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Compulsory Training and Its Critics

Australia's totally inadequate defence scheme frequently comes under the searchlight of criticism. Such criticism, emanating as it usually does, from people who are either ill-informed, politically biased, or both, is rarely helpful and seldom worthy of consideration. Indeed, with the exception of the Inspector-General's annual report, the R.S.L. has been the sole advocate of modifying the compulsory training scheme in the direction of greater adequacy and increased efficiency. On the contrary, we find politicians prizing the defence vote and starving the services—there are no soldiers or sailors' unions to be appealed to in this particular—in the interest of a dubious economy which saves a few thousands, while militiamen are being squandered in other directions.

Business men complain that boys are taken away from camps of continuous training to the detriment of their own office routine. Of course, an invasion of Australia would not interfere with business at all. There are too many middle-class boys on the score of religious principles.

This last was probably what actuated the Adelaide Council of Churches when that body passed a resolution to the effect that, as the Kellogg Peace Pact has found general acceptance, the compulsory clauses of the Defence Act should be repealed in the interests of world peace. However well-meaning—and we have every reason to believe that a certain broad road will wind down to that peculiarly watery region from which all churches are endeavouring to save us, it is paved with good intentions—the Council is singularly ill-informed as regards presenting a world tendency.

To commence with, the Kellogg Pact is at best only a partial peace pact. The principal signatories have made reservations as to their right to defend their own possessions. Even in the land of its origin, the Pact is being drastically modified, certain United States Senators insisting on a reassertion of the Monroe Doctrine being embodied in the treaty, and at the same time objecting to Great Britain's colonial claim in affirming her right to maintain her overseas dominion. From the most optimistic standpoint, the whole business can be regarded merely as a pious aspiration and a well-meaning gesture. Even a cursory glance through the pages of history will serve to show that treaties have rarely prevented wars. From the days of the Delphi Amphictyony to the ravishing of Belgium's neutrality in 1914, there have been numerous instances of nations regarding their treaty obligations as mere scraps of paper, when they had anything to gain by doing so, and the Listening Post has pointed out several times that the signatories of the Kellogg Pact are those Powers who would be least likely to go to war in any case. War has not been outlawed—is far from being abolished—and all the most hopeful workers in the cause of peace can claim is that the possibility of another world struggle has been rendered more remote by means of educative propaganda.

The Council of Churches was treading on thinner ice still when it criticised the compulsory training scheme. Our present system is a training, not for a war of aggression overseas, but for the defence of Australia. Under the Australian Constitution our citizen forces cannot be compelled to serve abroad, nor can they be employed in the event of industrial strife. Of late years the forces have been whittled down to such an extent that were we ever so bellicose we would be powerless to engage in a war of aggression. We do not think that the Council of Churches would deny us the right to defend our own soil in the event of invasion, and in the light of these things it would appear that their pious resolution is just a useless expenditure of hot air, which, unfortunately, places a further weapon in the hands of those particular enemies of Australia who live in safety within our shores.

Apart from its military value—a value that has been seriously diminished by Federal parsimony—the compulsory training system is beneficial to youth, coming from both the physical and the civic standpoints. The boy receives a systematic and progressive bodily training during the period of growth when mind and body are alike plastic. Moreover, at an impressionable age, the youth is thrown into contact with other youths, from varying types of homes, and of various social strata, using the word social in its more restricted suburban sense. Anyone who served through the Great War will easily realise that the physical and mental influences which operated at the same time, can be readily, with profit, carried over into the sphere of civil life.

Of course, it may be argued that such advantages can accrue from our field sports. This is readily conceded, but the fact remains that in every sport there are more onlookers than players. Apart from the influence of professionalism, sport is becoming such a matter of intense specialisation that there is an ever-increasing tendency for the mass of the public to sit down and watch the performances of specially selected champions. The recent cricket tests have shown what a close preserve some of our principal sports are becoming. It was Warwick Armstrong himself who said, "It is hard to get into the Australian XI, but harder still to get out of it." Again, in connection with the sport of boys of the military age there is an undesirable element of cliquism. One of our principal secondary schools is excluded from the sports competitions of the private secondary institutions, presumably because it is a State school; while those boys who leave school at the age of fourteen or fifteen are hardly catered for at all.

How many critics of the Defence Act realise that the military authorities provide a graduated scheme of exercise for boys, many thousands of whom would otherwise swell the turned ranks of the onlookers? How many are aware that the annual camp alone provides systematic exercise and a health-giving experience for thousands of lads all over Australia, hundreds of whom are not able to afford to take an annual holiday at their own expense?

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State Executive Meeting 9th January, 1929.


Congratulations.—Mr. V. Doney acknowledged with appreciation congratulations from the League on his election for the Williams-Narrogin district.

Federal Correspondence.—Eight letters from the Federal Executive concerning Congress resolutions were read and received.

Armistice Day.—The General Secretary advised that it was the custom for the British Empire Service League to place a wreath on the Cenotaph on Armistice Day on behalf of ex-service organisations. No information had yet been received concerning the happenings on the last occasion, but this was expected shortly. He would further communicate on the subject.

Questionnaire to Sub-Branches.—The Federal Executive requested on behalf of the B.E.S.L. that sub-branches be circularised and certain information be obtained for the records of the B.E.S.L. The form of questionnaire was submitted. The matter was referred to the Management Committee, with power, to act.

Employment Grant.—The Federal Executive advised that the Federal Government had decided to continue the payment of the Employment Grant until 31st December 1929. The letter was received.

The question of the Employment Office was then referred to, as the previous appointment had only been made to the 31st December, 1928. Moved by Mr. Philip, seconded by Mr. Sadler, that this matter be referred to the Management Committee for their enquiring and recommendation.—Carried.

Employment Bureaux.—The report of the operations of the Employment Bureaux throughout the Commonwealth for the month of November was received.

Australian War Memorial.—The General Secretary communicated, advising that the time was opportune for an application by this branch to the Australian War Memorial for the showing of some of the war relics in this State. The letter pointed out the necessity for suitable housing and also touched on expenditure.

Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Rabbi Freedman, that an application be made by this State Branch for the allocation on loan by the Australian War Memorial of a portion of the war relics to this State.—Carried.

It was pointed out that the Centenary Committee had already been working in this direction, and, as Mr. C. P. Smith was also a member of that Committee, it was suggested that he might co-operate.

Invitations.—The Koorda Sub-Branch extended an invitation to the President and members to their annual general meeting and smoke social on the 19th January. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Collie Sub-Branch requested the attendance of the State President and members at their annual smoke social, to be held on the 12th, and their annual general meeting on the following day. Colonel Margolin and Hon. J. Cornell were appointed.

The Perth Sub-Branch extended an invitation to their annual smoke social, to be held on the 15th January. Six delegates signified their intention of being present.

Geraldton.—Mr. C. P. Smith advised that he would be visiting Geraldton during Geraldton Week, and he was appointed as delegate to attend any soldier functions that may be held.

New Sub-Branch.—The Secretary explained that an application had been received from the Cowaramup Sub-Branch, advising that the constitution had been complied with and action had been taken by the Secretary towards its formation. Action was confirmed.

Incorporation of Bunbury Sub-Branch.—Mr. S. J. Lee, Solicitor, for the Bunbury Sub-Branch, advised that it had decided not to proceed further with the question of the incorporation of the sub-branch. The request for incorporation had been complied with and action had been taken by the Secretary towards its formation. Action was confirmed.

White Australia Policy.—Pert Sub-Branch drew attention to a press cutting in the "West Australian" on the 9th October, 1928, concerning the employment of four Chinese as licence labourers on the coast of Queensland. It was moved by Mr. Sadler, seconded by Mr. Pady, that no action be taken in the matter.—Carried.

Anzac Day.—The Premier's Department advised that the Hon. the Premier was unable to make any appointment to discuss resolutions from last State Congress concerning Anzac Day, owing to the pressure of parliamentary and other business. The Secretary was instructed to again communicate with the Premier in this connection.

Smith Family (Wubin) Appeal.—The State President reported that a meeting had taken place at which Mr. M. T. Padbury, J. P. Stratton, the State Secretary and members prepared by Mr. Pickering had been approved and it had been decided to proceed with the erection of a house at Wubin. Action was being taken to secure a suitable site.

The subscriptions towards this fund totalling approximately £1,500 had been received. It was decided that the funds and property should be vested in Colonel Collett and Mr. Padbury as Trustees for Mrs. Smith and her children. The report was received and the action taken endorsed.

Sympathy: His Majesty the King.—The Quartering Sub-Branch requested that a letter of sympathy be forwarded to His Majesty, the King expressing loyalty and sincere wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

It was reported that action had already been taken in this connection and a cable had been sent by the State President on the 22nd December through the B.E.S.L.,
Demand

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if they will advise the result of enquiries.

Fallen Soldiers' Children.—Moved by
Mr. Smith, seconded by Col. Margolin,
that arrangements be made for boys 14
and over, sons of fallen soldiers, to march
at the head of the procession next Anzac
Day. It was decided to refer the matter
to the Anzac Day Committee and that
they be asked to co-operate with the
Legacy Club in this direction.

Reports.—Finance Committee.—The
report of the Finance Committee meeting
held on the 8th January was submitted
by Mr. Tyler. The report was received
and adopted after the following decisions
had been made concerning the Centenary
Re-union at Bunbury.

Centenary Re-union, Bunbury.—Moved
by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Tozer,
that all sub-branches be communicated
with and asked to proffer all possible
assistance for the success of the Centenary
Re-union at Bunbury, and that it be sug-
gested that a donation of at least £2 be
made by each sub-branch. Also that they
be notified of the amount donated by the
State Executive.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Sadlier, seconded by Mr.
Longmore, that this Executive donate
£100 towards the expenses of the Re-
union.—Carried.

Amendment moved by Mr. Tyler, sec-
deed by Mr. Tozer, that the Executive
donate £50 towards the expenses of the
Re-union.—Lost.

Invitations.—Moved by Mr. Watt, sec-
deed by Mr. Tyler, that the matter of
special invitations to the Re-union be re-
ferred to the Management Committee for
action.—Carried.

Co-operation.—Moved by Mr. Watt,
seconded by Col. Margolin, that the State
Secretary be authorised to visit Bunbury
in the near future for the purpose of co-
operation.—Carried.

The Secretary was instructed to ap-
proach the Defence Department concern-
ing tents and blankets, and also to cause
the question to be prepared by the Re-
union Committee at Bunbury to be circulated
amongst sub-branches.
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16th Battalion Notes

The monthly luncheon of the Association takes place on the 16th of each month (except when the 16th falls on Saturday or Sunday, when it is held on the following Monday) at the Returned Soldiers' Dining Rooms, St. George's Terrace. 7 p.m. Come along and meet old pals. The history of the Battalion is nearing completion for publication. A few more photos of diggers taken at billlets, or trench scenes, would be welcome for inclusion. These could be posted to Vic Ketterer, c/o Repatriation Department, who would see that they were returned to their respective owners. As the cost of printing is heavy, a few more "fitters" would be welcome. 

Col. Margolin, D.S.O., in his usual unassuming manner, keeps the Association alive. Where the 16th is concerned, nothing is too much trouble for "Marx." Colonel Pope, looking much better, has gone to his son's farm for a month's rest.

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The King's Illness.

It is gratifying to note that the bulletins regarding King George's health are daily becoming more optimistic in their tone. Present indications seem to show that His Majesty is well over the worst part of his illness, and it appears to be a question of time before he is restored to his normal state of health. Even so, the road to convalescence is a long one, for it must be remembered that the King is no longer a young man, and that a severe illness such as that through which he has passed spells a slower recovery than would be the case with one younger.

During the recent weeks of uncertainty the phrase "God Save the King" became informed with a greater depth of meaning, and many of us realized for the first time that it is really a prayer and not an empty formula.

The Innisfail Incident and Other Happenings.

Recent happenings in Australia have given a certain amount of offence to the Italian people, not that this would be a difficult feat at any time, for aggressive dignity seems to be the watchword of the Mussolini regime, and the country that was once revered as the cradle of the arts is now pitied as the nursery of mauling crankiness.

Some little time back Adelaide employers decided not to employ any men on the ships or wharves who are unable to speak English. This provoked a furious burst against Australia in the Italian press, the action of the Adelaide employers being considered an attempt to discriminate against Italians. Mussolini's official action in refusing to allow Swiss artificers to enter its ports was not conceived upon in this instance. What is sauce for the goose is not always palatable to the gander. It seems to us a deplorable thing that foreigners of dubious whiteness can readily find employment in this country when so many white Australians, and returned soldiers to boot, are unemployed, yet, apart from all this, the Adelaide embargo was not an act of discrimination against Southern Europeans. Rather was it a sensible precaution, for, from the very nature of the employment, a man who cannot understand instructions is not only endangering his own life, but he becomes a menace to others. Further, though we have known foremen who could express themselves fluently, insincerely, and with a great degree of originality, it is hardly fair to expect a foreman to possess the pentealest gift of tongues. A similar regulation has been in force for quite a long time on the Western Australian goldfields without causing an international commotion. When all is said and done, Australia did not go out of her way to induce these foreigners to come here, however lax we may have been in admitting them, but while here, they must abide by our laws and submit to local conditions.

The action of a couple of youthful roysterers in Innisfail, when the coat of arms was removed from the Italian consular office and placed upside down outside a Chinaman's shop, almost caused a severance of diplomatic relations. In the Innisfail Office there has for a long time been a bitter feeling against Italian residents, owing, mainly, to their tendency to segregate themselves into foreign colonies within a British community, and to their gradual acquisition of monopoly over the sugar-growing industry. Nevertheless, the removal of the coat of arms seems to have been nothing more than a Christmas Eve prank, and to have had no other significance. The fact is we disregard by Italian residents in Sydney and Brisbane, so that the hysterical attitude of the Italian consul was, to say the least of it, extremely undignified. The youthful delinquents contended—in their explanation they stated that they thought they were removing a bank sign—and the whole affair, which after all was merely a matter for the local police, was explained by the Prime Minister and the Premier of Queensland. Strangely enough, no protest was made by the Chinese community, so we may assume that the danger of another world war has been eliminated.

The Queensland Government wisely refused to allow the restoration of the coat of arms to its proper place to be made the occasion for a public demonstration. Such a proceeding would inevitably cause breaches of the peace, for while we as a people are ready to respect the rights and feelings of others, humble pie has never figured prominently as an item of the Australian ration scale.

Canada and the U.S.A.

In last month's issue, under the heading "Some International Aspects of Prohibition," we commented on Canada's position with regard to this matter. Since then an attempt has been made to arrange a treaty between Canada and the United States whereby Canada was asked to agree to prohibit the export of whisky on ships bound for American ports. The Canadian authorities refused to agree to this, taking the stand indicated in our article, that it is up to the U.S.A. to enforce her own domestic legislation without invoking the aid of neighbouring countries.

The Battles of Coronel and the Falkland Islands.

The British Official War Films continue to maintain the highest standard already achieved in such productions as Zeebrugge, Ypres, Mons, etc., and the latest screening, that of Coronel and the Falkland Islands, is a worthy addition to the list. Having seen it, we agree less than ever with those hypocritical souls who advocate the suppression of all reference to the war on the films and elsewhere. The subject was treated with commendable impartiality, and was accurate as regards technical detail and historical fact. In these days when people read little and visit the movies a great deal, educationists are fully cognisant of the educational possibilities of the film, and a visual record of historical happenings is as important as a written record. Such films are as much the raw material of history as a war correspondent's despatches, and when, as in the case of the official films, no effort is spared to achieve accuracy, they should prove a potent counterblast to the nauseating American propaganda with which the world has been inundated. The one under discussion showed the heroism, the energy and the majesty with which the Great Silent Navy went about its business, and, as the American Forces were not in the war at that time, the comic relief had to be provided by the Port Stanley Town Guard.

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The supporting picture we were pleased to note was an Australian film called "Paradise Valley." It was well photographed, showing views of Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, and the Blue Mountains. The story itself was rather banal and Hollywooden, but in this respect no worse than the average standardised Hollywood plot. To our mind the sub-titles were far too long, and were marred by the frequent use of Americanisms. For instance, the scenario writer seems to be confused as to the functions of an attorney-general. In Australia this official is a minister of the Crown—the story-writer made him a sort of Yankee district attorney. Again, an Australian undergraduate does not "go through college." He does Arts or Science or Medicine, and so on. To an Australian audience the term "going through college," if it had any significance at all, would imply attendance at one of our larger secondary schools.

Apart from these defects, however, it was a good picture, quite equal to most of what America, inflicts upon us, and it is good to realise that pictures can be produced and shown in this country.

Gas—and Hot Air

At a recent international conference the use of poison gas in war was discussed. While most of the speakers were opposed to its use, one scientist advanced the opinion that gas as a weapon is more humane than high explosives. Possibly during the last war there were fewer gas casualties, but medical men are now realising that the effects of gas on the human frame are more insidious and more lasting. It was left to a German scientist, with that absence of a bump of humour so characteristic of his race, to descend upon the horrors of gas and its diabolical nature as a weapon of war, and no one got up and asked him who started the darned business. anyway.

An English Professor's Opinion of the Kellogg Pact

Professor J. H. Morgan (Professor of International Law at the University College, London) has his doubts about the Peace Pact. "The Kellogg Pact," he declares, "is only an international kiss. It is dangerous and bad. It will act with some people as a sedative, and on most as an opiate. Either way it means nothing; nor would any interpretation which any signatory chooses to apply. It makes no provision to punish anyone breaking it. There has been no war in the past two hundred years but has been made, according to the belligerents, in self-defence. By excluding self-defensive wars from the pact you exclude every war that is likely to happen. Apparently many people support it on the principle that if you want to make war, talk peace up to the moment of mobilisation and then act on the American principle of getting in the first blow.

The Pact is mere words. The United States is the father of more illegitimate children in international law than any other nation. The idea of his acting as a moral preceptor, but keeping up his sleeve what may soon be the largest navy in the world, makes me feel a certain amount of uneasiness."

Professor Morgan is one of the Empire's—and, possibly, the world's—greatest authorities on international law. He saw active service and was a Brigadier-General during the World War. He has written a life of the late Lord Morley, the eminent statesman, historian, and biographer.

"Night in Billets"

The Perth Sub-Branch, which generally does things well, held its annual smoke social last Tuesday night, giving the function the name of a "Night in Billets." Captain C. Longmore, in his capacity as "Town Major," occupied the chair and placed a time limit of three minutes on the speeches. Welcoming the gathering after the loyal toast and that of "Fallen Comrades," the chairman said: "We meet here, not as colonels and as privates, but as comrades." There was a lengthy toast and the programme was humorously arranged in the form of an "Intelligence Summary."

Mr. J. ("Pommy") Cattermole proposed the toast of the League, expressing the opinion that it is the ex-Imperial man's best friend in the Commonwealth.

Colonel Collett responded and told a few war yarns in very witty vein.

A feature of the evening was an interlude by Mr. C. P. Smith, who created "Pages from a War Correspondent's Diary." It, too, was a series of leg-pulling war yarns, which went big with the boys.

Mr. R. Cooke, who proposed the Perth Sub-Branch, mentioned that this is the largest sub-branch in the Commonwealth.

Responding to the toast Mr. T. A. L. Davey, M.L.A., said that the Perth Sub-Branch had never placed its own interests foremost, but had consistently fought for the interests of the League as a whole and for the dependents of war victims.

The chairman said he hoped that the sub-branch would make the centenary year a memorable one in its own history by increasing the membership roll and by doing the most for soldiers' dependents.

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### Monster State-wide Re-Union of Ex-Service Men

**CENTENARY FUNCTIONS AT BUNBURY IN MARCH**

At the State Congress of the R.S.L. held in October last, it was decided to hold a State-wide Re-union of Soldiers during the centenary year; the particulars being left in the hands of the State Executive. The Bunbury Sub-branch, working in conjunction with the State Executive, are organising the rally, which will commence on March 10th and continue until March 17th.

The whole of Bunbury is organised in anticipation of a great influx of ex-service men and their families, and various energetic committees, under the able guidance of R.S.L. President, C. R. Gillett, with J. E. Taylor as organiser, are leaving no stone unturned in order to make for success.

Anticipating a large number to attend, all the available accommodation of Bunbury has been booked by the committee, and the following charges will operate:—Hotels, from £2 10s. to £4 4s.; Hostels, £3 3s.; Boarding Houses, from £1 10s. to £2 10s.; Rooms only, from £1 5s. to £1 10s.; Beach Camps, £1 10s. per head (supply own meals); Canvas Camps (Military Style), 2½ per head.

All conveniences and catering facilities will be provided at camping areas.

The following programme of attractions has been decided upon:

- **Sunday, March 10**
  - Morning—Batt. Re-unions and Conference
  - Afternoon—Free

- **Monday, March 11**
  - Morning—Surf Display, 3 p.m.

- **Tuesday, March 12**
  - Morning—Batt. Re-unions
  - Afternoon—Children's Entertainment on Beach
  - Evening—Continental and Fireworks Display

- **Wednesday, March 13**
  - Morning—River and Charabanc Trips
  - Afternoon—Bunbury Race Carnival (Gold Cup); Tennis and Cricket
  - Evening—"All Digger Show" and Pictures; Dances

- **Thursday, March 14**
  - Morning—Aquatic Sports and Batt. Re-unions
  - Afternoon—River and Charabanc Trips
  - Evening—Boxing Tournaments (to include Championship of League)

- **Friday, March 15**
  - Morning—Fishing Competition
  - Afternoon—Free
  - Evening—Grand Ball

- **Saturday, March 16**
  - Morning—Free
  - Afternoon—Cricket and Tug-o'-War
  - Evening—Re-union of All Returned Soldiers

- **Sunday, March 17**
  - Morning—Church Parade at Memorial Park

The question of transport being considered and the R.S.L. expects to arrange concession fares from any part of the country to Bunbury. The State Executive has donated £100 to the committee and it is expected that sub-branches will also assist financially. The citizens of Bunbury are also helping to finance this huge venture, and the Municipal Council is assisting with service.

All that is now needed to make the reunion a great success is over 1,000 ex-service men to attend with their families, and good weather. The time of the year will suit the man on the land, and the city diggers surely learnt enough innocent guile at the war to be able successfully to wangle a week's leave. An information form is included in the centre page of this issue and it will assist the organisers greatly if intending tourists will send them to Mr. Taylor, at the earliest opportunity.

### Co-operation

George E. Cattermole writes:—The case of the widow and children of an ex-Argyle and Sutherland Highlander was brought to the notice of genial H. L. Kirke, Hon. Secretary of the Guildford-Bassendean Sub-branch R.S.L. They did what they could and then called up the British United Services Association to co-operate with them to run a concert for the benefit of the family. The B.U.S.A., young, but in earnest, turned to the big brother—Perth R.S.L.—and the Ladies' Auxiliary of that sub-branch, under the leadership of Mrs. Hopperton, came into the circle, and the result is that on Wednesday, February 13th, at 8 p.m., in the Bassendean Town Hall, a very high-class concert will be given, to assist this very worthy cause. Tickets, 1/-; from Hon. Secretary, 229 Charles Street, North Perth.

Is the cause worthy? Well the first ticket, No. 1, was sold to Col. Collett. Now, then, Pommes, do your bit.

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"SWAN" BRAND SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having
Father Christmas visited the Soldiers' Institute last month at the invitation of the Perth Sub-Branch.

**Women's Auxiliaries**

**STATE EXECUTIVE**

The Women's Auxiliary R.S.L. State Executive has been active since being formed on 2nd October last. Twelve cases of distress have been assisted by this committee.

Mrs. D. M. Benson (one of the trustees) uses her ingenuity (also a pair of scissors) in cutting dozens of tiny garments intended for presentation to mothers in need, and there is no lack of volunteers amongst the members to sew up the garments.

Mrs. T. C. Wilson (president) has already visited several country sub-branches with the object of getting in contact with their women's auxiliaries, or encouraging the formation of an auxiliary where none exists at present.

The R.S.L. State Executive started the funds of the Women's Executive with a grant of £10 and the following women's auxiliaries have sent donations towards the expenses:—Fremantle, two guineas; Subiaco, one guinea; West Swan, one guinea; Maylands, one guinea; and Perth, one guinea.

**PERTH SUB-BRANCH**

Perth Sub-Branch Women's Auxiliary has had a busy time during the festive month. The three concerts given monthly at Lemnos Hospital, Repat. Ward, and Edward Millen Home were crammed into two weeks, to prevent clashing with other events.

The Christmas party given to members' children and to children of soldiers' widows and deserted wives, on December 19th, was a very happy event. Every child was presented with a Christmas stocking and had a royal time, with lollies, cakes, cool drinks, and ice-cream. In addition, a programme was presented by Love's Punch and Judy, and songs and dances by juvenile artists. All children present held tickets for huge stockings, and prizes which were drawn for by Father Christmas. The mothers, too, had a prize of a manicure set, kindly donated by J. T. Ferry, of Murray Street. A very enjoyable afternoon terminated with a visit to the picture theatre, tickets for which were kindly donated by Union Theatres.
Sailors' and Soldiers' CE

BUNBURY, March

The famous birthplace of Western Australia's greatest son—Bunbury; the capital of the great South-West, will be the rendezvous in March next, of all Diggers and Tommies who want to be together again in perpetuation of the great com-
radeship that welded the Empire together in 1914-18. Your battalion; battery, or regi-
mental cobbers will be there and, of course, your wives and families may enjoy all attractions with you. There will be diversions galore for men and women, young and old. Local arrangements are in the hands of the Bunbury Sub-Branch R.S.L. Bunbury is approached by train, motor car or charabanc, but please let us know all about your party by com-
pleting and sending the particulars on opposite page. Efforts to secure Excursion Train Fares will be made, and when we know the nature and extent of required accommodation, the costs of same will be quoted.

NOTE: DIGGERS' RE-UNION

Bunbury, March 10th to 17th, 1929, and communicate with us RIGHT NOW!

J. E. TAYLOR, Organiser 33 Stephen Street, Bunbury
Dear, this will interest you!

ENTENARY RE-UNION

10th to 17th, 1929

Please fill in the answers to the following questions, so as to enable the Committee to meet your requirements.

Name
Address
Unit
Married or Single

If Married, what members of your Family will accompany you

MALES

FEMALES

NOTE.—In case of children please state ages

CLASS of ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED (cross out that which is NOT required):

Hotel
Boarding House
Rooms Only
Beach Camps
Camping Site Only (bringing own car and equipment)

TRANSPORT.—I will travel to Bunbury by (cross out those NOT used)

Train
Motor Car
Charabanc

Duration of Visit
Date of Arrival

NOTE.—In view of the fact that Hotel and Boarding House accommodation will be limited, applicants are REMINDED that the FIRST APPLICATIONS will be given PREFERENCE.

J. E. TAYLOR. Organiser
"In Days of Old"
(By W.A.)
Admiral Scheer, who was Jellicoe’s opponent at the Battle of Jutland, died recently. He was no doubt a skilful commander, as was instanced by the manner in which he extricated his fleet from destruction, but it is impossible for returned men to regret his passing, for he was most ruthless in his advocacy of working “U” boats in destroying enemy and hospital ships, neutral, passenger and cargo vessels. Had he been allowed a free hand, the death-roll of non-combatants—men, women and children—at sea would have been a long one. His surrender of the great fleet which he commanded must have been a nasty blow to his bombastic nature.—Billijim.

I was a joyful L.A.D.
She was a charming V.A.D.
But I transferred to M.A.D.
When she became a B.A.D.

IODINE
There’s a cure in the Army
For all the ills yet found,
From a simple case of shell-shock
To “buried underground”,
Or a direct hit with a ten-inch shell,
Or blown up by a mine—
The curse for all these things, it is,

"Just paint with iodine.
If you’ve got the typhoid fever,
The lock-jaw, or the plague,
They will paint you khaki colour,
Then trot you on parade.
And when I stopped that shell
In a charge on Fritz’s line,
The last words I remember were,
"Just paint with iodine."

The new nurse was going for rations.
The Sister told her she would have to take a mug for the milk. "Oh, yes," answered Nursey, "one of the patients is coming." And the Sergeant went.—J.M., Ward 40.

HAREFIELD PARK “DIE HARDERS.”
(On the formation of a Field Ambulance at the No. 1 A.A. Hospital.)
The bugles have sounded,
The call has gone forth
To Sydney and Melbourne,
And groppers from Perth;
We’ve formed a new unit,
A picked little band,
To rescue the wounded
In bare No Man’s Land.
We rushed from the kitchen,
The wards and the mess,
The Registrar’s boys jumped
When asked to say “Yes”;
The canteen was emptied,
With war ardour fanned,
To rescue the wounded
In bare No Man’s Land.
We’re most “done our bit”
Midst the steel and the flame,
And we’ll again enter hell
To put conscripts to shame;
Our cobbers may fall
And we again take a hand
In saving the wounded
In bare No Man’s Land.
The village girls cheered
And the boys bid good-byes,
The pubs put up shutters,
The landlords heaved sighs;
Then sounded the trumpets
Of the hospital band,
When we marched to save friends
In bare No Man’s Land.
—W. Anderson in "The Boomerang."

Staff Nurse: The new patient is rather light-headed.

Medical Officer: Delirious or blonde, Sister?

Take me back to dear old “Aussie,”
Put me on the boat for Sydney town,
Take me over there, drop me anywhere,
Sydney, Perth, or Hobart town—well, I don’t care;
I should like to see my best girl,
Walking out again we soon shall be.
Oh! Blighty is a failure, it-idility-iti,
“Aussie” is the place for me.
—One of the B’hoys.

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NOTE THESE BARGAINS FOR MENFOLK!

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Men’s Cream Cotton Gabardine TROUSERS, belt loops, side straps, cuff bottoms. 6/11.
"Hyde-Belt" style, extra fine. 12/6.
Grey and Fawn Flannel TROUSERS, belt loops, side strips, cuff bottoms. 16/6.
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THE LISTENING POST

January 25, 1929

Make PLAISTOWE'S your CHOCOLATES

FOR 1929

Personalities

Padre Eric H. O. Nye, of the State Executive, is again indisposed, his incapacity necessitating a minor operation. We believe that Eric suffers as the result of his zeal to help the needy. He works himself to a standstill, and requires more rest. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Lieut.-Col. J. E. Mitchell, who served with the Artillery, and who was on the staff of the City of Perth Electricity and Gas Department, has joined the firm of Coombs, Whyte and Lissiman, public accountants, of Perth.

An old soldier and a father and grandfather of soldiers passed away at Leederville last month in the person of Mr. John Worthy Johnson. He served in the South African War as a regimental sergeant-major, and was one of the Commander-in-Chief's bodyguard, and later was superintendent of the Boer refugee camp. Of his fighting sons, W. F. C. was an Imperial reservist, being at the landing with the famous 29th Division. He returned to Australia in 1916 and enlisted with the 3rd A.F.C. Bert was a signaller in the 51st Batt., Roy a corporal in the 8th Battery A.F.A., Harry was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and Merchant Service, where he gained the Miller Cross. There were also four other sons who were rejected. Two of the sons, W.F.C. and Roy, are members of the Railway Workshops Sub-Branch.

Another worthy father of fighting sons to pass away suddenly last month was Mr. H. A. F. Bader, the well-known electrician, of Perth. Mr. Bader was at all times ready and willing to assist the cause of the ex-service man and was personally well known and highly respected. Of his sons, the best known in League circles is Carl, who for about four years was a member of the State Executive and who has organised many entertainments for the Repatriation institutions.

General Bessell-Brown at time of writing is a patient in the Repatriation Ward of the Perth Hospital, suffering from war injuries. We wish the general a speedy recovery.

State Secretary Dave Benson is at present on his annual leave, enjoying a well-earned rest.

Congratulations to C. "Syd" Longmore, on his re-election to the position of President of the State's—and, we believe, the Commonwealth's—biggest sub-branch at Perth. Syd is able and enthusiastic and is as popular with the boys to-day as he was when leading them over the top in No Man's Land. He has always been a forceful but fair fighter, but to date has been unlucky in politics.

Tommy Sly, the well-known inspector for the Western Australian Insurance Coy., was married last month to Miss M. Sitter of Douara Place, West Perth. Tommy served with the 51st Battalion and is never backward in doing a good turn to his ex-service pals when opportunity offers. We wish him and his pretty bride a long life of mutual happiness.

Left a few days ago on a nine months' world tour—Tom Sten, the Secretary of the Beverley Sub-branch, and local school master. Tom who served with the 44th Battalion, will be stationed at York on his return, where it is hoped that he will endeavour to put some life into the local Sub-branch. Taking Tom's place at the Beverley school is Stan Healy, who has been stationed at Fairbridge Farm school. As Stan was a good digger, he is anticipated that he will also fill Tom's position as Sub-branch Secretary.

Spending his vacation in Perth is Jimmy Morgan, schoolmaster and prominent League worker of Mt. Barker. Jim has a reputation of being the League's wittiest member, and at the big Tumbellup reunion many were the enquiries as to his whereabouts. His delicate wit was sadly missed by the boys. A member of the original 11th Battalion, he re-enlisted in the British Army towards the end of the war, and served in Russia, gaining the rank of Captain.

Ross A. Keesing, of Port Hedland, the president of the Pilbara Sub-branch intends visiting Perth in March, staying a month or two, when he hopes to have the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with many old digger friends.

Seen at the wonderful reunion at Tumbellup were many good workers for the ex-service man, including Bill Armstrong of Cranbrook, Bill Cobb and H. A. Fildes of Katanning, Ted H Roach and Jack Findlay of Kojonup, Glyn Payne, Ross Steel and Wally Cadd of Tumbellup, Percy Gillam of Mt. Barker, blind soldier Alex. Craigie, of Albany, and about 200 chaps from all over the Great Southern districts, including Gnowangerup, Franklin River and Denmark.

Colonel Birt, the chairman and power behind the Tumbellup re-union, is a soldier and a man of whom Australians should be proud. He happened to be in London when war was declared, where he enlisted in an English unit as a private. He worked his way up by his qualities of leadership and personal bravery, until he commanded a Border regiment. He has the unique distinction of being eligible to wear the D.S.O. with two bars. The Colonel is also "pulling his weight in civilian life, being chairman of the Tumbellup Road Board. We hope and expect to hear more of such a capable leader.

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Big Bill Powers, of the 48th, formerly manager of the Imperial Hotel, has just gone into the Repatriation Ward for observation and treatment. Latterly Bill has been managing an hotel at Mullewa. The Listening Post wishes Bill a speedy recovery.

"SWAN" BRAND PRODUCTS are stocked by all leading Grocers
In town for the holidays, Bill Carr-Boyd, a hefty Queenslander, now engaged in grazing pursuits in this State. Bill, who has had an adventurous career, went away as a subaltern in the 42nd, and after the war was for some time secretary of the Rockhampton sub-branch of the League. Then he held down an appointment in New Guinea until malaria forced him to look for a more favourable climate. Bill is a nephew of the late Mr. Carr-Boyd, so closely associated with the fundraising and exploration period of this State's development. He can wield a facile pen and has contributed to the Sydney Bulletin, and other papers, under the pen-name of "Potjolster."

The Commonwealth Gazette announces that General Sir Talbot Hobbs, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., V.D., has been appointed honorary colonel of the Australian Field Artillery. Such appointments are only given to officers of outstanding merit and service. The Prince of Wales, by the way, is honorary colonel of the Light Horse.

28th Battalion Notes

If you are thinking of running amok with a revolver, just make sure that "Tim" Curran is not about. Recently an excited gentleman was taking pot-shots at anything and everything and doing his best to disturb the peace of Southern Cross. He was very successful until "Tim" hove into sight, and putting it in "Tim's" own picturesque phraseology, "jolled him one," and removed the gun. Well done, "Tim"—it's just what we would have expected from you.

Billy Reed added a stalwart young reinforcement to his family on New Year's Day. Congratulations, Bill; that's starting the New Year very well!

The annual river trip will be held on February 8th. The good ship "Zephyr" will sail at 8 p.m., calling at Point Walter and proceeding to Rocky Bay. The Band of the Young 28th will supply music and the fare is only eightpence; it's up to you to bring your relatives and friends and load the old lugger to the Plimsoll.

On the 19th December the annual general meeting was held and the reports of the committee, treasurer, and auditors disclosed the happy position of the Association. Nineteen-twenty-eight was a year of records as far as the Association was concerned; but it is hoped that the records made in 1928 will all be broken this year. Secretary Kahan is anxious to double the membership, and as sub, are now due, please forward them to him at 69 River Street, South Perth.

"Mosie," of the Sigs, has been elected treasurer, and as all Sigs are said to have taking ways it is quite in order that "Mosie" is anxious to take your sub.

A.I.F. Publications

WAR-TIME BOOKS TO BE SOLD

During the war several books were published by the A.I.F., and the unsold copies eventually passed into the possession of the Australian War Memorial in order that they may be sold and the proceeds devoted to the memorial fund.

These books are now being offered to returned men for about half the original cost. Sub-branches will be communicated with by the Memorial Director, who will supply books at a discount of 33 1/3 per cent. thus assuring them of a fair remuneration for their efforts. In addition, special prizes will be given to sub-branches selling the most books. There is a distinct revival of interest by ex-service men in their A.I.F. associations, and every member will find one or more books of direct interest to himself.

The publications available are "Anzac Book," which will be sold for 2/-; "From the Australian Front," 2/-; "Australian War Photographs," 2/-; "First Convoy Souvenir," 2/-; "Before Amiens and After," 6d, and surplus copies of "Aussie," at 6d. each.

"SWAN" BRAND TOMATO SAUCE is made from Tomatoes only
Obituary

After having lived her life in the service of others, there passed away suddenly at her home at Boyup Brook last month one of the noblest specimens of womanhood in the person of Mrs. Tom Taylor (nee Nursing, Miss E. A. Jones). Mrs. Taylor's career had been an adventurous one, some details of which should interest our readers.

The daughter of a clergyman, Mrs. Taylor was born in England, and trained as a nurse at London General Hospital. Later she toured the Mediterranean and the continent as nurse companion to a wealthy invalid lady. When war broke out Mrs. Taylor was established in her own nursing home in Vancouver. She enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in April, 1915, and after crossing the Atlantic she was posted to the military hospital established in the Palace of Versailles, and while there helped care for the first cases of gassed soldiers. She personally attended the late Lieut. Warneford, W.C., who had the distinction of being the first airman to destroy a German Zeppelin. It will be recalled that this gallant airman was mortally injured when his machine crashed a few days after this notable achievement. Sister Jones was greatly impressed by the homage paid by the citizens of Paris, which she described as a constant procession of people through the tent where the body of the dead hero was lying, which lasted for two days.

She was later transferred to No. 1 Canadian Hospital at Etaples, where she saw the beds increased from 300 to 3,000, as the outcome of the battles of the Somme. In 1917 Sister Jones was with the No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station at Popinching, and from a vantage point witnessed the blowing up of Messines Ridge. While on duty here she was severely injured in a motor ambulance collision, and after recuperating was posted to a hospital at Bologna.

The late Mrs. T. Taylor

While at Etaples she met Lieut. T. Taylor, of the 3rd Australian Tunnelling Company, whom she was married at Vancouver in September, 1919, and shortly afterwards came to Australia with her husband, when they acquired a holding at Boyup Brook. Here her skilful treatment of the sick and injured, especially before the founding of the Upper Blackwood Memorial Hospital, earned for her the respect of the community. The particular regard that this good sister was held in by returned men can be gauged by the fact that they had made her a life member of their sub-branch at Boyup Brook.

The many expressions of sympathy bear testimony to the great sorrow her tragically sudden death has caused. We join with others in expressions of sympathy to Tom Taylor in his sorrow.

Special Anzac "Listening Post"

Our Centenary Effort

Prizes for Stories Offered.

It is the intention of the publishers of the "Listening Post" to publish a special centenary edition in April and we invite the assistance of all ex-service men to make the journal a worthy souvenir of those two historical epics—the landing at Fremantle, and the landing on Gallipoli. What we want is short sketchy stories, humorous or serious, having a bearing on either war-service or post war conditions, as they affect ex-service men.

Unfortunately we are not in a position financially to pay for contributions, but as an inducement we are offering three prizes, of £1 each for the three best stories submitted. The editor is to be the sole judge and it is not desired that contributions shall exceed 300 words. The publishers reserve the right to publish without payment any contribution submitted.

The Telephone Department, by substituting the call letter "B" for the letter "A" previously used in calling up subscribers in the City, have obeyed a natural instinct and recognised a real value. Why should the letter "A" be used? "B" is the letter that has been made to stand out as of supreme importance in Perth and Western Australi. When the hot weather and strong sun have frayed out your nerves by overstraining your eyes, turn to the all-important letter—you will find Mr. B., The Optician, Ltd., at 265 Murray Street. Call on him there.

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"SWAN" BRAND PURE MALT VINEGAR—Best Obtainable

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Non-Combatants and League Membership
C.R.C. writes:
I cannot agree with J.S.Y. ("Listening Post", 21st December, 1928) that non-combatants should be admitted to membership in the League. Although, as J.S.Y. states, many of those who served overseas were returned, the majority of the large numbers of volunteers, which have gone out, have been engaged in auxiliary work. In the view of many branches of the League, the entry of non-combatants to membership in the League would not be logical, for the League, as a war organization, must maintain a normal membership. It is evident, that the League must maintain the needs and the spirit of war. The League, if it is to maintain a normal membership, must be sustained by the members who served in the war. It is evident that the League, if it is to maintain a normal membership, must be sustained by the members who served in the war.

Federal Congress Resolutions

HEADSTONES
The reply of the Minister of Defence to a resolution passed at the Federal Congress is as follows:

"The existing practice is to provide a headstone on the grave of any soldier whose death was directly attributable to war service. The request for an extension of the existing policy to include certain additional cases has been given careful and sympathetic consideration, but it is regretted that the present practice cannot be varied as suggested."

EXCISE ON SPIRIT
The following letter has been received from the Acting Comptroller-General of Trade and Customs:

"With reference to your letter of 6th December, 1928, addressed to the Honourable the Minister, forwarding copy of a resolution passed by the 13th Annual Congress of the A.I.F. relating to the reduction of Excise Duties on spirits used in the fortifying of wines for export, I desire to inform you, by direction, that the matter will receive consideration. I may add that it is at present the practice to refund on the exportation of fortified wines the amount of the Excise Duty paid on the fortifying spirit contained therein."

AVIATION
The following letter has been received from the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Department:

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th December, embodying Resolution No. 8 passed at the 13th Annual Congress of the R.S.L., as follows:

That this Congress draws the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that the subsidy granted by the U.S. Government to Colonel Lindbergh has resulted in an increase in the popularity of flying in America, and expresses the opinion that similar consideration accorded Australia's greatest airmen would have beneficial results to the Commonwealth."

The terms of the resolution have been noted and will be given consideration.

LEAGUE POLICY
The following national resolutions were carried at the 13th Annual Federal Congress of the League:

"That this Congress insistsently press for the initiation of a national-wide policy designed to open up the sparsely settled areas of our great continent, and urge the immediate pushing on and completion of the North to South Railway, the extension of the Border Railway Agreement, the construction of cross-country developmental lines, water supply and new settlement areas; that this is the only practical solution of populating Australia with prosperous, contented people, sufficiently powerful to make our nation secure to the white race."

"That Federal Congress declare the advisability of all members of the League taking an active interest in National Affairs."

Sub-Branch Notes

SPEARWOOD
At the Annual General Meeting held recently, the following officers were elected for 1929:—President, F. W. Wayman; Vice-Presidents, H. Parrott, H. Ellement; Secretary, G. Berry; Treasurer, N. Marrick; Auditors, H. Hibbard, W. Dodd.

PILBARA
At a successful meeting held at Port Hedland during the month pleasure was expressed.

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pressed by members when advised that the British Supermarine Expedition had not forgotten their two days' stay at Port Hedland, and had forwarded to the president a set of colour plates of the expedition with a special dedication of the same time the sub-branch members gave them during their stay. It was decided to have the plates framed and hung in the hall. Before closing the meeting, President Ross Keesing thanked Hon. Secretary M. M. Smith for his great assistance and considered that for his sterling services on behalf of the members, an effort should be made to obtain for him a certificate of service and that same should be authorized by a present from members. The motion was carried with musical honours.

Uncle Bert responded in his usual modest way. The social portion (picn) of the meeting was a great success, during which four new members were enrolled.

OSBORNE PARK

The annual tree and Xmas tree given to soldiers' children by the Osborne Park Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. was held in the Soldiers' Hall. As usual, a great success. Long before the doors were opened, parents and children assembled, watching the preliminaries. The arranging of the juveniles in groups was accomplished, and in order to entice the proceedings outside, Mr. R. Corlett started the singing of nursery rhymes, but he got a poor response. Then soldier songs were introduced, and the whole community over 200 children displaying a better knowledge of war songs than they did of their school ditties. Father Christmas motored from Njookebooroor and was well received, but many expressed doubts as to his identity. It took a large number of assistants to distribute the toys from a huge Xmas tree, but ultimately all were satisfied and were subsequently regaled with soft drinks and cakes, while Mr. B. Harr provided lively music. The event was a great success, and every member, from the President downwards, worked hard for the success of the gathering.

New Year's Eve was a time of joyousness in the Soldiers' Hall, when returned men joined Scotch residents in celebrating 'Hogmanay' night. There was a large gathering, including many local residents and visitors. Mr. D. Foreman was an efficient M.C., and the orchestra comprised Mrs. A. Glass and Messrs. H. Wannell and Speight, who provided excellent music suitable to the occasion. Songs were chosen, the principal items being 'Annie Laurie', 'Auld Scotch Song' by Mrs. Ferris; 'Little Brown Jug', 'Deathless Army' and 'John Peel', by Mr. W. E. Moss, otherwise known as 'The Tailor'; Mr. H. Evans, 'O'Malley's Dinner Party', 'The New Year was ushered in amidst Scotch revelry, the toasts being 'A guid New Year tae one and a' and 'Auld Lang Syne'. Subsequently the ladies and children were entertained to a substantial supper, after which the members paid respects to the national beverage with ardour and discretion. The President (Mr. H. Nugent) was active in looking after the welfare of all, and the general opinion was that conviviality ended in the early hours of New Year's Day that an auspicious start had been made with 1929. A peculiarity of the gathering was that it was made up of the various regiments represented, the following being a list of the 4th and 21st, R. Corlett 11th, 5th Gordon Highlanders, 1st Seaforths, 16th, 14th, Signallers, 109th Howitzer, No. 1 A.A.H., Black Watch.

Messrs. W. E. Robinson (president of the Agricultural Society), J. O'Malley and R. Carmion have decided to assist in adding some useful additions to the kitchen attached to the Soldiers' Hall.

Messrs. H. Nugent (president) and H. Float (secretary) were elected to represent the Sub-Branch at the 'Night in Billets' of the Perth Sub-Branch. There has been an increase in membership and it has been decided to make a strong effort during the year to double the membership. The Sub-Branch has also decided to help in the publication of the 'Diggers' Book', to be issued by the Press Sub-Branch.

Is it Dinkum—

That our President is organizing a troupe to be known as the Njookebooroor Lancet, and that the Agricultural Society President is recruiting for the Yambago Hussars?

That the reason returned soldiers did not compete in the fancywork competition at our local show was because they considered it "cruel" work?

That Old Bill is learning a black cockatoo to recite the Dooxology, and considers it a mascot because it does not show a white feather?

That B.B. won the local Perth Cup sweep at the Osborne Park Howler, and is thinking of endowing the Drainage Board with a water wagon?

That the January meeting Andy was found in Cape Street after the Scotch concert, singing under a gum tree, "We'd better hide awee"?

That the Sub-Branch is going to offer a prize for the best essay entitled "How to swing the lead"?

That Bob acted as singing master at the Xmas tree, and conducted the juvenile choir with eclat?

That the Easter Gift of the Sub-Branch will be noteworthy for the mysteries surrounding the prizes?

That Moss the Tailor was the singer-de-luxe at the Scotch concert?

KALGOORLIE

This sub-branch is energetically pushing sales of annual sweep tickets for the Distress, Patriotic and Institute fund. This fund cannot be used for general or administrative purposes. For Christmas £20 was given to families in serious want, and over £200 has been spent in alleviation of distress during the year.

The Institute being revenue-producing, is self-supporting. Branch officials are active and keen for their members, also non-members and the families of diggers who have "gone West" and who when alive, for reasons best known to themselves, did not pull their weight with their comrades in the League. Owing to the policy of thorough investigating all cases referred to the branch for pension claims, a large number of successes have resulted and families are now in receipt of pen-

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sions and in happier conditions as the result of the existence of the League. A feature of the branch's activities is the visiting of ex-soldier patients in hospital twice a week, and it is remarkable that of those visited not two per cent. are sub-branch members.

The sub-branch is particularly grateful to Messrs. Johns and Charlie Ward, who give so much of their time to this important work.

For Christmas the executive authorised the Secretary to prepare a Xmas parcel for every digger patient in hospitals, so boxes containing wine, fruit, chocolates and cigarettes, with pipe and tobacco, were distributed, and the remarks of the recipients were much appreciated. Many of these men had no kith or kin near them and the gifts were another evidence that the old A.I.F. spirit of comradeship is still alive.

The sub-branch meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and the attendance averages 50. There is room for another 150 whose presence would be very welcome, for the assistance of all is needed to help the executive to administer a big branch. The executive are hard workers and it is seldom that there is less than 12 present at fortnightly meetings.

Kalgoorlie sends the secession's compliments to the "Listening Post" and its readers.

NAREMBOEEN.

The next meeting will be held in the local R.S.L. Club on Saturday, 26th January, when important items such as the proposed sale of club and club associate membership will be discussed. The annual meeting will be held on February 22nd, and, in accordance with the wish of the members, the State President and other members of the Executive have been invited to attend. Subscriptions are now due and members are asked to send same along as soon as possible.

Members will be pleased to hear that W. Le Feuvre is out of hospital and looking none the worse as the result of his accident.

FROREST GROVE.

The Forest Grove R.S.L. Art Union was drawn publicly on 15th December, 1928, at the local State School. First prize was £7.25 and winning number 1,421; second £2, number 202; third 15/-, number 357; 5 at 776, 754, 1,149, 814; 10 at 57, 1,169, 1,119, 348, 922, 723, 1,511, 362, 1,713, 1,426, and 744. The art union was drawn at 60 per cent.

COLLI.

The annual general meeting of the Collie Sub-Branch of the Returned Soldiers' League was held in the Soldiers' Hall recently, when the chairman (Mr. A. Watkins) presided over a large attendance. The State Executive was represented by Colonel Margolin and Mr. J. Cornell, M.L.C., both of whom complimented Collie on the progress they had made during the past year.

The balance-sheet presented disclosed a surplus of £73 17s. 9d. Assets of the branch were stated to be £2,229 13s. 6d., the bulk of which was represented in freehold property.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President: Mr. H. May; vice-presidents: Messrs. J. Gibblett and A. W. Senior; treasurer: Mr. A. E. Anderson; secretary: Mr. C. Francis; auditor: Mr. C. Francis; executive: Messrs. G. Beavor, A. Beanre, T. Bristowe, F. Allen, S. Dawson, S. Hoare, J. Bredall, and A. Watkins.

A Successful Re-Union

TAMBELLUP CELEBRATES

A wonderfully enthusiastic gathering assembled in the Royal Road Hall at Tambellup on Saturday, 7th January, when over 200 ex-soldiers were present at a rally to inaugurate a sub-branch of the League at Tambellup. The function, organised by Colonel Birt, Chairman of the Royal Road and Mt. Vermillion Sub-Branch, assisted by a ladies' committee consisting of Mesdames Proctor, F. A. Stacey, Ross Steele, Anderson, and Trimming, took the form of a dinner and dance. All foods, drinks, and refreshments, including the raffle prizes, stuffed toys, crockery, etc., were donated by Tambellup residents, and the hall was tastefully decorated by the local ladies.

After the toast of "The King" had been honoured, the usual tribute was paid to "Fallen Comrades," when the "Last Post" was sounded by Trumpeter Arthur Dawson. Colonel Birt, who presided over the gathering, then welcomed the guests of the evening, namely, Colonel Collett (State President), Mr. D. M. Benson (State Secretary), Messrs. Cooke, Wells, Watt, and Logie, of the State Executive. Mr. Albert Rose, President of the Maylands Sub-Branch, Mr. Bill Holt, vice-president of the Perth Sub-Branch, and representatives of the various sub-branches throughout the district.

Colonel Birt thanked Colonel Collett and his colleague for having made the long trip from Perth in order to give their confrères assistance in forming a branch at Tambellup. The district held a wonderful record for enlistments, and the gathering that night indicated that the old spirit that imbued the A.I.F. still existed. The men, however, seemed to lose sight of the need of unity and co-operation in the struggle to re-enter civil life and become useful citizens, instead of one unit, as in the old army days. He trusted the result of the State President's visit would be a re-awakening of the old spirit and a re-banding together of the men in a branch of the R.S.L. at Tambellup.

Colonel Collett, who was greeted with prolonged applause, said it afforded him genuine pleasure to visit Tambellup, particularly with the object of establishing a branch at that centre. This was the State Centenary year, and the Government and practically every public and private body was working for some special objective to celebrate the completion of the State's first century. Could the returned men have a better objective than to secure a hundred per cent. membership of those eligible to belong to the League? he asked.

The League had been formed to assist in the rehabilitation of the men who had given their service for their Empire, and to watch over and further the interests of the dependents of those who had paid the supreme sacrifice. The work it had done since its inception had been outstandingly successful, and he claimed that at the present moment through its officers no member of the A.I.F. or his dependants had ever failed to obtain justice, and more than there justice in some cases, when they brought their claims before the League officials...
the Executive. He trusted that the result of the visit of himself and the other members of the Executive would result in the formation of a virile and progressive branch of the League at Tambellup, and he looked upon the future Tambellup Sub-Branch as an aspirant for the Newdegate Cup. He thanked Colonel Birt on behalf of those responsible for the invitation to attend, and complimented most generously the organisers on such a successful function.

Mr. Watt (State Executive) said that Colonel Collett is a born leader, and he has proved his organizing ability in the manner in which he had revitalised the League. The speaker alluded to the efforts being made to get General Monash to consent to nominate for the position of Federal President. The speaker said he was the League's representative on the Pensions Board, and invited any returned soldier who desired information or assistance to interview him before his return to Perth. Speaking of membership of the League, Mr. Watt said a steady increase in every district was taking place, and he trusted Tambellup would swing into step with other centres.

Mr. Logie (State Executive) said he had been connected with the land for some considerable time. He knew the difficulties and hardships connected with land settlement, and he had been successful in bringing about accommodation in several cases. At one time the Government departmental official had looked coldly upon the League Land Committee and had obstructed its successful functioning as far as possible. That was all changed now, however, and the Committee had been instrumental in bringing relief to many soldier settlers. He urged all returned men to join the League. If not for their own personal benefit, then for the benefit of those who required the assistance the League could give.

Mr. Wells (State Executive) paid a glowing tribute to the organizers of the evening's function, which he declared had not been bettered at any of the numerous similar functions he had attended. He appealed to the ex-diggers of Tambellup to strengthen themselves and the League by forming a local branch. It was a curious thing, he said, that with many of the returned men, so long as they had a grievance, they continued members of the League, but so soon as that grievance was adjusted they dropped out and forgot the League and their old mates. It was the successful returned man that could best help the man that needed help, and he urged every returned man to join up.

Mr. Cooke (State Executive) referred to the fine memorial to fallen soldiers erected by the Tambellup district. The League was a living memorial to those who had given their services, but had returned to carry on the duties of citizenship. When it was a question of building the stone memorial, he was sure no man, soldier or civilian, had refused to give his quota. The League, as a memorial, could be built and kept alive only by returned men, and no returned man who gave thought to the matter could refuse to keep his memorial, the memorial to all soldiers, alive and green. He was confident it was only a question of putting the matter in the proper light to returned men of the Tambellup district to obtain one hundred per cent. enrolment, and he looked forward to the time when Tambellup would possess a branch of the League equal to any in the State.

Mr. D. M. Benson (State Secretary) said it was extremely pleasing to meet again so many old comrades. As secretary of the League, he had handled the cases of many of the men present, and he knew that they had been benefited greatly by the action taken on their behalf by the League. The League had become able to assist its members through the strength of its membership, and the larger the number of men on its roll, the greater the influence it could exert on behalf of returned men and their dependants. It was the sad history of this, as of every other war, that as time passed men discovered disabilities hitherto concealed. Those in authority in Australia had decided that in no case where disabilities appeared, even if years after a clear discharge had been issued, should an ex-soldier be refused the right to appeal to the Repatriation Department for assistance. Such cases were being presented daily throughout the Commonwealth, and so long as a man could put forward a reasonable claim it was given consideration.

Other toasts honoured were as follows: — “Navy,” proposer, Mr. A. Townshend, response by Mr. C. B. Vincent, Kojonup; “Army,” proposer, Captain Hubbe, Kojonup; Lieutenant Knight, Albany; “Air Force,” proposer, Capt. A. W. Potts, Kojonup, response, Mr. A. I. Meecham, Katanning; “Sisters and Nurses,” proposer, Mr. Alex Craigie, Albany, response, Mr. S. Dolley, Gnowangerup; “Visitors,” proposer, Dr. Clarke, Tambellup, response by Mr. Rose, Perth; “The Artists,” proposed by the Chairman; “The Chairman,” proposed by Dr. Bateman, Gnowangerup.

In his concluding remarks the chairman expressed the thanks of those present to the ladies who had organized and carried out the arrangements in connection with the evening.

During the evening an excellent musical programme was rendered, a feature of the harmony being the singing of the old army songs by all present, solo items being given by Messrs. W. J. Cobb, Pears, A. W. McShane, Sharpe, Ironsides, and C. B. Vincent.

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A Toast to the State Executive

At the recent West Perth Sub-Branch smoke social, Mr. H. P. Clarke, sub-branch treasurer, in proposing the toast, "The State Executive", made one of the most interesting propositions heard for some time. In the course of his remarks he stated:-

"A retrospect of what has been accomplished by the Executive since the inception of our League, makes us all feel proud to be honoured by the presence this evening of so many Executive members.

"The League was born when the atmosphere was unsettle—a atmosphere that more or less electrical as a result of war's undoings—but as time goes on the air-shine of new hopes is beginning to radiate through most avenues of our international affairs, and lives.

"To my mind, the Leafed stands for many things, for example, comradeship, charity, citizenship, and above all, for peace.

"It is a fact that the greatest of all comradeships is born in the very whirl of turmoil and bloodshed. That comradeship exists to-day, and after a lapse of over ten years, the spirit which animated us in those days is being manifested in our daily activities. Early in 1916, I remember an occasion in London, when a couple of the 'brothers' were at Helmsley. Beyond a chance to slough hatred, the diggers appeared to be considerably in the majority amidst the khaki of other regiments. Suddenly

"One pints pot (even by the way) was observed sailing through a plate glass window, incidentally displacing a civilian's box hat on its journey; a crowd gathered outside—

"The usual sign of something 'extra' going on—the cry of 'Anzacs' being noted from apparently nowhere, and I can assure you that particular street would immediately have been compared with our wheatbelt. There seemed to be burrows everywhere, from which diggers emerged, an army in a few minutes a battle royal ensued between 'us and them.' The question as to whether our fellows, or the other side, were at fault, never entered the heads of the reinforcements. True comradeship brought other diggers to their senses. Likewise, in these days, it is up to those who are not already members, to come out of their burrows, and assist in preserving that comradeship which meant so much at that time.

"Coming to charity, we should remember that many forms of this attitude exist. Our main charitable object should be to assist particularly those who cannot help themselves, and who are dependent upon others for the means whereby they earn a living.

"I regard this, as one of the Executive's main objects, and we must all agree the manner in which they have administered, from this viewpoint in particular, is deserving of our heartfelt thanks.

"We are in this League to help—not ourselves—but others, and particularly those who are suffering directly or indirectly as a result of war. I say emphatically, we do not want members who merely look for Help out of the League. It is a body stands, and should stand, for service to others, it is this League of ours.

"Then again, we must remember, to be of service to others, we have to be as solid as possible ourselves.

"As citizens, we should endeavour to be exemplary in all that we undertake. It is well known that ex-soldiers are still living down the whisperings from the gallery. We hope we have never made enemies, but those people, who in the critical period, were unable to go overseas, would do a great service to returned soldiers if they remembered that 'when orthodoxy wishes to be most murderous, it whispers.' From this standpoint, I would mention that even soldiers cannot fight shadows.

"Fortunately, again, as a result of the Executive's increasing activity and influence, returned soldiers are more than ever being looked upon as men with a broad perspective of life. To a large extent, that is the result of the knowledge gained in the greatest of all schools—the school of experience, hard by the bitterest of events. It is of little use graduating in such an unique school unless our education is utilised amongst those citizens who rely upon administrators in one form or another to guide the ship of State through the intricate channels of development in all its varied phases.

"The introduction of anything of a political nature is forbidden under the League Constitution, but I would like to say that a hander sprinkling of digger salt would savour our political arena in-particular, and would certainly improve the palatability of any administrative board.

"Let us remember, also, that the goodwill of the League is valued according to the influence of its members.

"The other standpoint—that is, peace—is probably the greatest thing for which the League stands. In my opinion, within the most reasonable limits, it is the one thing which should form an indissoluble link between all of us. From time to time, this Sub-Branch has noted, particularly through the Fighting Post, that the Executive has taken a solid stand in connection with every move for the furtherance of peace, not only peace with other nations, but also within our own borders. Whilst it is at all possible for good and government, by diplomatic means, we can rely upon our Executive to utilise every opportunity accordingly."

British United Services' Association

The Executive at their December meeting elected as president Captain E. W. Edmonds, the well-known newsgazer of 258 Railway Parade, West Leederville, vice R. Ferguson, who is no longer a member of the Association.

The popular treasurer, Hal. J. Ferris, has gone into business on his own account at Claremont, and reports to date all O.K.

The preliminaries are in hand for the first annual ladies' night, to be held at R.S.L. Headquarters about the first week in March. Enquiries to Hon. Sec., 229 Charles Street, North Perth.

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