-tenants to commute their military service for cash payments developed, the great feudal lords could afford to hire professional soldiers, and, as their wealth and holdings increased, they were often powerful enough to defy the king. Thanks to the foresight of William the Conqueror, the great feudal tithes which were the bane of continental kings, had no counterpart in mediæval England. His experiences in Normandy stood him in good stead during the reconstruction period that followed the Battle of Hastings, and instead of granting a man one large seigneur, that might be developed into a territory, he granted him several small ones in various parts of England. This device made it extremely difficult for a potential rebel to consolidate his strength against the crown.

When strong kings like the Conqueror, the second Henry, or the first and third Edwards ruled England, the overmighty subject was kept within due bounds, and the diversion of a foreign war with France or Scotland could always be relied upon to turn his fighting proclivities into a channel more desirable from the king's point of view. Similarly the French kings could ensure peace at home by an incursion into Flanders or Italy. Under weaker monarchies there were frequent rebellions which sometimes ended in the murder of the sovereign, a change of dynasty, or both. A Warwick could make and unmake kings in England; an Albany could hold the throne of Scotland; a monarch captive and murder the heir to the throne: a Charles the Bold of Burgundy could overthrow his king in Peronne and compel him to purchase his personal safety with humiliating concessions.

But the overmighty subject perished of his own violence. What the Wars of the Roses did for England the long struggle between Armagnacs and Burgundians did for France, and astute rulers like Henry VII of England and Louis XI of France were able to crush the remnants of baronial power by posing as the champions of the law-abiding middle classes (the classes which have lost in their infancy and democracy but a dream). Nevertheless the government, if despotic, was reasonably just, maintaining peace at home and inspiring respect abroad. The necessity of the Tudors to pursue this policy that the only successful risings in England since their time—the revolts against Charles I and James II—were not attempts by some overmighty subject to override the law, but deliberate resistance by the people to kings who were striving to undermine the existing constitution.

With the development of modern political institutions it is no longer possible for an individual to hurl open defiance at the law with impunity. The overmighty subject now works under cover. That he still exists and still operates successfully has been made apparent by several recent happenings. The turbulent baron of the Middle Ages has his modern counterpart in the combine, the war profiteer, the income-tax evader, the political clique, the grafteur, and the truculent union secretary. We have recently seen the unedifying spectacle of the national government compounds a felony with persons who had systematically evaded the income-tax regulations. At present a royal commission is investigating a bribery scandal in which a well-known engineering firm, a highly placed officer of the Sydney City Council, and several aldermen are implicated, while another is inquiring into allegations of attempted bribery against federal politicians. Wires, graft, social influence, and other methods of scheming have become the recognised weapons of the person who attempts to over-ride law and so obtain an advantage above his fellows to which neither the law nor his own merits entitle him.

But the individual cannot do much without being detected or evoking protest from disappointed rivals. When found out he can be suppressed without difficulty. More dangerous by far is the faction, whether it be a political coterie or an industrial clique. It is harder to eliminate. It can always find a following, always plad a certain measure of justification for its illegal acts.

Under the present system of party politics a general election is no longer a reflection of the people's opinions: it is an indication of which is the more efficient party machine. In the interests of party solidarity a candidate is selected, generally by some obscure little clique, to carry

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the party banner to the polls. All good men and true must rally to the aid of the party and vote the party ticket. White-lying, faked ballot boxes, and other disreputable tactics enable a coterie to foist a candidate upon the electors. The law compels electors to enrol and to vote, and the corollary should be that the law compel parties to present candidates whose mental and moral calibre is at least respectable. Under existing conditions one frequently must vote either against his political principles or stultify his intelligence by voting for a dud. Pre-selection scandals and allegations of crooked methods are not the monopoly of any party, and the way to end them is to make pre-selection of candidates illegal. Forfeiture of the deposit would punish the impossible candidate for wasting the electors' time by staking and the system of preferential voting will obviate a candidate's election by a minority vote. Absence of pre-selection would enable more candidates to contest an election and so give the electors a wider range of choice. Like the Feudal System, the pre-selection ballot has outlived its usefulness.

But the political coterie, while it ignores the people's wishes, keeps within the existing law. The industrial clique is a type of overmighty subject which does not and therefore is a far greater menace to the peace of the community. It is a serious matter when a small section of unionists can defy the law and paralyse the whole shipping industry of a continent; more serious still for their fellow unionists, who are confronted with unemployment as a result of this contumacy. We are no longer concerned with the merits of an unimportant dispute between a few sea-cooks and a shipping company. Developments have passed beyond that stage. What concerns us as "citizens" is the fact that a small body of men, by defying existing Federal law, is holding up industry, seriously inconveniencing the public, and causing their fellow workers the loss of thousands of pounds in wages. The writer has often thought that a great deal of the industrial unrest in Australia has its germ in our schools, in the absurd manner in which boys and girls attending one type of school affect to look down upon those attending other types. This species of puppyism becomes dogmatism when it grows up and in its turn is responsible for the lordly scorn

with which those who inherit wealth from some self-made ancestor exclude from the gilded circle those who have made their money by mere ability and personal exertions, or who have no wealth at all. Human nature would not be human nature if this kind of thing did not occasion resentment and a discontent that is class-consciousness in embryo, which is avidly seized upon and fomented by the professional trouble-maker. Sane educational methods, even scorn and ridicule, are, we fear, alike unavailing. We never see the snob in ourselves, but always in the other fellow. Like the poor, the snob is, always has been, and always will be with us, and all attempts to convert him have been as hopeless as it would be to expect an encore for singing the Battle of the Boyne at a St. Patrick's Day concert.

In connection with the present trouble it is to be regretted that the Federal Government has not the powers to enforce its own arbitration laws. Under the American Constitution, upon which our own was to a large extent modelled, Federal laws are enforced by Federal police, and offenders incarcerated in Federal prisons. The framers of our own constitution were careful to safeguard the rights of the individual States, and even to-day the majority of the community are chary about increasing the powers of the National Government. Consequently the Federal Cabinet cannot intervene in a dispute until it has spread over the borders of one State into another. Intervention at that stage is rather reminiscent of the careful farmer who locked his stable door after the horse had been stolen. However, both Government and people are heart sick of overmighty subjects who cause industrial disruption. As in Tudor times, central authority and people must combine and squelch these gentry in the interests of public peace. The Government only needs to take a firm stand, insist on the boats being manned by volunteer labour if necessary, insist on that volunteer labour being adequately protected from interference, and it will have the nation behind it; and should the worst come to the worst, should the police be unable to cope with the task, there are thousands of trained men in the country who once defended the constitution overseas and would willingly do it again in their own country.

PIP TOK.

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"Dad" Fanning

Late 46th Batt. & Dingup Sub-Branch

has purchased a

Fruit Barrow

stationed in front of Commonwealth Bank in FORREST PLACE, Perth where he sells the BEST OF FRUIT at THE LOWEST PRICES
PERSONALITIES.

We are pleased to announce that State President Colonel Collett is steadily mending after his recent operation and is at present convalescing in the hills.

Kenneth Young, whilst secretary of the Beverley Sub-Branch, tasted the fruit of the League and found it good. It meant self-sacrificing work, but being of the right type he just carried on. Ken is now located at Kondinin and still carrying on in the interests of the League's objects, he having just formed a new sub-branch for the district Kondinin-Karlgarin.

Dear old Tom Lennon is still an inmate of the Repat. Ward and we regret not being able to announce an improvement in his condition. He recently resigned his seat on the State Executive, his place being filled by Bill Hunt, late Captain of the 44th.

S. V. Barwood, of Claremont-Cottesloe Sub-Branch, writes:—The Claremont-Cottesloe Sub-branch, having quite recently lost their secretary, Mr. A. Brown, desires to place on record through the "Listening Post" their appreciation of the many valuable services rendered by him during his term as secretary. There is no doubt that it was due to his untiring efforts that the branch has reached its present most satisfactory position, financially and otherwise. Many diggers in the district can testify to his untiring efforts on their behalf and to the successful manner in which he carried their cases through. Always sympathetic and willing, he spent time and money in visiting urgent cases. In addition to his work as secretary, he had for three years the arduous task of managing the furniture department of the Union Stores, Fremantle. We understand that he is relinquishing that position to take up the management of the Empire Furnishing Co., Tivoli Bldgs., Hay Street, Perth. We wish our friend every success in his new undertaking.

Gone West: Jack Rowland, late of 1st Pioneers, and a member of the Railway Workshops Sub-branch, the President (Mr. R. Gibson) of which represented the League at the funeral. Jack, who was a good fellow, will be sadly missed by his digger pals.

The sympathy of his digger pals is with Bob Donald (4th Machine Gun Co.), also of the Workshops Sub-branch, who laid his wife to rest during the month. A large number of shop mates and diggers were present at the graveside. Secretary Bill Lovell representing the Sub-branch.

Don McNichol, who runs the billiard saloon in Hay Street, is an Easterner who has had a long and varied experience of the West. He prospected on the Goldfields in the nineties, fought in the Boer War, was once licensee of the Alhambra Catecomb, and went to the late war with the 11th Battalion. A man of weight in the community, Don carries all before him.

SONGS OF SOPHISTICATION.

By Benjamin Buttonstick.

If at first you cannot succeed
Cry, cry, cry again;
Muster every broken reed
Into the meaning-pen;
Macallum Smith's verbosity,
Teasdale's mediocrity,
Will keep succession's banner well unfurled;
Against the East we'll stir up hate
Till we make our golden state
The WHINE producing country of the world.

Cecil, Cecil, you're a nice boy, Cecil,
In your dinky suit of grey,
But the woman teacher, Cecil,
Though she be the weaker vessel,
Is demanding equal pay
With the mere man, Cecil,
(Thinks he's extra special)—
And we promise you to-day
That if you and Mr. Drew
Descend to raise our screw
We'll do equal work for equal pay.

There was a Senora of Spain
Who fell into a trance on a train;
The fireman and driver
Got down to resuscitate
Again and again and again.
I passed by your window,
The hour had struck nine,
My steps were unsteady,
My thirst was divine,
I whistled the signal—
Gadzoinks! It was hot—
You pushed up your window
And slipped me a pot.
An orchestra of six instruments, a number of prize competitions, and Mr. J. McLean as M.C., all combined to make the evening a great success.

BOULDER.

The past three months have been busy ones with the sub-branch, although quite a number of pessimists are of the opinion that Kalgoorlie and Boulder will soon be like other mining centres in this State—thing of the past. Our advice is: Do not listen to these croakers, as it is our firm opinion that better and brighter days are in sight, and that there will be a decided improvement in the mining industry during the coming year.

The Anzac Day celebrations in Boulder were a huge success, the branch being fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Cliff Sadlier, V.C., who gave the chief address at the commemoration service. His address was a treat to listen to, and he received a great ovation from the large concourse of people who were present. This was the first occasion that a V.C. was present at a commemoration service in Boulder. The Anzac smoke social held on Anzac night, was a huge success, the tables being beautifully decorated by the members of the women's auxiliary, and loaded with good things, to satisfy the inner man. The hall was taxed to its utmost seating capacity. A fine musical programme had been arranged, and everything went with a swing from start to finish.

Mr. and Mrs. Sadlier, who were the guests of the branch during their brief sojourn of four days, endeared themselves to all, and all were sorry that they could not remain longer.

The members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps entertained Mrs. Sadlier in the large reading room on Anzac night, and judging from the sounds of merriment that ensued, they must have enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Mr. and Mrs. Sadlier were tendered a civic reception at the Boulder Town Hall by the Mayor of Boulder (Mr. G. H. Rainford). On the eve of their departure for Perth, a farewell social was held in the Rest Rooms, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all.

Many new members have been enrolled during the past three months, and there are very few returned men in this district who are not members of the sub-branch.

There has been a large influx of returned men, both ex-A.I.F. and Imperial, arriving on the heels of late, from South Australia, seeking employment, and, as the majority arrive practically penniless, there has been a fairly heavy drain on the distress fund, as the branch issues meal tickets to the genuine cases, while endeavouring to secure employment for them.

Snapshots.

Seen in town during the past week, genial Jack Glover, and Vic. Carrington, both having been out on the trans. line for some time past. They keep up a regular correspondence with Secretary Vic O'Connell, who always has a welcome for the boys when they arrive in town on holidays, etc.

Frank Banks, the popular secretary of the Laverton sub-branch, also called at the office whilst passing through from Perth, where he had purchased a new motor truck. Frank has the mail contract at Laverton, and between times cuts sandalwood, prospectors' ore, etc., and his new truck will be a great asset to him in his line of business.

Bill Davis and Bert Uren have secured positions on the trans. line; also Ted Hames and many more members, who are indeed wise to get away from the mines before the dust gets its grip on them.

Harold Gorton, called at the office recently. Harold, who is a keen branch supporter, is off to Perth to enjoy a well-earned holiday.

Paddy Cain and Lew Williams are both hopelessly in the interests of the branch.

Pat's latest scheme is to purchase a "Tin Lizzie," and scour the surrounding districts for new members.

It has just been whispered that the Wee McGregor is still on the water waggon. But the boys are all ordering waterproffs in expectation of the deluge when he lets his head go.

Vice-President Bill Crump is a tower of strength. Bill never misses an opportunity to further the interests of the sub-branch.

PERTH.

"Syd" Longmore presided at the branch meeting on the 12th June. The branch committee submitted a report re the club proposal and its recommendation that the matter be not proceeded with was endorsed. A recommendation was passed to the State Executive that they forward a draft prospectus to all sub-branches. Messrs. Basto and Coleman were elected to fill vacancies as branch committee men. It was decided to instruct the finance committee to invest £1,500 of the general fund in the most suitable manner.

Two resolutions carried were:—"That the Executive be requested to approach the Government with the request that the leasing of Crown lands for the purpose of timber cutting be confined to Britishers only, and where they make grants to mining organisations to stipulate that the work in the mines be done by British labour." "That the Executive be requested to send a deputation to the Minister in Charge of the Forestry Department to insist that the distribution test be strictly enforced on all timber mills."

It was also resolved that the secretary be instructed to endeavour to arrange a lecture by some authority on Foreign Immigration, for the August meeting.
MT. HAWTHORN AND NORTH LEEDELLVILLE.

A meeting of the above branch was held in the Old Council Chambers, Oxford Street, Leederville, on Thursday, the 24th May, with Mr. G. Charles in the chair. An excellent progress report of the building fund committee was presented, and it was announced that Mr. Bader and party will give a variety entertainment shortly in the Leederville Town Hall, to promote funds for the new Soldiers' Memorial Hall. It seems most remarkable that with the large number of ex-soldiers in the district, many more do not come forward and join this progressive branch, and enjoy the fellowship and aspirations of its present members.

WEST PERTH.

The West Perth Branch has been practically in recess for the present month. Whilst it has not been altogether asleep, as it were, there are numerous cases upon which it would not be discreet to comment. The personal affairs of the individual are entrusted to the Committee, not only on a pledge of secrecy, but by the bond of faith which every soldier should place in his Branch of the League. At the present moment the League is busy in a case dealing with an appointment of an officer who has upwards to twenty years service with the State Government, and has served his country in both the South African and the Great War. Yet, it seems that this man does not leave a favourable impression on the powers that be." Of course, he may have presented a more glowing spectacle in 1918 when our citizens were vowing never to forget the soldier and his service to his country. We have since learnt from many sources that the flag wagging hero worship was cheap patriotism after all. This particular case the League has had to present to the Premier, for his measure of justice, which, we hope will be characteristic of his Government. We have no wish to incur the displeasure of those officials with whom appointments rest, but when we have a case of outstanding merit which does not impress those officials, we must, in defence of our honour, go further.

Much time and correspondence has been devoted to Commonwealth matters—principally in the Taxation and P.M.G. Departments. The treatment in some cases demands caustic remarks. It is unfortunate that things cannot run smoothly, and political assurances cannot be taken as final or recorded as authoritative when they are made. We have, repeatedly, had to heal the breach by producing correspondence in support of our requests. This should not be so. Some years ago the assurance was given to temporary employees (by a section of the Act) that after two years satisfactory service they had claim to permanent appointment. Of course, this ruling applies to the General Division only. We are now faced with the fact of men, with six and seven years service, now receiving the usual fortnight's notice of dismissal. Action has been taken by our Federal Executive to stay such drastic action pending further investigations. The state of affairs is certainly unsatisfactory to Commonwealth employees. Preparations are being made for the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held in July. The date has not yet been fixed, but it will probably be about the 20th of the month. The Secretary, Mr. P. L. Ross would remind members to give their Departmental Secretaries every assistance to bring subscriptions up to date in order that the affairs of the Branch may be put in order for the Auditors. There are only two pay days between the present time and the general meeting.

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not, is amply illustrated by the follow­
ing resume of recent work.

Repatriation.—A digger died suddenly
at Cook, on the Trans. Line, and had
never been in the League. Our secretary
got into touch with the widow and found
she was destitute, and arranged for the
Repatriation to fix up the funeral expenses.
He was in receipt of a small pension
Department, and asked if the widow could
not be placed on full pension, as the man
evidently died from war-caused disabili­
ties. Just recently we have been advised
that the lady and her children have been
placed on a full pension.
The sub-branch has paid out nearly £20
in relief for food for the widow and kid­
dies, for we refuse to see a digger's
kiddies go hungry while we have a few
pounds in our fund, even if the father
neglected to help in the good work with
other diggers' dependents.

In the matter of members, we have
been having a particularly good spin from
Repatriation, which department has amply
proved that it is there for the digger.

One case in point, that of a man whom
we now find another sub-branch claims
as a member, had been turned down for
a pension two or three times. We put
the case up and were successful in get­
ting him into the Repat. Ward in Perth
and he is now discharged as incurable.
This pension is now under review and
there seems little doubt that he will
be placed on a full pension.

Another case is that of a man who had
been in receipt of a very small pension.
The Department, at our suggestion, has
taken the man to Perth for investigation,
and we feel that his case will also prove
a genuine one.

One of our members was suffering from
an abscess on the liver, and after being
turned down once by Repat., we again
took the case up and had the complaint
accepted as war-caused. The pension has
not been adjusted because through care­
lessness on the part of some person in
Norseman, the man's papers were returned
to Repat. marked "deceased."

Another member of our sub-branch died
suddenly and the dependant being in
straitened circumstances, Repat. was asked
to bury the man, which they did, and
are now investigating the case with a view
to a pension for the widow.
The sub-branch has at several general
meetings passed a vote of entire confi­
dence in the way Repatriation is adminis­
tered in this State, and our Secretary is
firmly convinced that much of our success
in these cases is due to the fact that each
case is carefully investigated before be­
going passed on to the Department.
We do not send on a case unless we feel sure
of it, and of any which are beyond our
powers to investigate we inform the
Repatriation accordingly. This proves the most
satisfactory method, and the results speak
for themselves in that in the last nine
months we have not had a case turned
down.

Soldiers' Institute.—The Kalgoorlie Sub­
branch have now had the surmounting of
the tennis court at the Institute com­
pleted with the latest "damp course Mai­
thord," and it has proved an excellent
playing surface. To complete the job
the job will be allowed light installed for
night tennis, and the court is considered
one of the best equipped in the State.

Anzac Day.—Anzac Day in Kalgoorlie
was this year for the first time conducted
by the Sub-branch. The Executive asked the Municipal Council to hand over the
control to them, and from every side con­
gratulations poured in. The service was
not materially altered from previous years,
but the speakers were selected with care
and long tedious speeches not to the point
were obviated.

Over 150 diggers marched from the In­
stitute to the monument through the
main street, with the Hon. Secretary as
marshal, and a large number of South
African veterans, Girl Guides and Boy
Scouts helped as well as the march, which
was one of the best ever conducted loc­
ally. The speakers were the Mayor of
Kalgoorlie, Hon. Secretary Clarrie Fair­
ley (who stepped into the breach at the
last moment owing to unavoidable ab­sence at the last minute of the President),
the President of the South African and
Imperial Veterans' Association (Rev.
Henderson, late Grenadier Guards); and
Senior Vice-President, Mr. Col. Edwards,
presented the prizes for the essay com­
petition set out by the branch on "What
Anzac Day means to Australia." The
monument was covered with wreaths and
the whole service took exactly one hour.

Membership.—The branch is steadily
increasing its membership. Anzac Day
accounted for eight new members, and
each week sees new members rolling in.
The State Secretary has been asked for a
special roll of diggers' dependants, and
with the aid of the electoral roll the Sec­
tary hopes to get in touch with more
ex-Service men and so help to bind the
League tighter together.

Officers of the annual general meeting
was held a few months ago, and the
following officials elected.—President, Cr.
H. A. Kingsbury; vice-presidents, Col. Ed­
wards and Dr. Stacy; hon. secretary, Mr.
T. C. Fairley; treasurer, Mr. J. C. Hutchi­
sen, auditor, Mr. Griff Richards; com­
mitteemen, Messrs. Bruce, Williams, De
Passey, Roots, Gribble, Riley, Donaldson,
Manners, Thomas, Finch, Chambers,
Palmer. The balance sheet disclosed a
very satisfactory state of affairs. The
returning officer, Mr. T. C. Fairley, sent

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out ballot sheets, together with a stamped addressed envelope for return, with the result that a record poll was shown. The voting for President was very close, and for the executive one vote separated several members. The general meeting was well attended and affairs of the sub-branch were watched with lively interest by the members.

With the increase of interest in gold mining there is no doubt that in a short time things will boom; in fact, there is not an empty house procurable in the district at present. Work is still scarce, but in a few months things are sure to improve.

NAREMBOEN.

This sub-branch has now achieved a very important factor towards furthering the progress and growth of the R.S.L., and that is having completed the building up of a local Club.

Through the efforts of this branch, a crane has been built for Narembeen Siding, and by the time this report goes to print, the crane should be erected.

Repatriation Medical Officer visits Narembeen on 25th June.

The tipping competition run by this sub-branch should have the support of every member. Proceeds go towards the Narembeen Club fund. This sub-branch has been successful in getting a few loans granted to soldier settlers. Digger farmers have from time to time desired the services rendered by Mr. Weedenbach. The Chief Veterinary Officer at the Agricultural Department, Perth, has verified that Mr. L. P. Weedenbach is a qualified registered veterinary surgeon. Farmers desiring him to call can leave word at the local R.S.L. Office.

Next general meeting, Friday, June 29.

NANNUP.

Annual Sports Meeting.

May Day turned out glorious and fine for the R.S.L. Sports. It was a mixed programme suit all tastes. The Spanish Bull fight was the only item missing, but the boys had had their surfeit of fighting and the deletion was a thoughtful inspiration. The big tree fallers from the bush, great herculean fellows that the movie attendants among the fair sex give all their eyes to when pictured—great browned bodies and outstanding muscle development—were all in, saw and axemen, limbered with tools of their calling, and how good-natured they were. Let their defeat as big in heart as in muscle. Les Dono van, a six-footer and typical Australian, was on scratch in the initial log chop, and he put up a gallant fight—only seconds dividing the winners. Charlie McLoughlin winning by a stroke from Mitchell. These two axemen reversed the order in the 16ins. chop, only a second again separating them. They both were in to congratulate the scratch man on his fine work and close finish.

The big tree fallers from the bush—workers, and the spirit of its own members, filled in May Day as intended by them in their initial Sub-Branch meeting. Prominent officers were: Charlie Hutton, Secretary; Dr. Andrews, Billy Blythe, Presidents; Sandy Begg, Arthur Longbottom, Joe Shепherd, Jeff King, and Andy Struthers, with Jim Logan amongst the fallers.

The Married Ladies’ Race brought forth a good betting field; 16 faced the starter. The Old Buffers’ Race brought out 20 entrants. Andy Struthers was scarred, the airman of the Roads Board 1 yd.—his colt’s performance in Sheffield and Sprint won him the back mark. A false start gave Hughes a fine break on the rails, but a recall was voiced, and after a good race Jack McCarthy won with Struthers close up. Children were well catered for, their items filling in between the wood-cutting events. The sensational tree climbing event that was the gem on the bush-workers’ programme, recently was eliminated owing to danger risks, but plenty of other events kept the fun going. £24 was taken on the gate, this fund augmented from dance held in the evening.

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NOTICE: Owing to our increasing business in Western Australia, we have found it necessary to move to more commodious premises. NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:

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SECOND FLOOR, "SHEFFIELD HOUSE."  HAY STREET, PERTH