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Aug. 24, 1928

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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 communications contained in this journal is embodied in the published minutes of Executive Meetings, and all other communications which are acknowledged as such in their text.

August 24th, 1928.

WIDENING THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

When everything appears to be going well with us, and folk are putting us upon the basis of a national movement, the time is ripe for a mental and moral stock-taking, lest we fall into that state of smug self-satisfaction which is the fore-runner of stagnation and disaster. That time has arrived in the history of the League.

So far the League's history has been one of noble achievement, and the benefits secured for returned men and their dependents are many. There are other such benefits, yet not in the circle circumscribed by the Melbourne Branch, would take up six columns of the "Listening Post." In securing so much for our comrades, our organisation has done well, but there is still more to be done. We have complied with the terms of our constitution in part only, and there is a growing tendency on the part of the general public to regard us as a mere benefit society, a species of Diggers' Union. If, through any slowness on our part, that attitude remains uncorrected, the League's sphere of influence will be seriously restricted, and will continue to diminish.

While actively concerning the interests of returned men, the League, to maintain its position as a vital force in national affairs, must function in other directions, and must in short, indulge in other useful and national work of value and importance. There are many problems of national importance upon which the three existing political parties are agreed fundamentally, however far they disagree regarding methods of administration. The League, by virtue of its independence with respect to party machines, can not only help materially with suggestions and advice, and if stronger, could even affect policy.

But this consumption, however, devoutly to be wished, cannot be achieved without a materially increased membership. The spearhead in itself is mere potential energy, and is unavailing without the thrust behind it to give it force and direction. There are far too many returned men outside the fold. We have it on the authority of a member of the Federal Executive, that the membership throughout Australia is less than 20 per cent. of the total number of returned men, and in some states, particularly in the two largest, the percentage is far smaller. If a rural district like Mt. Barker can maintain a hundred per cent. membership, surely city sub-branches can follow suit. We realise that sub-branch committees do their best in this direction by means of circularisation and the like, but, too often, circulars are tossed aside unread. The personal touch is lacking. Each League member should constitute himself an active canvasser for the League, institute a sort of "Catch my pal" movement on the League's behalf, and work upon the non-members until they join up. The subscription rate of 10/- a year need debar nobody, it is a mere ten pence a month, the price of two long beers in this State. Surely men who made such sacrifices for their country in war time will not quibble over denying themselves a couple of beers or an ounce of tobacco each month on behalf of their comrades in time of peace.

From motives of self-interest alone, every returned man should be an active member of the League. General Jess, speaking of the purposes of the League at a recent luncheon of the Press Sub-Branch, pointed out that this year thousands of young men and women are being enrolled as electors who were mere children in 1914. A new Pharaoh is arising who knew not Joseph and the coat of khaki colour will fade in significance as the years roll on, should we slacken in the work of keeping the sacrifice of the digger and the ideals of the League fresh in the minds of the rising generation. The General also pointed out that the existing constitution of our country with its parliamentary and other democratic institutions is adhered to by all three of our political parties, and that such constitution and institutions can be abolished only by revolutionary violence. The only individuals in Australia who advocate revolutionary violence as a political expedient are those who are inimical to the digger, and out of sympathy with his ideals. Consequently it is only under the existing constitution that it will be possible for the digger to retain his privileges.

Quite early in the history of the League there were attempts to insert the wedges that would split returned men into religious and political factions. Two rival leagues were formed, one under the aegis of a religious denominations, the other under that of a political party. We readily acquit the founders of any sinister intent, but such tactics were destructive and could only play into the hands of persons hostile to those ideals which motivate the League. Fortunately these bodies gained little support, even in the states where they were formed, and are now defunct. Nevertheless, the purblind optimist and the one-eyed partisan will venture to deny that there are sinister forces at work in this country, the objective being the overthrow of the existing political-social system. A strong vital League actively living up to its own constitution, especially that part of it which inculcates loyalty to Australia and to the British Empire, should prove a successful resistant to those corrosive influences, which, because they were members of the down-trodden masses in European countries where liberty has always been an unknown quantity, have
the ridiculous effrontery to presume to show us, the political heirs of Hampden and Milton, the road to freedom. To strengthen the League's hands, and to augment its influence and prestige, is the first essential. For the individual interest, for the common good, the one implies sane leadership, the humanly possible, is the first essential. The other team spirit and the repression of disunity within the branch, and strained relations with the Federal Executive. The League has been singularly fortunate in our office-bearers, not only in the senior officer of the Forces list is a returned soldier of Australia his debtor. Captain Dyett has at all times possessed the regard and the confidence of this State Branch of the League, and although the two large State Branches of N.S. Wales and Victoria have recently been in conflict with the Federal President, the W.A. Branch has supported his particular viewpoints. We feel, however, that the time is now ripe for a big drive to be made throughout the Commonwealth to consolidate the forces of the ex-service men within the R.S.L., and if our great war leader, General Sir John Monash, would agree to be placed in supreme command of our organisation, we believe that his high standing in the community, together with his great personal driving force, would act as an inspiration to all, and lead us far along the track towards the desired objective. Knowing Mr. Dyett as we do, we feel that he is too big a man to misunderstand our motives, and that if the suggestion appeals to him as being possible of achievement, he would take the initiative to bring about its consummation. If General Monash were appointed as Grand President, there would still be unlimited scope for a man of Mr. Dyett's singular attainments within the movement, possibly as Chairman of the Federal Executive Council. Colonel Collett instanced three: General Sir John Monash, Sir John Gellibrand, and Sir Neville Smyth, V.C. All three are available, and the last mentioned would be our liaison with ex-Imperial Service men now resident in Australia. Senior officers are naturally reluctant to set themselves upon the League, which has always been considered the "diggers' own show." In one particular State, had the legend, "No Brass Hats Wanted," been painted on the office door, this attitude could not have been more clearly indicated. Therefore, generals and other senior officers paid their subscriptions and retired gracefully into the background. Nevertheless, we feel sure that there are many gentlemen whose war service was distinguished, whose mental calibre and present status in our public life are alike outstanding, who would be willing and able to play a more active part in the affairs of the League, if invited to do so. Their very names would serve as a rallying point to wavering members, and the League would gain an added prestige as did the B.E.S.L. under the leadership of such men as the late Earl Haig and his successor, Lord Jellicoe. What benefits the League must benefit Australia, for with united prestige, full membership, sane and vigorous leadership the R.S.S.I.L.A. will prove one of the greatest factors for public good that this country has yet seen.

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STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS
1st August, 1928.
Apologies were received from Messrs. Wells and Nye.

Community of Interest Sub-Branches.—The report in this connection was deferred. Mr. Riley was appointed to the Committee, vice Mr. Nye.

Federal Correspondence.—War Pensions Appeal Board.—Letters from the Federal President in connection with the appointment of an Appeal Board were read and received. They stated that the Federal Government accepts the principle of an Appeal Board and would make enquiries from other Dominion governments who had such an institution, so that the Board when appointed should be constituted on the best possible basis.

Victorian Capitation Fees.—Letters from the Federal Executive concerning the payment of fees by the Victorian Sub-Branch were read and received.

Invitation.—Maylands Sub-Branch: The Maylands Sub-Branch extended an invitation to one or two representatives to attend their meeting on the 22nd August. Messrs. Riley, Tyler, Lovell and the State Secretary accepted.

State War Memorial.—A circular was received from the State War Memorial Committee, requesting assistance to establish a fund for the purpose of erecting tablets on the State War Memorial. After discussion it was decided that the matter remain in abeyance for the present.

Flag Staffs on War Memorials.—The Spearwood Sub-Branch sought a ruling as to whether it was permissible to erect State President. He addressed delegates at length on the present Constitution of the Federal office, and, after discussion, by other members of the Executive, it was moved by the State President, seconded by Mr. Sadlier, that the following items be included on the Agenda Paper for the forthcoming State Congress:

1. Rule 55, page 20, be amended by inserting after the word “held,” in line 4, the words “at least once in every three months.”

2. Rule 63, page 23, delete the words “the President shall during his term of office reside in the city in which the Head Office of the League shall for the time being be situated.”

3. That no Branch or Sub-Branch shall without the sanction of the Federal Executive circularise or correspond with members or a member of the Commonwealth Parliament in regard to any matter mentioned in or covered by Rule 2 of the Constitution of the R.S.L.L.A., and which matter may come within the province of the Federal Executive for action under the powers conferred by Rule 61, particularly clause (i).

Alteration to Constitution.—Moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Lovell, that the following be included as an item on the Agenda Paper for the forthcoming State Congress:—“That the Sub-Rule 5 of Rule 19, page 49, be deleted.” Carried.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that the following be included as an item on the Agenda Paper for the forthcoming State Congress:—“That the Sub-Rule 6 of Rule 14, page 45, be amended to read as follows:—If the annual or half-yearly subscription of any member remains unpaid for three months after it becomes due his name shall be struck off the list and he shall thereafter cease to be a member of the W.A. Branch.” Carried.

Imperial Organisation.—The Secretary reported that a wire had been received from the Federal President requesting this

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a flag staff on their war memorial, and if so, the correct procedure for flying the flag. It was pointed out that provided the flag was only hoisted on commemoration days, the suggestion was quite in order. The reply to the letter was left in the hands of the President.

Hodgkin’s Disease Cases.—The Secretary read a wire and communication from the Federal Executive which advised the acceptance of the death of C. Glenroy and E. C. Lawrence from Hodgkin’s Disease as due to war service.

Constitution Federal Executive.—This matter had been deferred from a previous meeting to allow the attendance of the

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State Branch's decision in connection with Imperial organisations. The State President had replied by lettergram pointing out that as ex-Service immigrants become Australians and their interests are identical with ours, they should join local Sub-Branches of the League. The action of the President was endorsed.

A further letter from the Federal President was received in this connection in which he drew attention to Resolution 55 of the Third Biennial Conference of the B.E.S.L., which gave the opinion that constituent organisations could form with advantage, where necessity arose in their territory. Sub-Branches within the local organisation for men served in Imperial or Dominion forces.

It was moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Watt, that whilst expressing no antagonism to Resolution 55, passed by the Third Biennial Conference of the B.E.S.L., the position as between A.I.F. men and ex-Imperial men in W.A. is of such an amicable nature and of such a mutual advantage that there is no necessity for departing from the existing state of affairs. Carried.

Carnamah Sub-Branch.—A letter was read and received from Mr. G. K. Ryder, who represented the Executive at a smoke social held by the Carnamah Sub-Branch on the 14th July. His report was received and the Secretary was instructed to convey the thanks of the Executive to Mr. Ryder and also congratulate him on his appointment to the presidency of the Carnamah Sub-Branch.

Empire Shopping Week Council.—A circular was received from the Australian Association of British Manufacturers requesting that two delegates be appointed to represent the League at a meeting to be held of organisations concerned for the purpose of forming an Empire Shopping Week Council, on lines similar to that already established in Victoria. The matter was referred to the Committee already appointed in connection with Inter-Empire Trade.

Settlement Ex-Imperial Soldiers.—The Secretary read a communication from Colonel Manning, of Australia House, London, in connection with this matter. Colonel Manning requested further information and the matter was left in the hands of the State Secretary for action.

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

Finance Committee.—Mr. Tyler submitted a report of the Finance Committee held on the 18th July. The report was received and adopted.

Club Premises.—Mr. Tyler further reported on behalf of the House Committee and Finance Committee, to whom the matter of club premises had been referred. He recommended that it be a recommendation to the State Congress that (1) it be decided to postpone indefinitely the question of securing club premises for the following reasons:—(a) The Soldiers' Institute is now the property of the League, (b) the lack of interest displayed by Sub-Branches in response to a circular sent them in connection with club premises, and that (2) the funds now lying in trust to the club account be used for repairs, alterations or additions to the Institute as and when required. The report was received and adopted.

House Committee.—Mr. Philip reported on behalf of the House Committee and stated that the Dining Room had opened on the 30th ultimo.

Art Union Committee.—The Secretary reported on behalf of the Art Union Committee. The report was received and adopted.

Employment Bureau.—The report of the operations of the Employment Bureau for the preceding month was received and adopted.

Unemployment in Perth.—The President reported on a meeting he had attended of representative citizens in the Council Chambers, Perth, which meeting had been called for the purpose of relief of the employment situation at present prevailing. The report was received.

Mons Service.—It was stated that Mons Service would be held in St. George's Cathedral on August 12th. As many members as possible were asked to attend. It was also agreed that Unit Associations be invited to be represented at this service to do honour to those who had fallen.

Unit Associations.—Mr. Tyler, on behalf of the Engineers' Association, reported that his Association had called a meeting of representatives from all unit organisations to discuss matters to their mutual benefit. He requested representation from the Executive. The Committee already appointed, Messrs. Riley, Longmore and Margolin, were asked to attend. The meeting will be held on the 16th August in the Soldiers' Institute.

West Perth Sub-Branch.—Rev. C. L. Riley reported on his visit to West Perth Sub-Branch.

Midland Junction Sub-Branch.—Rev. C. L. Riley reported on his visit to Midland Junction Sub-Branch.
North Perth Sub-Branch.—Mr. Tozer reported on his visit to North Perth Sub-Branch.

Repatriation Board.—Mr. Watt delivered a report on the activities of the Repatriation Board.

Pensions Committee.—Rev. C. L. Riley was appointed to the Pensions Committee, vice Rev. E. H. O. Nye.

15th August, 1928.

Present.—Messrs. Collett, Riley, Philip, Watt, Longmore, Shaw, Yeates, Cornell, Tyler, Pady, Wedd, Bader, Lovell, Margaret, Tozer, and Hunt.

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

Community-of-Interest Sub-Branches.—Mr. Watt reported on behalf of the Committee appointed to consider the matter of Community-of-Interest Sub-Branches. Mr. Paty, a member of the committee, submitted an addendum, and permission was granted to attach it to the report. Moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Yeates, that the report be adopted for the information of Congress. —Carried.

Belmont Sub-Branch.—Following on the above report, an application by the Belmont Sub-Branch to change its name was considered. It was moved by Mr. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Lovell, that permission be granted to change the name of the Branch to the “Poultry and Dairy Producers’ Sub-Branch.” —Carried.

Governor-General.—The State President reported that the Governor-General would arrive in Perth on the 28th inst. and would depart again on the 30th. Arrangements had been made to entertain him at a luncheon at the Soldiers’ Institute on Wednesday, 29th inst., at 1 p.m. Invitations were extended to members of the Executive to attend and also to members of the Metropolitan Sub-Branches.

Federal Correspondence.—Sub-Normal and Derelict Cases.—Letters were received from the Federal Executive showing copies of correspondence from the Prime Minister’s Department and the Repatriation Commission concerning Sub-Normal and Derelict cases. The letters were received and approved. —Carried.

Anzac Day.—The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a letter from the Tasmanian State Branch, in which it was stated that efforts were being made by the Chamber of Commerce in Tasmania to alter the observance of Anzac Day from the Sunday nearest that date. The letter went on to say that it was understood that the matter would go before a conference of the Chambers of Commerce throughout Australia, and requested that representations should be made to the right quarter in this State expressing the views of the League. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Commonwealth Housing Scheme.—The Federal Executive forwarded a communication showing copy of one from the Prime Minister’s Department in connection with the Commonwealth Housing Scheme. The letter was received.

Anzac Avenue.—Copies of correspondence were received through the Federal Executive from the Home and Territories Department concerning the inclusion of the names of “Anzac Place” and “Anzac Avenue” in the nomenclature of Canberra. The letter was received.

Federal Congress, 1928.—The General Secretary advised that in all probability Federal Congress would be held in Sydney on Thursday, 8th November next. The matter was received and approved by the Executive and forwarded copy of a letter from the B.E.S.L. —Carried.

Patron in Chief, B.E.S.L.—The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a communication from the B.E.S.L., which showed messages conveyed to His Majesty the King from various “member” organisations of the League on his accepting office as Patron in Chief. The letter was laid on the table for the information of delegates.

Case of Distress.—The Federal Executive forwarded copy of a letter from the B.E.S.L., with enclosures requesting that investigation be made into a case of distress at Cottesloe which had been reported to them. The matter was referred to the Trustees of the Relief Fund.

Invitations.—Kirup Sub-Branch.—The Kirup Sub-Branch advised that they would be holding a social in about four weeks’ time, and requested members of the Executive to attend and also to fix a date. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch.—The Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch extended an invitation to a re-union to be held on November 10th. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Employment Incapacitated Men.—The State Secretary read a communication from Sir George Pearce, upon whom a deputation from the League had waited concerning the employment of incapacitated men. The matter was under consideration.

Amendment to Traffic Act.—The Merredin Sub-Branch stated that the Public Works Department had announced its intention of amending the Traffic Act and to introduce a clause dealing with heavy traffic, forbidding the use upon roads of any vehicle with a weight exceeding 20 cwt. per wheel. They pointed out that this would inflict some inconvenience on settlers, particularly in the summer months, when wheat carting was in progress, and requested the Executive to approach the Minister on the matter.

It was moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. Wells, that the Merredin Sub-Branch be informed that the Executive will favourably consider their request and will also ask for the co-operation of the member for their district. —Carried.

Ex-Imperial Organisations.—Following upon the resolution carried at the last Executive meeting in connection with this matter, a letter was written by the State President to the Federal President on the same subject which was read and the President’s action endorsed.

Inter-Empire Trade.—The Secretary requested permission to refer the matter to Congress. Permission was granted.

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 meeting of the Finance Committee held on 1st August, 1928, was received and adopted.
Club Premises.—It was decided that the report submitted in connection with club premises to the last meeting be included on the agenda for the forthcoming State Congress.

Art Union Committee.—The State Secretary read a report on behalf of the Art Union Committee in connection with the present Art Union. The report was received.

Women’s Auxiliaries.—Rev. C. L. Riley submitted a report on behalf of the Committee appointed to consider the holding of a Women’s Auxiliary Conference. The report recommended that a conference be held for October 2nd, the day preceding the Annual League Congress, at 10 a.m. Moved by Mr. Wedd, seconded by Mr. Bader, that the report be adopted.—Carried.

Mr. Cornell then stated that he had re-drafted the by-laws relating to Women’s Auxiliary Branches. It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Lovell, that the proposed by-laws be tentatively accepted by this Executive, and submitted to the Conference of Women’s Auxiliaries, and their adoption be recommended.—Carried.

Agenda Committee.—Mr. Cornell reported on behalf of the Provisional Agenda Committee. The report was received.

Trans-Australia Flight.—It was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Philp, that this Branch of the League heartily congratulate their comrades, Squadron-Leader Kingsford-Smith, Flight-Lieut. Ulm and the other members of their crew, on their successful flight across Australia, which, following upon their epoch-making journey across the Pacific, has further enhanced their prestige and the standing of the nation in the eyes of the world.—Carried.

Kojonup Sub-Branch.—Mr. Cornell and Mr. Yeates reported on their visit to Kojonup. The report was received.

South Perth Sub-Branch.—Mr. Tyler reported on his visit to the South Perth Sub-Branch smoke social. The report was received.

Mons Service.—The State President having attended the Mons Service on behalf of the Executive, submitted a report which was received.

Concloision.—Mr. Sadler had submitted the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Watt and carried: “That a letter of condolence be forwarded to Mr. Vic. O’Grady, Secretary of the Building Sub-Branch, in his recent sad bereavement.”

Nedlands Park Sub-Branch.—Mr. Bader reported having attended Nedlands Park Sub-Branch. The report was received.

32ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION

The Association’s annual reunion was held at Keough’s Hall, Perth, on Saturday, July 21st, and was attended by over one hundred, which is a record for the Association, and speaks well for a body consisting of only two companies.

A very merry evening was spent and very interesting and amusing stories and speeches were listened to. The President (G. V. Abjornson) was in the chair, the principal guests being General Sir Talbot Hobbs, General Jess, and representatives from every battalion association, including the South African and Imperial.

Great credit is due to the committee for their good work in organising such a successful evening, and many congratulations were tendered to the hon. secretary (Bob Alexander) for his excellent work.

A general meeting of members of the Association will be held in the Soldiers’ Institute Board Room on October 11th, at 8 p.m., at which, in addition to a large attendance of city men, it is expected to have present many comrades from the country. In addition to general business, the election of officers will take place.

28TH BATTALION NOTES

The hon. secretary of the Association reports that one of his most pleasing duties is that of replying to letters received from ex-members of the Battalion, who, being far away, write for news of the old crowd. This month’s mail included greetings to old pals from Ernest A. Arndel, now in Singapore, and from Gus Westhead, who reports his progress on the Dried Fruits Front at Red Cliffs, Victoria. Gus was well known as one of that cheery band of battalian runners, and his ability on the football field helped to make the 28th Battalion team one of the best in the A.I.F. Gus has been seeking news of his old pals, “Barney” Murphy, “Jumbo” Pike and Co., and the secretary must have been in particularly fine form, as his reply to Gus ran to six pages.

Jack Scouler (the original Sig. officer) is also at Red Cliffs, sowing sultanas, cultivating curants, raising raisins and huring lemons.

As the R.S. Institute Dining Room has been re-opened, the August luncheon will be held there on the 28th of the month, between noon and 1 p.m. Past luncheons have been held from 1 to 2, and the change of hour has been made to give opportunity to some who previously may not have been able to attend. A good muster is expected.

“Battalion History” sales have been active during the month, and anyone desiring a copy should get in touch with Secretary Kahan, of River Street, South Perth.

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION

The 8th annual reunion of THE regiment will be held at the Assembly Hall, Pier Street, during Show Week, on Tuesday, October 9th, commencing at 8 p.m. A pleasant evening in the company of the best of old comrades is a certainty, and all long-sufferers, Camel-eros and Imperial Cavalry are invited to attend. A good programme is being arranged and a big roll-up is expected.

Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Sweetapple is far from well these days, the privations of the war and the malaria germ, having played havoc with his constitution.

16TH BATTALION NOTES (By “Honk.”)

What’s in a Name? Well, sometimes there is more in a name than it seems. The 16th Battalion Association thought when they sought, and were granted, an interview with Sir George Pearce a short time ago. The object of this deputation was to perpetuate the name of the unit with which they served, by requesting that a Commonwealth Military Force unit, bearing the title of 16th Infantry Battalion, be established in this State. It is indeed pleasing to be able to say that Sir George, favourably impressed with the mission of the deputation, has promised his support; and so it is hoped that the oblong navy blue and white shoulder patch of “The Old Sixteenth” will again be evident on parade days in the very near future.

The 16th Battalion A.I.F. is the second senior infantry unit in the State, and it is with a feeling of pleasure that the movement to keep the name alive through generations to come is announced. “The Old Sixteenth” is practically the old 86th Infantry of pre-war days, and that in itself justifies the perpetuation of the name, without adding its very senior place in the W.A. units of the then A.I.E.F., its enviable active service record or grand traditions.

It has been said by one who should know that the “16th Battalion History,” which the writer is almost ready for publication, as read and where necessary verified as correct by him, is the most
correct and finest unit history possible. This publication ("The Old Sixteenth") shows neither fear nor favour, gives credit where credit is due and records a true account of the activities of the unit concerned from the "depot days of 1914 onwards. A really creditable work which will favourably surprise many when publication is completed.

The method of financing "The Old Sixteenth," by securing 100 subscribers at £5 each, has met with a large measure of success, and already more than half the desired sum has been subscribed. Since last writing on this subject, Secretary Yeldon has had the pleasure of sending receipts to the following public spirited members of the 16th Battalion: R. Hammond, Tom Tandy, V. B. Wilton, Steve Timewell, A. Mansbridge, L. J. Goldie, "Dad" Fraser, Alex, B. Gloster, Chas. Taylor, W. L. Biggs, F. J. Parker, and Vic. Ketterer. At this rate it will not take long to absorb the limited number of especially bound and inscribed copies available to the first hundred to respond to the "Give us a Fiver" slogan of the History Committee. Quite a number of diggers have availed themselves of the instalment payment system in order to secure one of the subscribers' copies on offer, and a few more are available. Those who desire same should write, enclosing a remittance, to R. C. Yeldon, 25 Clotilde Street, Mt. Lawley.

The annual reunion will be held at the R.S.L. again this year, and will take place on Thursday, 11th October. Plans for a "something different" reunion are well in hand, and, knowing the ability of this Association Committee to "issue" high quality fare of vocal, edible and liquid varieties, the diggers can be sure of something formidable in the way of an enjoyable "hop over" on the 11th of October next.

BRITISH UNITED SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

The British United Services Association are very grateful to the "Listening Post" for the very fine notice given to their activities in the July issue. It assisted largely to make their Mons Sunday Parade the outstanding success that it undoubtedly was. We hope the smoke-o of the 20th will also prove all that they hope it to be.

A general meeting will be held at the R.S.L. Headquarters on Monday, September 24th, at 8 p.m. Members and others interested who have served in the British Forces are requested to be in their seats by 8 o'clock sharp, to ensure a successful meeting.

The Executive are pleased to report an increase in membership daily. The next parade will be with the South African Veterans on their Annual Memorial Service day, probably about November 18th. Watch the press.

SONGS OF SOPHISTICATION

(By Benjamin Buttonstick.)

Don't sing them songs of Araby,
Nor arias by Gluck.
Nor classic stuff from Guarany
And Verdi. Sing them muck.

But should some biographer indiscreet
Release from the bag the cat,
We'll tell the world with righteous heat,
I never, never said that.

These writers stoop to such deceit,
I never told you that.

Said a mademoiselle of Strascele,
To the Digger who sat at the wheel,
"No compris! Mais non!
Ze joy-ride no bon,
Votre motaire's zee naughty-mobile."

The house was a detached one,
That cot wherein I camped;
But every job within that cot
The builder's men had smashed.
The roof is cracked and leaking,
And now I'll have to roam.
Let some day it fall in on me,
My wee War Service Home.

No rest, no leisure, Lucy knew,
She scrubbed the kitchen floor,
Did all the rooms and laundry, too,
This skinny, tired and poor,
But Lucy learned a thing or two—
She got a job in town;
She flaunts it now in high-heeled shoe
And microscopic gown.

She likes a yarn, she smokes and sips
The beverages hard;
I had this straight from Lucy's lips
One evening on the 'Nade.

Now the merry spring is here,
Tara la la, Tara la la;
Medicine's becoming dear,
Tara la la, Tara la la.

Flu' and colds, with cough and sneeze,
Drive us to the pharmacies;
Druggists dance and shout and sing,
For they love the Spring.

Life is mostly froth and bubbles,
Go two royals and someone doubles;
Hold three aces, bet your shoes,
And some cow knocks you with four twos.

The Hotel Majestic, Applecross

Boating Bathing, Fishing, Tennis

Afternoon Teas Specially Catered for

The house has been thoroughly renovated and refurbished. The fact that it is personally conducted by Tom Stack, of Fremantle, is sufficient guarantee of everything being first-class.

TRY OUR SPECIAL BRANDS of GREY LABEL & STAND PAST WHISKY

TOM STACK, Licensee and Proprietor

who is also to be found at Terminus Hotel, Fremantle
Independent Pensions Appeal Board

The League's effort during the past nine months to get an independent pensions appeal board established has borne fruit. The Prime Minister, in a recent statement, has accepted the principle, and information is to be obtained as to the working of such boards in other countries so that it should be constituted on the best possible basis. The following article bearing on the subject was kindly sent to us by the N.S.W. Branch of the League. It was written by Dr. V. Benjafeld, who was for many years departmental medical officer of the N.S.W. Branch of the Repatriation Department. He writes:

"The desire of the League for the appointment of a special medical advisory committee to deal with pension appeals does not arise from mere caprice or from any personal animus towards the Repatriation Commission or its officers: on the contrary, it is a request that, to appellants against adverse decision of the Commission, the Federal Government extend that procedure adopted by all Courts of Law, which prohibits any person, or persons, holding a judicial position from dealing with appeals against his colleagues.

"The Repatriation Commission is, for pension purposes, a quasi medicolegical judiciary whose immediate members have had neither medical or legal training; their decisions are based on evidence and clinical opinion obtained by their officers in the various States, and to this is added the advice of their headquarters medical officers: neither the members of the Commission nor their headquarters medical officers see the applicant personally, and if dealing with appeals against them, they can only have recourse in this respect to a newspaper, in an appeal direct to a Minister against refusal of retrospective pension, it consisted of a remark by the Minister, 'You leave it to me. Digger!' The appeal was successful and the Commission was at fault whichever way one regards the case—either the money should have been paid in the first place, or, if not, the Commission, supposedly independent of politicians, should have sent the Minister about his business.

"If the 'fresh evidence' be considered sufficient to warrant a reversion of the case, any further investigation is carried out locally, and the case is again submitted to the Commission: herein, as indicated earlier, lies another injustice, since the Commission itself deals with the appeal; any lawyer will appreciate the propriety of such a procedure and the man in the street would bristle with indignation were an attempt made to apply the principle to himself.

"I have just read the speech of the Hon. Minister for Repatriation, on 10th May, 1928, in answer to Mr. Coleman's request for a Select Committee to deal with this question, and I have been unable to find a single sentence referring to the principle involved; a goodly portion of the speech is devoted to an attempt to raise the bogey of 'medical problems' and about an equal portion of his own efforts in the interests of the returned soldiers, for which he has received thousands of testimonials, shall we say? To these may be added some sloppy sentiment about the distress of illness of the soldiers (not including V.D., we presume). He did mention the Medical Advisory Committee at whose door may be laid, in part, the necessity for the amending Act of 1922; this Committee consists of four highly respected Melbourne practitioners, two of whom have retired from active work in medicine and surgery respectively; they have acted as advisors to the Commission since 1920, and a large proportion of decisions are given on their direct or indirect advice; they are, therefore, in a position similar to the Commission when dealing with appeals; they have aided the Commission all along in formulating the Medical Policy of the Department, and, by the effluxion of time and close contact, are just as much Departmental Medical Officers as those doctors permanently employed, and far less independent than outside consultantssuch as Dr. Blackburn, in this State, and many others here and in other parts of Australia; these latter consultants, in addition, have the advantage of seeing the appellant in person, a large factor where much of his claim may depend upon his credibility or otherwise. There are men of unrestricte d qualification in each State, and many in many instances their opinions have been discounted by the Commission.

"In a measure we are in accord with the Minister in realising that about 90 per cent of the cases are purely medical, an added and very cogent reason for removing from the Commission, and giving to an Independent Medical Board the final hearing in appeals. The Commission itself has been utilised in Australia for dealing with claims for pension is not unlike, and no more sympathetic than, that previously obtaining in England and the other Dominions, and yet England with a much longer and wider experience found it necessary to appoint Independent Boards, as have both Canada and New Zealand.

"The question of the cost of such Boards need cause no anxiety; it could not possibly equal that of the present system, where much of the expense of investigation is quite wrongly allocated to medical treatment, and so hidden from public view; this alone runs into many thousands per annum in addition to the administrative charges. Further, it is nearly ten years since the war ended, and eight since the Commission was first appointed, and I know personally of cases where appeals have been in progress interminably over the whole of the latter period, and are still unattempted; such a state of affairs is expensive to a degree and is bad for ex-soldiers concerned; they have little confidence in the Commission's findings, especially where they know of many cases similar to their own where appellants have eventually succeeded, and the worry, even over the possibility of success, adds to their discomfort. If, on the other hand, their appeals can be handled by a Board of four unhampered and unbiased, even those who fail will understand that they have had a fair go, and their minds will, on this score, be at rest.

"The question of the cost of such a Board is open to debate; personally I am not in favour of a permanent board; when giving evidence before the Royal Commission in September, 1924, I advocated the institution of independent boards, and suggested that, in each State a list of medical practitioners qualified to deal with his case, and acceptable to the Federal Government, be supplied to each appellant and he be invited to choose any two of them; he and the Commission to agree to abide by their findings; such a procedure would give to the Government the first right of rejection and to the appellant the element of choice which would safeguard his interests. Any doctor who had previously seen the case or had been employed by the Repatriation Commission, would, ipso facto, be ineligible.
“On mature consideration I think it would be better to add a permanent chairman, preferably one with legal rather than medical training as in many cases experience in the weighing of evidence is a vital factor in arriving at a decision; in this respect the New Zealand procedure whereby the decision may be by a majority, one of whom must be the chairman, is very sound.

“This system would obviate much travelling, since only the chairman would need to move: further, much of the spade work, such as further clinical investigation could be completed in his absence, and the final hearing could then be effected by the joint board.

“It should be permissible for an appellant to have with him, free of charge to himself, a representative of the League or some other 'friend' competent to assist him in presenting his case, since many ex-soldiers have no idea what is required.

“It must not be supposed that all of the alleged 42,000 will appeal; many of these passed over long ago; many others have had the impossibility of their claims sympathetically explained to them and have realised the hopeless nature of their chances; still others made claims which they knew, from the beginning, were inadmissible; but the remainder, who still believe that they are suffering from war disabilities, would be better off with a final and irrevocable decision, even if it were unfavourable, provided that it were given by men independent of the Commission after an adequate presentation of each case. Experience in other countries, where the administration of pensions has so far been as sympathetic as in Australia, indicates that many of them would succeed.

“Referring back to the debate in the House of Representatives on May 10th, 1928, and to the resolution which ended that debate and which reads as follows:

“That this House is of the opinion that the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act as now administered provides the means whereby every pension claim which has been rejected by the Repatriation Commission can be placed before the Minister in Charge of Repatriation and receive full consideration by him, and accepts the assurance of the Government that in the event of the Minister finding it impossible to follow his present practice of personally reviewing every case submitted to him, steps will be taken to provide some equally effective means, preferably an independent appeal board, to safeguard the rights of ex-service men and their dependants."

“As the Repatriation Act definitely does not provide any means empowering the Minister to deal with any claim or appeal for pension, any action he may take in this direction is ultra vires. It may be presumed, therefore, that the latter portion of the resolution will be carried out, and some equally effective means, preferably an independent appeal board, created.

“We must admit having grave doubts as to whether the ex-service man will be better served with an independent appeal board than under existing conditions, and perhaps it is wise to look a little beneath the surface at this stage and carefully analyse the various points of view.

“A very vital point is that no matter how it is constituted we must be prepared for the fact that the decision of an appeal board would be final, i.e., no resurrecting a case once it has been dealt with, as is often the case to-day. We cannot agree with Dr. Benjafeld that if a man was refused by an appeal board he would be any more satisfied than the disappointed applicant is to-day. This finality would be good business from the departmental standpoint, but we prefer to think that there remains an avenue open for the production of further evidence whereby the appeal system is that there is no time limit placed on applications or finality on appeals.

“Another point of great importance is the suggestion that the applicant be permitted legal aid or other appeal or other representation before the appeal board. This naturally requires that the Department also have its representative present, so that in justice and equity points are perhaps brought forward which the applicant would prefer to be overlooked. Therefore there arises the position of plaintiff and defendant. We do not mean to infer that the Department or its officials would intentionally place itself as defendant, as in the main, past experience has given proof of sympathetic consideration, but it must needs be permitted to voice to the appeal board its reasons for disallowing the claim in the first place.

“Several men have been frequently availed of by the current system to obtain redress from the Commonwealth per medum of the law courts, but how difficult they have found it to reasonably prove their disabilities to have resulted from war service. This is what a court requires. Will an appeal board also require proof? It will be interesting to ascertain the experience of other countries. If it has proved beneficial, so much the better, but it is doubtful because no country in the world is granting anything like the percentage of pensions to returned soldiers that Australia is to-day. We know that everything in the garden is not lovely in Canada, which, in spite of (or it may be because of) its independent appeal board its Parliament has appointed more than one Royal Commission to investigate the operations of their pensions Act.

“It should also not be overlooked that political pressure has, rightly or wrongly, been frequently availed of by applicants and also the League itself. This avenue will naturally be closed when the final decision lies with an appeal board.

“On paper it may appear that the present system of appeal is clumsy, and that the appeal is from Caesar unto Caesar. The assessing of liabilities and their cause is largely a medical one, and an appeal from one medical finding is always dealt with by independent medical
THE MONTH

The Multilateral Pact

The lofty idealism displayed by the U.S.A., in endeavouring to keep European nations from fighting, when they should be earning the bare means to pay their war debts to Uncle Shylock, will find practical expression this month, when war is formally outlawed by the signing of the Kellogg Pact. This is an agreement whereby those nations, who suffered most during the last war and who are least likely to engage in a war of aggression, pledge themselves to refrain from resorting to war as an instrument of national policy.

The best that can be said of the Pact is that it is a step in the right direction, indicating a genuine desire and a sincere effort on the part of the signatories to prevent the recurrence of war on a large scale. Beyond that, it is nothing more than a pious resolution. The parties to the agreement have made necessary reservations with reference to the defence of their own territories, reservations which will prevent that reduction of armaments which is the corollary of the Pact. It may be mentioned in passing that, to date, disarmament conferences have reduced only those armaments which are either obsolete or frightfully expensive. So far there has been no effort to limit air-craft construction or tank-building.

It is expected that other nations will follow the lead of the Great Powers and sign the Pact later on, but the one Power likely to engage in a war of aggression, Russia, the world’s arch trouble-maker, is still inside the fold; while there is every indication of trouble in the near future between Poland and Lithuania, between Italy and Jugo-Slavia, and in Jugo-Slavia itself the Croats are aiming at separation and independence.

The term defence is a very elastic one. In every war of modern times both parties to the quarrel have angled for the moral support of the neutrals by endeavouring to prove the other side the aggressor. How can aggression be defined in the light of that axiom of strategy which asserts that the best defence is a vigorous attack? It was an American humourist who parodied Tennyson by saying—

"Thrice armed is he who has his quarrel just.
But ten times he who gets his blow in first."

Our war with peaceable little Denmark, early in the last century, was an instance of high-handed aggression being used as a measure of defence. Britain knew that Napoleon was on the point of compelling the Danes to use their navy against us, and checkmated him by stepping in and seizing the Danish fleet. In the last war the first operations in the defence of Australia and New Zealand were the occupation of Germany’s colonies in the Pacific.

Again, what measures are to be employed should a present or future signatory break the Pact? History presents a full record of broken treaties and the wars caused thereby. In 1914 Germany tore up "a scrap of paper", subordinating honour to the interests of higher strategy, and it cost the rest of the world over four years’ hard fighting, with its consent, an expenditure of blood and treasure, to bring Germany to a more reasonable frame of mind.

It is all very well—indeed, highly commendable—to outlaw war, but how can we compel war to remain outlawed?

In a sense, if as a gesture and a pious hope, the Multilateral Pact is a step in the right direction, it indicates a growing desire for universal peace, and while it may not achieve much material good, it certainly can do no harm.

JAPAN, THE U.S.A. AND US.

A recent cable reporting that Japan has suggested that Chinese relations, Japan’s Pacific expansion, and the various relations of Manchuria, including those with Australia, should be exempted from the new Japanese-American arbitration treaties, would appear to indicate that Japan is about to promulgate a new Monroe doctrine as far as Manchuria, the Pacific and Australia are concerned.

The reference to Australia in this connection is certainly an occasion for misgivings, and must be disquieting to those optimistic souls who so fondly hope that the U.S.A. would afford us any assistance beyond sympathy should our White Australia policy ever be seriously challenged.

With Manchuria and the Pacific, other than those territories over which we hold mandates, we are not directly concerned. With the British Commonwealth and the U.S.A., we are pledged to support the integrity of China, and have recently declared that they regard Manchuria as an integral part of China, it looks as if the Japanese are there to stay. Japan has spent millions in developing the Manchurian railways and has already engaged in war with Russia to prevent the latter from absorbing Manchuria and Korea. It is extremely unlikely that Britain and the U.S.A., either singly or in alliance, would undertake a war to oust Japan from that territory wherein she is so firmly entrenched. However, should the Nationalist forces pursue the defeated Northerners into that territory, and should Japan resist a quite legitimate effort to bring
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it, with the rest of China, under one
government, the two white Po-Paw's must,
by virtue of their declarations regarding
the integrity of China, accord the Na-
nionalist aspirations a moral support.

It is probably in recognition of this that
Japan looks southward for an outlet for
her surplus population, and a field for her
commercial investments.

Our present relations with Japan are
purely social and commercial, and there is
no earthly reason why they should,
now or at any future time, be discussed,
either for inclusion or exemption in any
articles between Japan and the U.S.A.

Japan is never likely to feel herself
bound to protect us from American
aggression. We are not incapable of
mit the

Japan

The wisdom of the latter course has
been made obvious by the recent broad-
casting of Melba's alleged advice to Dame
Clara Butt. It is the old story of the

correlation which, if it occurred at all,
was repeated by a third party. Beyond
irritating both Dames, little or no harm
was done by the indiscretion. It
provided the press with copy and the
public with amusement. The term "mad,"

we presume, refers to drawing-room songs
like Tosti's "Good-Bye," "Home, Sweet
Home," and "Oh, that We Two were
Maying," compositions which are includ-
ed in most concert programmes and which
are enjoyed even by highbrows. Both
ladies have used them with effect, pro-
viding audiences with that variety, that
light and shade, that would be lacking in
an all-classical programme, and render-
ing their own work less fatiguing in

the long run. It is well for both artists to
consider the Rousseau-like sentiment
which, when they have accomplished
their objective, will have been but a
momentary delight.

There is nothing of the shrinking violet
in Melba's composition, nor does excessive
humility characterise her attitude to-
wards her audiences; but there is a soft
spot in Australia's heart for her all the
same. It is regrettable that the dis-
closure should have been made just when,

making her farewell-farewell appearance
in this country, and in view of this con-
tingency, we would remind our readers,
majors, matrons, and even Dames of the
British Empire, that "Discretion is the
better part of indiscretion."

"Dancing Dolly Had No Sense."

Like the rabbit, the long-distance danc-
ing lunacy has reached us by way of the
Eastern States, and Perth has been wit-
nessing the efforts of two young men,
who would have been better employed
with an axe on a clearing contract, to
break the world's endurance record. Idle
curiosity in some cases, sadistic impulses
in others, induced numbers of the public
to pay their entrance money, thereby aid-

ing and abetting what was, to say the
least, a pitable and disgusting spectacle.

Dancing, in itself, is an exhilarating
exercise, an enjoyable pastime, which
stimulates neuro-muscular co-ordination
and improves deportment, but the efforts
at record-breaking are valueless
when they succeed, and, in any case, what
should be a pleasant and health-giving
exercise becomes, by its very intensity
and long duration, an injurious physical
strain. As such they should be prohibited
by law and the promoters prosecuted as
we prosecute those who overwork horses.

Like every other form of exercise, danc-
ing increases the functional activity of the
bodily organs; but these lengthy endur-
ance tests, by their very nature, retard
these functions to the physical detriment
of the individual, or necessitate their

Good Cheap Fruit
always procurable from

J. Brown's
(Late 11th Satn.)

Fruit Barrow

Opposite Padbury’s Buildings, in
Wellington St. (off Forrest Place)

Alhambra Bars

Basement Royal Arcade

Cr. Hay & Barrack Streets
PERTH

All Beer Direct from the Wood

M. De PEDRO, Proprietor
being performed under circumstances too disgusting to warrant description here.

Endurance dancing and other forms of freak contests, such as pie-eating and savoy-devouring championships, originated in the United States, where they have a great vogue with the adult morons of the great Republic.

The American Debaters.

The visit of the three young men from Bates College, Maine, who terminated their Australian debating tour in Perth, was a welcome change from the many undesirable features of American life which have been obtruded upon us so much of late. We could do with many more such visits, for if they do nothing else, they will correct those erroneous ideas of American social life which the untravelled Australian imbibes from the Hollywood film. Boot-legging, graft, and jazz-mania, though over-stressed by Hollywood, are no more the normal conditions of American life than are razor-slaughtering and civic scandals typical of life in Sydney. The intellectual American enjoys being lectured to, and takes a keen pleasure in listening to a public debate. The average citizen of the U.S.A. has a high regard for learning, and a veneration for the college diploma which is sometimes amusing. That is why freak colleges and correspondence courses flourish so in the land of the tree.

The three wise men from Maine are modest, genial, and extremely likeable young men, and we wish them every success in South Africa, where they make their next public appearance. Our own Varsity debaters acquitted themselves and it is gratifying to note that the redoubtable trio from Maine sustained their first defeat in this city.

A GENEROUS OFFER

Say, Digger, could you do with £500? "Could I what? Try me!" Well, here is your chance. Acting on behalf of the Spearwood Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association (mostly returned soldiers), our old friend A. E. Pady is offering you a chance to win £500 for the small outlay of 1/- per medium of a sweep on the Caulfield Cup. There are also many other prizes (see advt. in this issue). Tickets sold at the usual agencies, or books of 20, bearing the usual 5 per cent. discount, may be obtained direct from A. E. Pady, 21 Hill St., Fremantle. All profits will be devoted to the building fund.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL

It is desired to further inscribe on the South African War Memorial in King's Park the names of members of the West Australian Boer War Contingents who fell in the Great War (1914-1918). For some time the Committee of the South African and Imperial Veterans' Association has endeavoured to obtain these names, without success, and an appeal is now made to the relatives of such deceased soldier comrades to forward the particulars required as soon as possible. It is hoped to have the full list of names inscribed on the monument before the next Annual Memorial Service. Any communications on the matter should be addressed to the Secretary, c/o B. S. Phillips, No. 8. Second Floor, Economic Chambers, Perth.

H. M. (Tony) WOLFSN
(Late 32nd Batt.)
Sells Quality Fruit at Cheapest Prices
at his
Fruit Barrow
WILLIAM STREET, PERTH
Opposite Wesley Church

She—"How many cigarettes do you smoke a day?"
He—"Oh, any given number."

Working Wear for Menfolk at BAIRD'S

Men's Heavy Cotton Tweed Working TROUSERS, in dark shades; a good hard wearing line; 3 pockets. Big Bargain, 8/6.

Men's 8oz. Blue Denim TROUSERS, double seat and knee, double sewn, hip pockets, belt loops. Big Bargain, 7/11 pair.

Men's Heavyweight Blue Dungaree Bib and Brace OVERALLS, metal fittings, strongly made. Big Bargain, 10/6 pair.

Men's Strong Cotton Tweed TROUSERS, "Likewise," tailing seams, denim pockets, high rise. Our special in working trousers. 16/6 pair.

Men's Black Oilskin OVERCOATS, fully lined, stem cuffs and fronts. 30/- each.

Men's Fancy Cashmere SOCKS, fawn, grey; smart stripes, full sizes. Big Bargain, 2/6.

Men's Khaki Working SHIRTS, collar and pocket, double sewn throughout, heavy quality, full sizes. Big Bargain, 4/11.

Men's Black Mercerised Twill Working SHIRTS, strong reliable wear. Big Bargain, 4/11.

Men's All Wool PULLOVERS, heavy weight, in fawns, browns, blue, grey; with fancy coloured stripes. 13/6.

THE BAIRD'S CO. LTD.
Wellington to Murray St., Perth
PERSONALITIES

There passed away at the Perth Public Hospital on the 30th July an old 10th Light Horseman in the person of Jack M. Hellmrich. Jack, who was a member of the Railway Workshops Sub-Branch, had a son in the same unit who was killed in action.

Our sympathy is with Dick Geddes-in the recent loss of his father. Dick recently came to Perth to attend the reunion of his old Battalion, the 32nd, with which he served with distinction, holding the rank of Major. A popular and decent fellow is Dick.

The cause of Hodgkin's disease is unknown, and when C. Glenroy passed away as a result of contracting this complaint the Perth Sub-Branch applied for the acceptance of the death as being due to war service, without success. When E. C. Lawrence, who happened to have served in the same unit and lived under similar service conditions as his friend Glenroy, also contracted and died of this disease, further efforts to have the deaths accepted as due to service also failed. Feeling that he had a good case, Secretary George Mellor, of the Perth Sub-Branch, obtained numerous testimonies from medical men as to the probable cause of this dread complaint. A doubt certainly existed, but it was felt that the benefit of such doubt should be given to the widows, in conformity with the Repatriation Minister's oft-repeated statement regarding genuine doubts. In spite of repeated set-backs, George continued his "offensive" tactics, with the result that success has now been achieved, and two widows, at least, will draw full pensions from the date of the deaths of their respective husbands. The species of non-member of the League still exists who asks "What has the League done?"

Mt. Barker has lost its 101 per cent. membership and now reverts to a mere 100 per cent., as Major P. W. Dobson, M.C., late A. and Q.M.G. on District Base Headquarters, who became the plus one per cent. by joining the Sub-Branch when on a visit to Mt. Barker, has been transferred to Victoria.

Mr. Fred Lucke, of Narembeen, desires to sincerely thank the State Executive, local R.S.L., and the Ladies' Auxiliary, for floral tributes; also all those who sent personal expressions of sympathy in his sad bereavement.

Padre Eric Nye remains on the sick list. His sound counsel and cheery wit have been missed from the State Executive table, and we join with his host of friends in wishing Eric a speedy recovery.

Another well-known soldier and good fellow who at time of writing was seriously ill is Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Sweetapple. The "Truth" boys are hoping that Arthur will be sufficiently recovered to join them at their annual reunion social on October 9th.

MAJOR HUBERT PARKER,
Who was recently appointed President of the West Perth Sub-Branch. Major Parker was at one time State President, and his return to active interest in the League is welcome.
Peppies, Please!

A very modest crowd of entertainers are Pat Hanna and his Diggers, who, during their season in Perth, have added to the popularity achieved on the stage by the generosity with which they roll along and perform at R.S.L. functions. Last Anzac Day every member of the show turned out and marched with the unit nearest his own. For instance, Pat himself, who served with the Enzeds, fell in with the 16th. Jock Thompson, an original 42nd man, marched with the 44th, and so on. The average theatrical would have made a big publicity stunt, but Pat and his merry men did the thing so unobtrusively that very few to this day know of it. Pat was a "Loot" with the Enzeds. We hope he will not mind us stating that we say "Loot" advisedly, for he has a wonderful collection of war souvenirs, the geni of the lot being a German flag from Apia, which, as the attached ticket explains, was "Kindly stolen by Biewn. P. Hanna."

A Westralian who has returned to his own State with academic honours thick upon him is Dr. Hugh Fowler, of the Education Department, formerly Captain Hugh Fowler, of the 44th Battalion. A Master of Arts of our own Variety, he was Senior Master of the Albany High School when, two years ago, one of those Travelling Scholarships, which are the D.S.O's. of Australian 'variety life, was awarded him. He went to London and carried out research work in psychology with such distinction that the London University awarded him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Dr. Fowler, the "Listening Post" extends you heartiest congratulations and welcome home.

Dame Nellie and Dame Clara certainly have something to ponder about.

His Turn.

Husband—"The conditions of promotion are scandalous. Only a complete idiot gets appointed to a directorship."

Wife—"Never mind—your turn will soon come."

"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

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Readers can also help by patronising our advertisers and mentioning the journal when doing so.

This appeal is made without altruistic motive on the part of the proprietors, but with a genuine desire to better serve the ex-service men of the State.

Digger Fred Spargo has been playing the piano in Hoyt's orchestra, and, let it be whispered, Fred is beginning to acquire the middle-aged spread: An old A.I.F. pal spotted him during a performance and inquired for him, one of the front of the house staff, at the interval.

"Where's Mr. Spargo?"

"He's round behind," said the dainty little usherette.

"Yes," said the questioner, "I know what he looks like, but where's he gone to?"

Mary—"Yes, I always sleep with gloves on my hands, because it keeps them soft, you know."

Jack—"And do you sleep with your hat on?"

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PERTH LEGACY CLUB

Perhaps the most unselfish organisation of returned soldiers formed in Australia is that of the Legacy Club. The Perth Legacy Club was recently formed under the presidency of Lieut.-Colonel Charlie Lamb, its membership being limited to those who desire to serve and who in their controlling business or professional avocations have the particular capacity required for such service. The Club stands behind the R.S.L. and in no way overlaps the League's functions. The main care of members is the war orphan, the welfare of whom is their special legacy. Of some clubs formed in the Eastern States have done wonderful work in this direction, and already a number of war orphaned children have been suitably placed in employment by the local club and are being guided into the avenue of good citizenship by individual legates.

BLOOD WILL TELL

The Melba-Butt incident reminds me of a yarn that went the rounds of the Melbourne caravanserai some years before the war. Outside Flinders Street station Hogan was giving Grogan the good oil for the Grand National, and concluded with the advice—

"Stick yer shirt on him, Grogan. He can't lose. Why, he's a full brother to Poseidon."

"Yer argument's rotten, Hogan," replied his compatriot. "Do you see that gentleman coming out of the Port Phillip Club? The wan with the tall hat."

"Yes. Who is he?"

"That's Mr. Charlie Mitchell, the barrister. He's a full brother to Madame Melba, an' he can't aven whistle."

CARNIVAL

Drain the nectar, chant the lay,
Fling the gauntlet down to sorrow,
Pluck the reddened rose to-day,
Brown and sere 'twill be tomorrow.

Will ye plough the swirling seas,
Brave the risk of rocks unchartered,
That some lord may live at ease
On your blood-sweat—or, stout-hearted,

Face a ridge of bristling steel,
Dare the shock of battle-thunder,
Fall to make a vulture's meal,
That some king may keep his plunder?

Drain the nectar, chant the lay,
Hurl the gauntlet down to sorrow,
Lads and lasses, dance to-day,
Grey and old ye'll be tomorrow.

Let philosophers inveigh
'Gainst a life of joy and pleasure.
Drain the goblet, chant the lay,
Let the reckoning come with leisure.

Let the moralists desecrate
On the future, and its terrors,
Thus they weave their moonshine rant
From our tangled skein of errors.

Drain the nectar, chant the lay,
Throw the gauntlet down to sorrow,
Youths and maids, enjoy to-day,
Naught ye know about tomorrow.

—PIP TOK.

SUB-BRANCH NOTES

NEDLANDS.

The first annual general meeting of the Nedlands Sub-Branch was held on Tuesday evening, 14th inst., in the Lesser Hall, Broadway Theatre, Nedlands. The president, Lieut.-Col. E. L. Margolin, D.S.O., presided over a large attendance of members, and presented to the meeting the annual report and balance sheet for the year, which were both unanimously adopted. The balance sheet disclosed the fact that the Branch was in a sound financial condition, and a hearty vote of thanks was carried by the meeting to the president and officers for the year, for the excellent results obtained.

To the extreme regret of the members, the president, Lieut.-Col. E. L. Margolin, announced that he would not be a candidate for the position of president for the ensuing year, and nominated Lieut.-Col. J. S. Denton, D.S.O., V.D., who was duly elected. Mr. W. L. Henderson also announced that he would not be able to carry on the duties of secretary, owing to pressure of business, and his resignation was received with regret. Mr. F. A. Langridge was elected in his stead. The hard-working and genial treasurer, Mr. Tom Bevan, was elected treasurer for the second time, unopposed. A good, strong and energetic team of officers was also elected, and it is hoped that the affairs of the Branch will continue to flourish. Col. Denton, in responding to the toast of the newly-elected officers, eulogised the services to the Branch of the retiring president and officers, and expressed the hope that the Branch would achieve its centenary of members coinciding with the State's Centenary next year, and that the slogan of the Branch would be, "One more for the hundred."

NAREMBEEN.

At the general meeting held on Friday, 27th July, quite a number of items were submitted for inclusion in the agenda of the forthcoming Congress. With regard to the forming of a library, Mr. E. S. Watt has forwarded price list of books for same. On Friday, 27th July, Messrs. Webb, Latham and the Secretary entertained Mr. Arthur Wilson, M.L.A., Mr. H. May and Mr. Slim, who have taken up land east of Narembeen. Mr. Wilson was sergeant in the First Engineers during the big noise, and since his return Arthur has always been only too ready to support the diggers. All lithographs showing blocks available for selection can be inspected at the local R.S.L. office.

The next general meeting will be held on Friday, 31st August.

SUBIACO.

A meeting of the above Sub-Branch was held in the Council Chambers on Monday, the 13th August, when President "Jerry" McKenna presided over the usual large attendance. Much business was transacted, including several items to go forward to this year's Congress. A com-
KONDININ-KARLGARIN.

Last Anzac Day a few of the returned men of Kondinin met and decided that the time was ripe for the revival of the League in Kondinin and Karlgarin District. It was decided that a Sub-Branch should be formed, to be known as the Kondinin-Karlgarin Sub-Branch, and the approval of the Executive was obtained for the formation to date from 1st July. The State Secretary and Mr. Logie visited the district and a smoke social was held to allow them an opportunity of placing the objects and activities of the League before the returned men of the district. The membership of the Sub-Branch is now approximately 40, and the first general meeting was held on the 20th July, and the following officers were appointed for the year—W. Andrews, president; H. H. Stafford and J. Watson, vice-presidents; K. Young, secretary and treasurer; and a strong executive committee in Messrs. J. Keegan, H. J. Sykes, A. Maddison, A. C. Read, T. P. McEvoy, and R. P. Magnus. A sub-committee was appointed to investigate complaints and applications before sending them on to the State Secretary’s office, consisting of the President, Secretary, and Messrs. H. J. Sykes and Joe Watson, and several matters were mentioned which were likely to come before them for investigation ere long. Several motions were drafted for inclusion in the agenda for the Annual Conference, and it was decided to ask Mr. J. Watson to act as delegate to Conference.

The Secretary reported that the smoke social had resulted in a loss, and it was decided to hold a dance and card party on Saturday, 4th August, with a view to raising funds.

The next meeting will be held at Karlgarin on 24th August, the fourth Friday in the month being chosen for the regular monthly meeting day.

Secretary Boyes, of Narembeen Sub-Branch, gave a breezy and interesting address at the Kondinin smoker, which was real good propaganda.

Bert Sykes also brought down the house with his toast of the Services (Navy, Army and Air Force); while the next night, at Kulin, his exposition of the soldier settlers’ troubles and problems in Julius Caesar’s time was very edifying and instructive. We don’t know if they had a Returned Soldiers’ League in those days, but, according to Bert, one was badly needed.

SOUTH PERTH.

The South Perth Sub-Branch held their first smoke-O on August 6th, when about 90 attended. All present voted the evening a huge success. During the evening a number of new members were enrolled, and the strength of the branch is now 60, which shows that good progress has been made since the launching of the branch about three months ago with 18 financial members. President Garnet Philp, while pleased with results to date, wishes to see more of the diggers from South Perth join up with their branch and lend their support. The next general meeting is to be held in Swan Street Hall on Monday, 3rd September, and Secretary J. H. Adam, of 26 Coode Street, will be only too pleased to answer any enquiries from intending members.

BUNBURY.

The Annual General Meeting and Smoke Social of this Branch was held on the 18th July. With a big roll-up of members, the hall was crowded to capacity. During the evening, several dig-
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M.L. A.:; Captain Collins, of the Defence Department, and Syd. Longmore, of "Eggs-a-look" fame, and the President of the Perth Branch, and Padre C. L. Riley, of the Executive. The members of the Master Painters' Association and the Operative Painters' Union, who assisted the Branch so materially with its work in Honour Avenue, were guests of the evening.

The Branch wishes to express its thanks to those members for the musical programme which they provided gratis.

In future the Annual General Meeting will not be followed by a social. Whilst a social tends to pack a meeting, it also hurries the business which otherwise may be discussed at length. This is the outcome of a motion by Mr. McLeod, and seconded by Mr. Stewart.

MT. BARKER.

The annual meeting of the Branch was held in the Memorial Club Rooms on Friday night, July 20. Mr. T. G. Sounness presided over a large gathering of returned soldiers. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Mr. T. G. Sounness; vice-president, Mr. J. H. Morgan; secretary-treasurer, Mr. F. Gillam; auditors, Messrs. B. Hickling and H. V. Jenkins; committee, Messrs. Jenkins, McKenzie, Hickling, and James; picture committee, Messrs. J. Pickles, B. Hickling, H. Ortes, F. Goun-dry, president and secretary, ex officio; picture secretary, Mr. W. Millons. Secretary Percy Gillam submitted a comprehensive report on the operations of the Sub-Branch for the preceding twelve months, which must have given members a glow of pride. The year had been one of progress, and the winning of the Newdegate Cup was a notable achievement. We regret that the space is not available to publish the report in full, but the following item under the sub-heading “relief” is picked out because it is an evidence of the close bond existing between ex-service men in all parts of the State. It reads:

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Relief.—For the first time during my reign as secretary of this branch has this had to be dealt with. On several occasions ex-soldiers called on with ‘bluey’ up for food to carry them on to other parts. On proving their genuineness orders for a few lines of provisions were given them, which I hope meets with the approval of members. Also, one case in particular, an ex-New South Wales soldier, who was an inmate of Lemnos Home, was found in a very bad way by a motor party on the Perth-Albany road. He informed them he was making his way to Albany, and was picked up and brought to Mount Barker, barefooted and very scantily clothed. He found our padre, who, after attending to his requirements as best he could, brought him along to me. After an extensive cross-examination, Mr. Penistan and I decided on a medical review, which was performed at 1 a.m. This unfortunate comrade is now back at Lemnos Hospital, being well cared for, and progressing as well as can be expected. The Repatriation Department greatly appreciated this branch’s efforts in this particular case."

GERALDTON.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the Geraldton Sub-Branch of the R.S.L., held recently. The Rev. Milton R. Maley presided. An apology was received from Mr. C. W. Lane, hon. secretary, who was out of town. The chairman said the most important matter in connection with the branch was the Institute. They would all remember the controversy in connection with it a few months ago, but ultimately it was handed over to the branch for twelve months to see what they could do with it. The results of the management of the Institute by the branch had been entirely satisfactory, surprisingly so in view of the opinions expressed during the controversy. The Institute, itself showed a credit balance of £207. (Applause.) Some of that would have to be expended on renewals and replacements in furniture, etc., and certain expenditure in that direction had been authorised. The Sub-Branch had a financial membership of 25, but in a district like that the number should be doubled at least. He hoped the interest shown during the past few months would be continued, and that the coming year would be the most successful in their history.

The various accounts presented showed that the Sub-Branch accounts were in credit £47 7s. 5d. The Amelioration Fund, from which several returned men coming to the district had been assisted from time to time, showed a credit balance of £18 19s. 9d. The accounts were adopted, and the view was expressed that the results achieved were very satisfactory. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Chairman, Rev. Milton R. Maley; vice-chairmen, Messrs. A. Green and T. B. Carter; treasurer, Mr. P. Briers; secretary, Mr. F. Dunn; committee, Messrs. Greenaway, L. Ramsay, Davis, Harris, Salmon, Bagshaw, Gorry; auditor, Mr. L. J. Chapman.

A hearty vote of thanks to the late secretary, Mr. C. W. Lane, was passed, many members eulogising him for his unfailing efforts. Mr. Blake, the manager of the Institute, congratulated them on the success of the Institute. A long discussion then took place on the future of the Institute, and the universal opinion was that the Municipal Council would continue the present arrangement of control by the Sub-Branch, and also that the £1,000 held in trust by the Council should be handed over to the control of the branch, whose members were quite capable of handling it.

MIDLAND JUNCTION.

There was a large attendance at the annual smoke social, held in the local Town Hall on Friday, 27th July. President Jamieson occupied the chair, and Padre C. L. Riley and Mr. A. E. Pady represented the State Executive.

Mr. R. Marsh proposed the toast of the State Executive, and mentioned that the branch was only made possible by the unfailing spirit of comradeship of the days of war. Padre Riley, in responding, drew the attention of the gathering to the large amount of varied work done and success achieved by the State-Branch. Many members thought that the Executive should seek more publicity regarding its doings, and that they should fight their cases in the open with the spotlight focussed upon them, but they had found out from experience that the best plan was to gain the confidence of men in authority by supporting only worthy cases and objects. This had been done with wonderful success. Other speakers to various toasts were Mr. Pady, who proposed the Midland Junction Branch; Mr. C. Woods, the Ladies; Mr. Faul, the Municipality, Councillor Kennedy responding, and subsequently proposing the "Dads" and the Business Men, to which Messrs. Reever and Jacoby responded. Mr. Porter proposed kindred branches, and Mr. W. Palmer Morris, the Press. A musical programme was provided by a number of the members.

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A "Jack" Michael

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In front of east end Boons Ltd.
Wellington Street - Perth
UP IN DAVE'S ROOM
(An Unceremonial Revue.)
In one Dry Act, leading to several
Liquid Acts.
(By Pip Tok.)

(N.B.—The revue, not the liquid acts.)

Dramatis Personae:
Dave .......... An Energetic Secretary
Carl ............. His Boy Friend
Lid Songmore .... A Man of Letters
Gorge Weller ... A Wandering Minstrel
Sweeter Ped ...... A Tea Merchant

Scene:
Dave's office. Dave is seated at the table, in the throes of composition. He is preparing a speech which he is to deliver at the annual reunion and smoke social of the West Woop Woop Sub-Branch. Carl is at another table sorting some papers. Lid Songmore is seated in a corner of the room reading the June issue of "The Whistling Most." It is raining outside.

Dave (ruffling his hair):
Now is the winter of our discontent
Made more so by this blasted rain.
And I upon the League's own business bent
Must rie me forth to rural scenes again.
Once more, twill be, once more into the breach.
And I must stand and make my little speech
'Midst all the din of quips and jests and jars.
While the fellows irritate their husky throats.
In honour of old Bacchus and of Mars,
The god of battles and the god of gods.
'Twill be a case of In—not Out—damed spot.
For while I speak they'll swamp the blinking lot.
What can I tell these rural warriors,
In Woop Woop's gladness have made their rendezvous?
Oh, would that I could tune my vocal organs
To utter subtle jests like Jimmy Morgan's.
Or that I had the gift of Colonel Collett
To indicate the League's futurity
In language forcible, like that of Smollett.
Without old Smollett's gross impurity.
(Buries his face in his hands. Then, looking up, he calls out—)
Hey! Carl!

Carl: Thy candidate and co-adjustor is all attention, Dave.
Dave: Lend me thine ears—
Carl: Can't. I'm using them myself.
Dave: Silence, when you speak to the Secretary! Listen. What'll I say in this infernal speech?

Carl: Well, you can start off with "We don't want to glorify war," and then ring in some of the good old sob-stuff.
Dave: Oh, no! Everybody does that nowadays. There'll be other speakers before me, and they'll all work that off before I get a chance.

(While they are speaking, Gorge Weller enters, followed by Sweeter Ped, who remains in the background.)

Gorge Weller: Sing muck to them, Dave.
Dave (angrily): Who asked you to Butt in?

Gorge Weller (swholely): All right. You needn't be so bellicose.
Dave: What about you? You're not too thin yourself.

Lid Songmore (looking up): Put the soft pedal on, you chaps. I want to read this article by the Sober Flights Project. By the way, where's Sweeter Ped?

Sweeter Ped (coming forward): Here!
Carl: Oh, Sweeter, when you answer a man of letters you should say "Adsum!"

Lid Songmore (indignantly): What business is it of yours how many he's had?
Sweeter Ped: Oh, I've had plenty. Just listen.
(Sings while Gorge Weller accompanies him on the ukulele he brought back from America.)
When I was a boy I was called to the bar,
But I keep well away from where the topers are.
I've sworn off Ema and the barley-bree.

Carl: Talking of rough-stuff, that reminds me. Didn't we promise to meet Benjamin Buttonstick in the United Service?
Dave: Oh, he won't mind waiting. He'll manage to fill in the time.

Carl (with emphasis): I don't mean the United Service Institute, Sweeter. Still, we'll go part of the way with you. (They go out, doing the lock-step, under the direction of Gorge Weller, all singing "There is a Tavern in the Town.")

CURTAIN.

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Husband (reading)—"This paper says that the greatness of a father often proves a stumbling-block to his children.
Wife—"Well, thank fortune our children will never be handicapped in that way."

"Our neighbour has a goat with his nose cut off."
"How does he smell?"
"Something terrible."
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N.Z. PERPETUAL FORESTS LIMITED
THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMMERCIAL FORESTRY CO.

Share Capital .................................................. £233,843
Bond Capital Exceeds ........................................ £2,500,000

BANKERS: The Bank of New Zealand and their Agents.
SOLE BROKERS: Smith, Wylie & Co. Ltd.
HEAD OFFICE: Kembla Buildings, Margaret Street, Sydney.
PERTH OFFICE: Sheffield House, Hay Street.

Invest in our Forestry Bonds

TIMBER: Each Bond of £25 represents one freehold acre of specially suitable land for the growing
of Pine Trees.
Each acre is planted with Pine Trees, under the supervision of Mr. Owen Jones (late chairman of
the Forestry Commission, Victoria) and Trained Staff of Foresters, and maintained free until
maturity is reached.

ENDOWMENT: By investment in N.Z. Perpetual Forests, Ltd., as an endowment, it must be borne
in mind that upon replanting a further return each rotation may be expected, the land being the
freehold property of the Bondholders.

TERMS OF PURCHASE: Easy Quarterly Terms.

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

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Printed and Published by Edwin Stanley Watt for the Proprietors, the Imperial Printing Company Limited, Returned Soldiers,
at their Printing Works, 70 King Street, Perth, Western Australia.