The Listening Post

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Importing Trouble

During the week the writer foraged with two other diggers, one a resident of a Perth suburb, the other a farmer from the Wheat Belt. During the course of the conversation the suburbanite told the following story:

"On Sunday morning, while I was digging in the garden, a chap came through the front gate, one of those slick, well-dressed fellows with a correspondence-course salesman's grin, and a handful of booklets.

"I've a message, he informed me, in an internally nasal accent, which has been broadcasted from Dee-toot.

"You're wasting your own time and mine, too," I interrupted, 'when you attempt to bring anything American into this house.

"But it's not Amurrican, he protested, holding out a booklet.

"I recognised it as a pamphlet of the International Bible Students' Association—you know, the thing that Million now. Living will never Die—crowd—the same mob The Sunday Times had a go at last year. Well, I didn't waste any time arguing with the blighter. Lingered him, rather peremptorily, I'm afraid, to get the other side of the game, and it was no good.

"You were hard, weren't you?" the writer asked.

"Hard nothing. Why the cow actually had the cheek to want me to spend the price of a perfectly good pot on pernicious anti-British tripe like that.

"Oh, come. No one takes that sort of thing seriously."

"Don't they?" the farmer interposed.

Then our friend from the Wheat Belt added his quota of information to the discussion.

"Up at my place I employ eight farm hands, all young English immigrants, and they get that stuff regularly, and read it from start to finish.

"Yes, but a chap in the bush is that stick for reading matter that he'll drag on anything."

"Quite so," admitted the farmer, "but these Pommies of mine actually believe the stuff."

"How did they get on to it?"

"Well, according to what they tell me they were introduced to it on the boats, coming out. They not only swallow it hook, sinker, and all, but they help to disseminate it in this country. You'd be surprised to know where stuff of this type gets to, an' the people who read it an' take it as gospel.

"This, if true, gives one food for serious thought. The writer is familiar with the printed matter broadcasted by this association. He has read it in Perth and in every other Australian capital. The organisation in question was founded in the U.S.A., that prolific mother of freak religions, ostensibly as a society for the promotion of Bible study. Its founder is described as a judge (a term which, in America, may mean anything from a small-town police magistrate to the chief justice of the land), whose anti-Ally activities during the war earned him a very severe sentence.

"The writer has no quarrel with the religious tenets of any race. Anyone is entitled to remove Biblical phrases from their context and rear theere a system of belief. During the world's history many estimable personalities have been accused many wrong things, the world is flat, in ghosts, witches, and werewolves, that the saxophone is a musical instrument, and that America won the war. We can call into question no man's beliefs, but, when some foreign-born organisation uses religion as a slender trench from which to snipe at organised Christianity in general and the British Empire in particular, it is time for every good citizen to sit up and take notice. Further, when we read of Russian Communists founding anti-God societies, it is high time, for us to query the bona fides of those who attack the recognised churches of our land.

"Neither can we criticise adversely any society of avowedly pacifist activities, for pacifism is a world-tendency at present: but when a pseudo-religious sect advocates universal pacifism, and in the same breath denounces the leaders of religious thought in Great Britain and America—for not opposing the war against Germany and her allies, it is time to enquire on whose behalf is this pacifist propaganda being undertaken.

"The literature of the association is not only pacifist and pro-German, but there is a decidedly Bolshevik odour about it. It is subversive and insidious, and the crowd at the back of it all are astute enough to disguise their pernicious activities under the cloak of religion. The screams abound in harrowing stories of American soldiers of German descent who were compelled to fire on their German relatives. They crowned with the halo of heroism and martyrdom those quavering humbugs who were courageous enough to endure the horrors of Fort Leavenworth (the American Leagues) in preference to facing the dangers of the front line trenches. Through the whole mess there runs an undercurrent of virulent hostility towards the British Empire, organised Christianity, and society as at present constituted.

"The average Australian, with all his ties, his business and social connections, is sufficiently well-balanced to dismiss such pernicious rubbish with a contemptuous snort.

"With the young immigrant, who usually has all his worldly experience still to acquire, and who is plunked down, away from his kith and kin, in the bush solitude of a strange land, it is a bone of quite another colour. The agents of this system of perversion are cunning enough to realise this. They get, hold of these lads on board ship, fill them-up with their specious arguments, and make them the more or less conscious agents for the propagation of thinly disguised Bolshevism.

"During the war years the I.W.W. was suppressed as a dangerous and unlawful association. The Federal authorities would do well to enquire into the activities of the I.B.S.A. with a view to its suppression, as far as Australia is concerned. The Customs Department has placed its ban on the importation of pernicious and subversive literature. In this connection we beg to direct the department's attention to the publications issued by the I.B.S.A. It seems tragic that when both Great Britain and Australia are spending considerable sums on migration, that it is no one's business to prevent the immigrant ships being made a vehicle for the dissemination of subversive and anti-British propaganda. It seems to us that the Federal Government might take steps in the matter, for surely we have enough trouble in this country without importing it..."
STATE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

20/2/29


Apologies were received from Messrs. Longmore, Logie and Smith.

Inmates—Repatriation Hospitals: Mr. Watt reported that the Pensions Committee had not met to consider this matter which had been referred to them and which dealt with the position of pensioners under the 5th and 2nd schedules of the Act. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Cornell: That this Branch does not support the Victorian State Branch in its efforts as outlined in the Federal Executive circular 24/29, but suggests as an alternative that where a reduction of a pension should be necessitated under the 5th and 2nd schedules of the Act, this reduction should not take effect until the expiration of six weeks.—Carried.

Capitalisation—Group Settlement: The Secretary reported that a soldier settler had already been appointed to the Capitalisation Board.

Federal Correspondence: Illness of His Majesty the King occasioned correspondence from the B.E.S.L. concerning messengers of sympathy from the Dominions in the King’s illness were read and received. Also a communication from the B.E.S.L. acknowledging the cable from this State Branch was received.

Empire Trade: The Federal Executive forwarded samples of designs for use in connection with the block to be made and eventually printed on envelopes used by the League. The letter requested this Branch to choose a design. Badge design was favoured.

Armistice Day—3rd London General Hospital: The Federal Executive forwarded a communication received from the Secretary for Defence concerning pilgrimage on Armistice Day, 1928, to the Cemetery containing the graves of members of the Australian Imperial Forces.

Memorial Drive: The Federal Executive forwarded a copy of a communication showing the proposed letter to be sent to men whose names are being compiled by State Branches. He stated that Sir Harry Chauvel had cordially approved of the letter, also Sir John Monash.

Invitations: Waroona Sub-Branch advised that the date of their Smoke Social had been postponed from the 2nd March, to the 9th. The matter was left in the hands of the President.

Murray Sub-Branch stated that they were holding a meeting at North Dandalup on 23rd March. The President and State Secretary had accepted.

Manjimup Sub-Branch advised that their Re-union would take place on Saturday, 9th March. Mr. Philp and the State Secretary were appointed to represent the Executive.

The Sub-Branch invited members of the Executive to attend a function to be held on the 27th February, at which the League Certificate of Merit would be presented to Mr. L. Boas.

B.E.S.L. Conference: Mr. James Martin advised by wire that owing to recent developments he was unable to accept nomination for this Conference.

Moved by Mr. Philp, seconded by Mr. Lovell: That Colonel McCann of South Australia be nominated.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Cornell: That the matter of a further nomination be left in the hands of the Management Committee, with power to act.—Carried.

"Lesmos" Board of Visitors: The Secretary of the Board of Visitors advised that an investigation had been made into certain complaints laid before the League concerning "Lesmos" Hospital. The complaints were found to be without foundation.

It was decided that the report be received, and that this Executive express its appreciation of the fact that the complaints were found to be groundless, and that satisfaction be expressed with the services of the nursing staff.

League Representative: Mr. H. S. Humphrey tendered his resignation as League representative on the "Lesmos" Board of Visitors.

Moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Yeates: That the resignation be accepted with regret, and that appreciation be expressed of services rendered on the Board by Mr. H. S. Humphrey as the League's representative.—Carried.

It was decided that the following nominations be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board, in the order of preference as set out: Col. E. L. Margolin, Messrs. J. H. Tozer, W. J. Hunt.

Wheatbelt Centenary Re-Union.—The Merredin Sub-Branch advised that in accordance with the Executive's request they would withhold publicity of this Re-union until after the Bunbury event.

Associate Members:—The Maylands Sub-Branch requested a ruling on the resolution passed at last Annual State Congress concerning associate membership. The matter was left in the hands of the President to reply.

Soldiers Welcome Committee:—Mrs. L. M. Silverwood suggested that the time was opportune to have installed in the Institute on Honor Roll—showing the names of the original members of the Soldiers Welcome Committee. This was left to the President to reply.

Battlefields Pilgrimage:—Messrs. Burns, Philp & Co., Sydney, forwarded details of a proposed pilgrimage to the battlefields of Gallipoli and France. It was decided that publicity be given to this.

Soldiers' Institute, Geraldton:—The Geraldton Sub-Branch forwarded a communication requesting the Executive to take certain action to assist them in their efforts towards acquiring the Soldiers' Institute, Geraldton.

The matter was referred to the Management Committee for investigation.

R.S.L. Band:—The R.S.L. Band sought the assistance of the Executive to find work for some of its members, so as to retain their services in the Band. Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Tyler: That this Executive expresses its appre-

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B.E.S.I. Conference.—W.A. Branch Nomination: On behalf of the Management Committee, the State President reported that it had been decided to nominate Rabbi D. I. Freedman in place of Mr. J. H. Martin, who had withdrawn. Action was endorsed.

Soldiers’ Institute, Geraldton.—Nothing further had been done in this connection as Mr. Kempton was out of town.

Federal Correspondence.—Poppies: The Federal Executive stated that the League’s requirements for Poppy Day, 1929, would be 150,000 small poppies. They asked that quotes be called in W.A. for the manufacture of these. It was decided that the matter be referred to the Anzac Day Committee, which was the Poppy Day Committee.

New Year Greetings: A letter was received from the Federal Executive conveying New Year Greetings from the Empire Council, His Majesty the King and the Prince of Wales.

Exhibition War Trophies: A further letter was received concerning the transfer of a portion of war trophies to Western Australia. The letter expressed the hope that a favourable decision would be arrived at.

H.M.A.S. Sydney: Concerning the request of this State branch for a memento of this ship before its destruction, the Federal Executive advised that the Prime Minister had the matter under consideration.

Empire Trade: The Federal Executive advised that the Badge design had been selected for the block to be printed on League envelopes, and a block had been forwarded for the use of this office. The letter was received.

Empire Trading and Shopping Council of W.A.: Mr. Watt reported having attended a meeting of this Council in company with Mr. Yeates. His report was received.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Yeates: That sub-branches be asked to take the initiative, or to co-operate with local bodies in assisting towards the success of the Empire Shopping Week, which

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Seller of Winning Ticket £25

TICKETS FROM AUTHORISED AGENTS ALMOST ANYWHERE

D. M. Benson, State Secretary and Organiser

Treatment of Diathermy.—Mr. W. J. G. Tagg (late A.I.F.), submitted a communication concerning his treatment of diathermy. The letter was received.

Development and Migration Commission forwarded a brochure, containing a summary of the Commission’s reports, to June, 1928. This was laid on the table for the information of members.

Railway Workshops Women’s Auxiliary.—A letter was read and received from this Sub-Branch advising the successful formation of a Women’s Auxiliary.

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

Land Committee: Mr. Yeates submitted a report of the Land Committee meeting held on the 28th February. The report dealt with the request from the Coolup Sub-Branch for members of the Land Committee to visit ‘the district to investigate the soldier settlers’ complaints. This matter has also been referred to the Management Committee. Both Committees agreed to adhere to the past procedure that individual cases be dealt with on submission to this office, after consideration by a local Committee.

Moved by Mr. Yeates, seconded by Mr. Riley: That in the next monthly circular to sub-branches, the State Secretary explain the adopted practice in dealing with all land cases.—Carried.

The Land Committee’s Report was then adopted.

State Insurance: Arising out of the Land Committee’s report, this matter was referred back to the Executive for adoption and later submission for the consideration of the Government. The particulars submitted by the State Secretary were then considered after which it was agreed that the action suggested be taken.

Pensions Committee: The report of the Pensions Committee meeting, held on the 27th February, was submitted by Mr. Watt. The committee pointed out that owing to pressure of business it was understood that the Rev. E. H. O. Nye would not be able to continue his duties for some time to come. They requested that another appointment to the Committee be made, and suggested the Rev. C. L. Riley, who agreed to act.

Finance Committee: The report of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 5th March, was submitted by Mr. Tyler. The report contained recommendations concerning the expenditure for the Centenary Ball, and also in regard to the salary of the Clerk-in-Charge of the Art Union. After discussion, the report was adopted.

R.S.L. Relief Fund: A report of the activities of the Relief Fund for the month of February was received. The report dealt with a request from Kalgoorlie-Sub-Branch that a portion of the amount received as refund of assistance from J. McGregor be forwarded them. The Trustees recommended that they be given power to adjust this matter with the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch on a pro-rata basis. The report was adopted.

Employment Bureau: Report of the operations of the Employment Bureau for the month of February was received.

Women’s Auxiliary, State Executive: The report of the activities of this Auxiliary for the month of February was received.

Congratulation: Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Smith: That congratulations be extended to the Rev. E. H. O. Nye on his appointment as President-elect of the Methodist Conference.

Centenary Ball: Moved by Mr. Philip, seconded by Mr. Cooke: That the list of guests to be invited to the Centenary Ball be left to the Management Committee.—Carried.

TO CORRESPONDENTS

The “Listening Post” is desirous of giving publicity to the various activities of all sub-branches, but, while the number of sub-branches is, fortunately, increasing, the “Listening Post,” unfortunately, remains the same size. This necessitates a considerable amount of reading matter being excluded from each issue in order that sub-branch reports may be printed. The editor would like correspondents to make their notes as brief as possible, and hopes that no one will feel hurt if, owing to the exigencies of space, he finds his “copy” has been cut down.

Imperial Printing Co. Ltd.
Perth’s Particular Printers Returned Soldiers

“SWAN” BRAND PURE MALTED VINEGAR—Best Obtained.
Manjimup Soldier Settlers' Difficulties
STATE SECRETARY EXPLAINS PROCEDURE

Manjimup diggers assembled in force on Saturday night, March 9th, and under the presidency of Mr. Dave Cohen displayed an excellent dinner and good from the local stores. Amongst the guests were Mr. G. H. Philip (executive), Mr. D. M. Benson (State Secretary), Mr. Thackeray (Road Board), Mr. Fontanini (adviser and well-wisher). The dinner was held in the Dining Room of the Hotel Manjimup and nothing was left undone to ensure cordiality and harmony throughout the proceedings. Refreshments were varied and plentiful and there were no absences when "God Save the King" was sung at 11.30 p.m. All edibles were produced locally.

Prior to the dinner the Land Sub-committee of the Manjimup Sub-branch complained to the visiting League officials that apparently little was known and hardly anything done to meet the peculiar needs of soldier settlers in this heavily timbered district. Contrasting the assistance of the A.I.F. Soldier Settlers' Group Sub-branch whilst the former had received advances as development loans up to about £1,000, the Sub-committee stated that it would have been written off. The resultant loss, it was pointed out, would involve on the taxpayers of the State, whilst the loss on soldiers' settlement would be met from the Commonwealth Government's coffers.

Settlers, the delegation continued, were continuously bombarded with sarcastic letters from the District Office asking when the Bank trustees could be advised of interest payments. In many cases the settlers were paying interest, but irritating demands had brought about many abandonments of soldier settlers. What the soldier settlers of Manjimup wanted was a realisation of their problems, some sound practical advice to meet them, and further monies to enable them to purchase more land.

The State Secretary (Mr. Benson), in his reply to the delegation, emphatically stated that irrespective of the liabilities of the District Offices, the managing trustee of the Agricultural Bank (Mr. McLaury) and his colleagues of the Soldiers' Settlement Board were collectively and personally in sympathy with a soldier settler's peculiar problems and were always willing to listen to any reasonable, clear-cut cases. Rambling and general statements, however, were futile.

Referring to the threatening notices to foreclose or dispossess or, as sometimes worded, to change the ownership, Mr. Benson said that he had never known a case where the soldier settler had been forced off his holding if he desired to remain. If to his best to pay his way. The receipt of threatening notices should not disturb any man, if he were a genuine truster. The Land Committee of the R.S.L. State Executive was frequently in touch with the authorities and in serious cases affecting soldier settlers Mr. McLaury invariably referred particulars to the Land Committee, if drastic action were contemplated. The local soldier settlers must follow the accepted procedure, i.e., any case of need to report particulars to the local committee of the sub-branch, which will, in turn, investigate and make a recommendation to the Land Committee at headquarters. Relative files were the obtained, all the evidence produced for and against the settler, and a decision arrived at totally sympathetic to any existing difficulties, and in many cases giving the settler new heart to carry on.

It further remained with the local people supplying the information, in all cases, to reveal the actual state of affairs and everything would be done to assist them in alleviating present difficulties. As to the complaint of soldiers' properties being sold to aliens, this would not occur if any other settlers, or if the retiring settler himself desired to continue in occupation. For instance, when an abandoned property was thrown open to tender, a compulsory procedure under the Transfer of Land Act, the previous soldier settler could submit his tender and if the League officials were appraised of his intention they would see that he got first preference, and at least get permission to re-occupy, on the same terms as the highest tenderer. The interchange of information between the League officials and the Manjimup Land Sub-Committee dispelled a great many wrong impressions and should bring about a better knowledge of necessary procedure between the settler and the League Head Office.

British Ex-Service Women
The local committee of the Victoria League is anxious for it to be known that it administers a fund intended to help British ex-Service Women resident in the State, who may find themselves temporarily in straitened circumstances.

British United Services Association

The B.U.S.A. scored a brilliant success on March 4th, with their first annual ladies' night. Members and friends to the number of about 200 roamed and frolicked the time away "lights out" coming all too soon. Mrs. Hopperton and her popular hubby, Harold, were in good form. Mrs. Tom Tandy had a surprise birthday cake presented—a real surprise. Master Roy Facey excelled himself on his xylaphone. Bill Smidge, the funny man; Bill Harrison, at the piano; and others, too, all lent a hand to make the evening a success. Mrs. Catonmole helped with the programme, too, and later helped herself by winning the two big boxes of chocolates. The crowd have asked for another night and the Executive are considering the possibility on the evening of the annual meeting—probably June 10th. BUT—be on parade Anzac Day!

The Taxpayers' Association of W.A. Ltd.

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The Association has secured for its members rebates of Taxation to the amount of £111,873.

LOUIS E. HORNE, F.A.I.S., Secretary.

"SWAN" BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES—Appetising, Piquant
The Bunbury Soldiers' Re-Union

A WEEK LONG TO BE REMEMBERED

So the Bunbury Centenary Re-Union of ex-Service men has come and gone. Its wonderful success was an achievement of which the League in general and the Bunbury Sub-branch in particular have every reason to feel proud. It was a bold experiment and many there were who could see in the scheme small chance of success. But the Gillett, President of the Sub-branch, expended his scheme last September to the State Congress to hold a State-wide re-union festival week at Bunbury to celebrate the Centenary Year, his remarks were treated in a facetious manner, and it was thought that perhaps the best way to side-track such misguided enthusiasm was to refer the matter to the State Executive. Delegates, however, did not reckon on their man, who returned to Bunbury and initiated such a careful plan, and so well organised his forces to carry it out, that the State Executive could do no other than endorse the proposal.

A capable organiser in the person of Mr. J. E. Taylor was appointed and a strong committee was formed from the sub-branch, and the Municipal Council and local citizens were asked to assist. To ensure the week was well conducted, was good weather and an appreciation of the efforts of the committee by ex-service men in a practical manner by their attendance.

The stage was set and the anxiety felt by the organisers was soon allayed by the arrival into the town of hundreds of Diggers and tommies with their families. President Gillett's good humour was infectious, and the spirit of carnival soon swept away and continued throughout the week. The fates were evidently bunched for the weather continued to be perfect throughout the celebrations.

Of the organised attractions, such as the great smoke social, the diggers' concert, the races, and the district and river trips, the fishing, tennis, cricket, bowling, and other competitions, the torchlight procession, the dancing, the morning re-unions, the swimming, the children's sports, the church parade, the fireworks, the bobs and wrestling, and many others, it is not our intention to go into detail, as they have already been published in our papers. All were successful and gave great enjoyment, but to those fortunate ones privileged to be present came something grander, there came a re-kinding of the Anzac spirit, that glorious feeling of mateship which only those who shared the dangers of war can feel and perhaps understand. It gladdened the heart to see the hearty handshakes between old pals and to hear the old nicknames and the rough but effective words of welcome. There was little talk of war except in the reminiscence of "poor old Blue" or "dear old Jack" who had collected "his issue" were shown to be still green to memory. Most of the conversations were of hectic days in Cairo, gay times in Amiens, in appreciation of the kindness of the people of Blighty, and of the humours of the rum jar, the poker school, crown and anchor, and the two-up ring, etc. Songs of the "years that were" were sung and re-sung, and half-forgotten colloquial Arabic and French terms were quoted with gusto. Naturally, there was clinking of glasses, but few ordered fried aspors for breakfast. The behaviour of the visitors was exemplary, and at the conclusion of the week a lady resident of Bunbury advised the writer that she had failed to locate one drunken digger.

For the time being Bunbury was a Mecca where the faithful gathered, an Olympia where men of common ideals and speaking one language were able to assemble and demonstrate to the country that the old digger spirit of camaraderie and good fellowship still exists.

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of the week was the ovation accorded the State President and other members of the Executive. To us this indicates that the League is no mere subscription-receiving body, but a vital force working for the good of the community. It also indicates what an added power for good the League may become - should we attain our objective of a hundred per cent membership.

All honour to the Bunbury Sub-branch, not only for the originality of the conception, but too for the tremendous amount of work their committee have done to make the event such an enjoyable one, and such an unqualified success.

The State Executive very fittingly passed the following resolution at its meeting on Wednesday:— "That this State Executive places on record its deep appreciation of the spirit of enterprise shown by the Bunbury Sub-branch R.S.L. in undertaking to carry out a State-wide Re-union in connection with the Centenary celebrations, and extends to the members of the Sub-branch, especially to the President (Mr. Gillett), the Organiser (Mr. Taylor) and the Committee their warmest congratulations on the boundless success which attended the Re-union, from the opening to the close, resulting it is hoped in a fuller knowledge and wider interest in the aims and objects of the League. That the Executive also expresses its gratitude through the Bunbury Sub-branch to the residents and business people of Bunbury for their wholehearted co-operation in making the Re-union such a signal success."

It was also decided that a letter of congratulation be forwarded to the Boyanup Sub-branch for their splendid efforts in entertaining visitors from the State-wide Re-union.

President C. R. Gillett and Organiser
J. E. Taylor, the guiding spirits of the Re-Union

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"SWAN" BRAND TOMATO SAUCE. Delicious
W.A. War Books

Last month we published a few words on war literature from the pen of that well-known writer, Arnold Bennett. Scanning them over again, we are led to ask ourselves if we are doing enough to encourage those local historians who have sacrificed their leisure and, in some cases, means, in an endeavour to faithfully record the doings of the various Western Australian units of the A.I.F.

So far, three good books have been published, but we are in a position to know that none of them have, as yet, recouped the authors for their outlay. Olden’s “Westralian Cavalry in the War;” Longmore’s “Eggs-a-Cook;” and Collett’s, “The 28th,” are efforts meriting the gratitude of every returned soldier, and we would like to see a revival of the demand for copies. Our records are worth preserving, and we owe, at least, gratitude to those of our comrades who have the skill and have found the time to compile them.

Captain Longmore has also written the history of the 16th Battalion, and this book is now in the press. Part of the 51st Battalion doings were recorded some time ago, but have not yet emerged in permanent form.

Is anyone doing anything for the 11th Battalion, the 32nd Battalion, and the other units? All made history that appeals to our pride of race and country.

Some of us can do a little more to help. If we have not a history of our own unit, we should get one—“for the sake of those who may come after us.”

The Passing of a Famous Padre

Those who had the privilege of knowing him personally, and those who merely knew him through his writings and his splendid war record, must have experienced a sense of personal loss when they read the cable account of the untimely death through influenza of the Rev. G. Studdert-Kennedy, M.C. It was during his early ministry in a north country mining town, with its sparsity, its poverty, and all its roughness, and in dealing with rough, work-blackened men, whose very roughness is often only a cloak for shyness, that the genial little padre ac-

A Gathering of Ex-Soldiers and their Families, snapped outside the Bunbury Re-Union Hall.

(I. Hart, Photo.)

quired that intensive knowledge of human nature which stood him in such good stead in the army. Always the soldier-man’s friend, his habit of handing out stray fags to all and sundry soon earned him the sobriquet of “Woodbine Willy,” which he used as a pen-name when publishing his books of verse.

His first volume, “Rough Rhymes of a Padre,” was published about twelve months before the Armistice, and the whole of the profits were donated to the St. Dunstan’s Home for Blinded Soldiers. There was nothing rough about the rhymes, except the title. Studdert-Kennedy made no attempt at fine writing, but there was nothing loose or crude about his literary style. His language had all the simplicity of the Authorised Version, yet at times he could be as forceful as Kipling himself.

Though a poet and litterateur there was nothing of the retiring student in his composition. His front line service gained him a stout M.C., added to which he was a keen boxer and wrestler, preferring to tackle bigger men than himself, as he considered that better practice.

During the last year of the war he was chaplain to the G.H.Q. School of P. and B.T., and it was here that a few privileged Australian soldiers were enabled to make his acquaintance. A genial companion either at a night in the mess, or during a trampround the countryside, his simple manliness and unfailing good nature won him the affections of all who had the good fortune to know him.

He continued to write after the war and had published a novel and several works of devotion. Being a clergyman it is but natural that his work should have had a devotional trend. His death at the early age of forty-six will prove a loss, not only to the Church, of which he was such a distinguished member, but also to the world of letters, in which he was beginning to make such an indelible mark.
Women's Auxiliary
STATE EXECUTIVE
The Women's Auxiliary R.S.L. State Executive continues to help the wives and families of distressed soldiers; although the demands have not been very heavy during the past month. About 90 circular letters have been dispatched to sub-branches with the object of getting into touch with country sub-branch auxiliaries and encouraging the formation of auxiliaries where none already exist. A few replies have been received. The President and Secretary have addressed gatherings of ladies with a view to furthering this project. The outlook at the present time is most promising.

NORTH PERTH SUB-BRANCH
This Sub-Branch, formed in November last, commenced activities with Poppies and sales. Since then they have distributed comforts to soldiers in hospitals at Christmas and New Year. At present there are nineteen members, but the President, Mrs. Penn, desires to double that number.

PERTH SUB-BRANCH
The Perth Sub-branch entertained their Women's Auxiliary and other Belugas at a social held in the Institute on 25th February. There was a euchre tournament for the non-dancers, the prize winners being Mesdames Weare and Luff. Numerous other prizes were given in "lucky spot" dances. An orchestra, under the able leadership of Mr. Harrison, provided the music for the dancing, and other musical items were contributed by the Centenary Girls (Sisters Mortimer and Miss Paul), and Mr. Roy Faeby.

This Auxiliary continues to provide three monthly concerts to soldiers in hospitals and also distributes cigarettes, tobacco and literature.

WHY SOME AUXILIARIES FAIL
Because many members are only members in name.
Because some members think that their obligations are discharged when they have paid their entrance fee.
Because members are disloyal to their own organization.
Because some members think they are heaven-sent critics, when they are only earth-born grumblers.
Because some members do not like the colour of the secretary's dress.
Because some members say: "I don't really think there is anything we can do."
Because so many members air their grievances anywhere but at committee meetings.

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WILLIAM STREET, PERTH
Opposite Wesley Church
Non-Combatants and League Membership

J.S.Y. replies.—Re C.L.O.’s opposition to my views re non-combatants, I am glad that he takes the higher ground of interpretation rather than the lower one of prejudice. But it is obvious that the lack of logic is with the founders and execution of the R.S.L. ‘raker in, and the non-soldier is one engaged in military operations; the idea that only those who take the King’s shilling are soldiers is a very modern interpretation. In days of old men fought for voluntary recruits or volunteer. It is only a part of any army, and not always the most useful part. If C.L.O. would have membership confined to the paid soldier, we might as well style ourselves the Returned Mercenaries’ Association. The A.I.F. authorities included the non-combatants in question in their organisation by granting them uniforms and honorary rank. So they were engaged in military operations, and therefore, were members. The question of fighting does not arise, otherwise we must exclude from our League all paddies and A.M.C. men who were officially non-combatants, as well as the thousands engaged on camps. Base, who were actually non-combatants, though engaged in work essential to the success of the military operations. A limit of eligibility must be fixed, but it is illogical to exclude those whom the A.I.F. authorities included, and, since we are proud of the fact that the A.I.F. was a volunteer army, it is even more illogical to exclude those who were not only volunteers, but, as far as our Government was concerned, were unpaid volunteers.

Service or Self

“Outpost,” Perth, writes.—It is difficult to follow some of the League happenings in two of the most populous States of the East. A recent issue of the Sydney diggers’ paper, “The Reveille,” contains a leading article entitled, “Sir John Monash, inter alia—‘A man of the calibre of Sir John Monash, with his dominant qualifications, is needed sorely in the League. His active participation in its work would enhance its influence, and prestige and send up its standard in mighty bounds. Sir John! The Diggers need you.” All of which was said by our own Colonel Collett, State President, in his Congress address last October. As an outcome of the C.L.O. meeting in W.A., a resolution was passed which this State’s delegates to the Federal Congress of the League sponsored a resolution inviting Sir John Monash to place himself at the head of the League before the end of 1920. It appears that this resolution from W.A. was the only item of an extensive agenda which was discussed in committee.

Owing to the opposition of other States, amongst which was N.S.W., the resolution was modified and ultimately a pious hope was expressed that Sir John Monash and Sir Harry Chauvel would associate themselves with the Federal Executive. It appears that at the Sydney Congress, Victoria was the only State which supported Western Australia, and it is pleasing to note now that some wisdom has come to N.S.W., as expressed in the official organ of the League in the paragraph referred to above. Why the change of front?

“And now for Victoria. In a recent issue of the Melbourne “Duckboard,” the State Secretary, Mr. Joyce, went to some pains to explain the action of his Executive in prohibiting from nomination for the B.E.S.L. Congress any other Victorian digger than the Victorian nominee already announced in the official organ. This caused the objection of Mr. James Martin, the President of the Victorian State Branch, who had been nominated by the Western Australian Branch. Mr. Joyce, however, omits to explain why the Victorian State Council desired to shut out from the federal Executive ballot men like Captain Dyett, Sir John Monash, Sir Harry Chauvel, General “Pompey” Elliott, and many others. The Victorian soldiers who might have been nominated by other States taking an Australian-wide viewpoint, and thus nominating someone with an Australian-wide reputation for this important Empire Conference in London, strange things happen in the East, but let us hope that intrusion will finish some day and the League’s purpose of considering service—before self found uppermost.

Our Discipline and that of Others

Lord Byng has given the London Sunday Express some inside information regarding the disturbance which occurred at Calais, and which he was instrumental in quelling.

It seems that there were two outbreaks, one of railway operating men, a species of labour, and another one, mainly from about two thousand troops. The latter, apparently, consisted of that political hearse of Simon de Montfort and John Hampden, should take as guides, in the exercise of freedom, the gang of international criminals, controlling Russia, and endeavoured to found soviets within the service. The two outbreaks were unconnected, it being mere coincidence that they happened simultaneously, and they were speedily put down. In this connection we take the opportunity of informing those persons, whose prejudice outweighs their knowledge to the extent that they give at the discipline of the Australian soldiers whenever and wherever possible, that all of the troops, being demobilised after the armistice the A.I.F. was the only section of the British forces that did not engage in rioting and such incidents as the Calais mutiny.

Re-Union Comment

The committee responsible for the success of the re-union were President C. R. Gillett, Organiser J. E. Taylor, and Messrs. C. Wood, J. Levy, A. E. Massey, G. G. Downes, and J. L. McKenzie.

“The Birthplace” has achieved the distinction of setting an example to the rest of the Commonwealth by organising the first demonstration of its kind. A discussion of the League who knows Australia well stated that W.A. was the only State in which such a function would be possible. We wonder.

The marching of the boys was as good as old, but the inevitable annoyance was the man who caught the Australian flag blotted out.

General Hobbs was paid a pretty compliment when he was asked to inspect the boys who fell in for church parade. The courtesy was appreciated by the boys, who offended the law of discipline of giving the little digger three cheers.

Cliff. Gillett and his sweet little wife worked tirelessly throughout the week. At all times cheerful, they made ideal hosts. They must have heaved sighs of relief at the departure of Sir Harry Chauvel who was good for the part. The triumph was theirs.

There is no more popular medico with the diggers than Doctor Joe Kenny. He refereed the fights, and he was given a great reception by the boys.

The jazzophone band, consisting of George, Vic, Bess, Bill, Dick, and the boys, made a smash hit. Dick Geddes, Ross Keeling, Cliff. Gillett, Carl Ferguson, Tom Tandy and about a dozen others, made the air blue with their frightful noises at all hours of the day and night. Cheerio!

Colonel Gillett’s advent was looked for all the week. All were sorry that it was not possible to have him for the full period. When our popular leader arrived on the Saturday, the reception he received must have repaid him a little for the volume of work done and the load of responsibility carried in the interests of his friends of the League.

The Rabbi’s account of his first race meeting would make good reading, but the player to throw a vowel over this lapsed event and make an absolute page of it. We wish to deny the rumour that the Rabbi has not a pyjama (?) coat to sleep in.

The Diggers’ Concert was a treat. Why not follow their splendid lead and get a similar party together in Perth?

The trip to Boyanup was an eye-opener—also a third quencher. The local sub-branch and their friends treated the visitors right royally.

On Friday night, March 8th, the members of the Bridgetown Sub-branch, together with the ladies of the Auxiliary, Red Cross Society, all under the chairmanship of Major Wittell, assembled in good numbers to welcome Mr. G. H. Philip, of the State Executive, and the State Secretary. A very pleasing musical programme included the delivery of appropriate addresses on the important work of the League. Members of this Sub-branch engaged in apple production are experiencing a very successful year, with handsome yields and good prices. Bridgetown’s apparent prosperity and built foundations, everybody being determined to outstrip the wonderful strides made in recent years.

March 22, 1929.

THE LISTENING POST
Unclaimed War Medals

That the digger is a very casual cuss is illustrated by the announcement that there are 75,000 unclaimed war medals, including one D.S.O., two Meritorious Service Medals, one French decoration, and 15 Military Medals, still awaiting claimants in the base records branch of Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

It is stated that about 200 medals are sent away each month to applicants in various parts of the world. The fact that applications roll in from such out-of-the-way places as Russia, France, America, and even Czechoslovakia, shows how the men of the A.I.F. are scattered over the earth.

R.S.L. Art Union

Any Digger subscribing 2/- to the R.S.L. Art Union may find himself on June 29th next in possession of a British motor car to the value of £375 awarded as the third prize. He may also be fortunate enough to receive the £1,000 first prize money, or perhaps remain content with only £50, representing the second prize money. Even if he misses all these, he might win the fourth prize of £100, or any of the 150 other cash prizes. This is the best conducted art union in the West, and offers better speculative facilities than any other consultation in Australia.

Personal

The Listening Post extends its congratulations to the Rev. Eric H. Nye on his election to the Presidency of the Methodist Conference for the year 1930, and to the audience for not applauding him more vigorously. On the way home I remarked to the Khan, “Asche seems to have lost his head to-night, to which the dusky portepee replied, “If he were one of my subjects he’d have lost it long ago.”

During the Japopoooland Campaign we were very short of water, so at my suggestion the officers gave up their water ration to the men and we subsisted on champagne, with which the Headquarters mess was well supplied. Japopoooland is an extremely dry country, with a peculiarly rarified atmosphere. As a consequence one frequently saw several moons in the sky. This may seem incredible, but it must be remembered that there are thirteen moons in the year. In Japopoooland we frequently saw the whole thirteen in the one night.

On the day after the Remarriage of Widows’ Husbands Bill with Mr. Horatio Horriffle, who was then Honorary Minister, and Chairman of the Board for Decorating Duds. I considered that the proposed measure was not in the best interests of the country. “Hang the country,” replied Mr. Horriffle, with that simple directness that has carried him so far in politics. “That does not matter to me. I am more concerned about the fates of my party.”

When the Blanksheep returned from India I dined in their mess. The Gondi agitation formed the topic of conversation. I happened to remark that unrest should mean arrest, and the whole mess was convulsed with laughter. And yet there are stupid people who say that the junior officer of to-day has no sense of humour.

One must go to the great old families to see the spirit of sportsmanship in full working order. When Sophonisba, Viscount Pickpurs’ younger daughter, married William Schroggins, the London bus conductor, the Earl, his grandfather, took the matter quite philosophically. The younger members of the family indulged in a little good-humoured banter, such as blowing whistles and hugging him pennies, whenever the bridegroom appeared in their presence, but no overt allusion was ever made to his humble origin.

He: “Love is a kind of insanity.”

She: “Who in the world has been falling in love with you?”
HEALTH

(By Karl Reiland)

The man who is wise will look after his bodily health. Health is freedom, illness is limitation. Failing health means that one cannot do what a healthy person can do, and common-sense dictates that one must keep fit. Health is a question of immunity and resistance. Many are careless of how they act and of what they eat. Most of our troubles arise in the digestive tract. Neglect, weariness and laziness are sources of illness.

It is a remarkable fact that the working of one's mind is greatly influenced by bodily sensations. The physical condition must be good if the mind is to do its best work. Eating and drinking are flagrant sources of trouble. Some starve themselves to assist the brain, but temperance in all things is the absolute rule. Our bodies should serve us and not distract the attention of our minds by some irritating discomfort. It is, therefore, a matter of spiritual, moral and mental economy to be decent, temperate, clean, careful and absolutely healthy, and he who is indifferent to his own health is an enemy to his own best interests in every way.

There are people who will take far better care of an automobile than of their anatomy, who fail to see that the difference between soundness and sickness is the difference between freedom and slavery, who abuse this patient, faithful, long-suffering, wonderful machine, which is the instrument and vehicle of the mind and soul, and lose their birthright to a useful and successful life.

Good health has much to do with straight thinking and right living. The mistaken notions of many learned men may be traced to ill-health, which caused them to take a distorted view of things. So too, many otherwise good men have disintegrated morally, because their physical ills reduced the vitality of their will and conscience, lowered their resistance and caused them to pamper their weaknesses. The Romans had it:

"A sane mind in a sound body."

A druggist received a note scribbled in haste. It read: "My baby has eaten up his father's parish plaster. Send an anecdot e quick by the enclosed girl. Also send bottle of O. Dick Alone, as I am feeling a bit historical."

Two men were seated in a crowded tram-car and one, noting that the other had his eyes closed, said, "Bill, ain't yer well?"

"I'm all right," said Bill, "but I do hate to see ladies standing."

Bridget, me ould darlint,—

"Shure o'ave forgot yer address entirely, so o can't post this letter. If yer don't receive it let me know at once, and o'll claim compensation from the Post Office. Oi will. Yer swate oeld face is ever before me day and night, but, it's such a wholesome sight o' me that o'mn forgetting phwat ye're loike! Yer poor ould Ullick Mick doid all o' these affairs after such a long time being bed-ridden. He was spachless an kept askin' for ye, Bridget, all the toime. Oi hope ye'll accus my spellin' as its a bad pen o'm using. Every time o' feed the pigs o' think of ye, me darlint."

"Oll be after seeing ye in the ould place on Sunday evenin'. If o'me there first o' will put a chalk mark on the wall and if ye are there first rub it out. O'mn putting yer name on the outside of this, so that no one will know o'm writin' to ye."

An Irishman and an Englishman were standing on the deck of a steamer returning to the Emerald Isle, watching for the first sign of the coast-line. The Irishman sighted the coast of Erin and shouted, "Hooray for Ireland!"

"Hooray for H——" said the Englishman in disgust.

"That's right," replied Pat, "every man for his own country!"

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Men's Wear

RELY WHEN YOU BUY FROM—

BAIRDS

Men's Pure Silk SPORTS SHIRTS, double spun throughout, 12/6.

Men's Wool and Cotton CARDIGANS, roll collar, 14/6.

Men's Wincey PYJAMAS for hard wear, 10/6


Men's Sports TROUSERS, grey flannel, 16/6.


Sports COATS, latest shades, 29/6. Others, 35/6, 37/6, 42/6.

Navy Serge TROUSERS, 3 pockets, cuff bottom, well cut, 25/6.

THE BAIRDS CO., LTD.,

WELLINGTON TO MURRAY STREETS, PERTH.

"SWAN" BRAND PURE MALT VINEGAR—Best Obtainable
THE LISTENING POST

THE MONTH

Soldiers' Pensions.

Reporting to a joint meeting of the Nationalist and Country Parties at Canberra, a sub-committee of returned soldier members of the Federal Parliament recommended that the Ministry should not accept the responsibility of proving that an applicant for a pension was not suffering from a war disability. The sub-committee was appointed at the beginning of the month after a discussion of the Ministry's Soldiers' Pensions Appeal Board Bill, which provides for the establishment of an appeal board, with assessment boards in each State to deal with application for pensions.

The committee recommended that the onus of proof that his disability arose from war service should remain with the applicant; that the appeal board should be instructed to deal as generously as possible with former soldiers seeking pensions, and in all cases in which doubt existed to give the benefit of it to the applicant. The recommendation was adopted unanimously by the parties.

The fact of his being saddled with the onus of proof need cause no misgivings to intending applicants. This procedure is the one adopted in all public bodies. In all cases of compensation or damages for injuries, whether dealt with by a court of law or by an insurance company, the onus of proof rests with the applicant. Moreover, in the case of the returned men, the appeals boards and the assessment boards will be composed of fellow diggers, who will be more likely to err on the side of leniency than otherwise.

On the question of paying for the transport and keep of soldiers who had to travel to have their cases dealt with, it was decided that the Ministry should undertake the liability for, fares, but that the cost of board should be a matter for the individual.

Drill Hall Tragedy.

Our engaging little contemporary, The Mirror, is rather peeved because the Press has not been admitted to the Court of Inquiry which the local military authorities are holding into the circumstances connected with the Lord Street Drill Hall fatality. This must, indeed, have been a severe blow to those journals whose stock-in-trade is cheap sensation, and who like to serve up for their readers all the ghastly details accompanied by more or less appropriate illustrations. But, apart from military regulations, there is, nearly always, the type of publicity afforded by the more sensational journals, is undesirable at this stage of the proceedings, and, after all, why should the Defence Authorities provide this particular section of the Press with cheap copy? The matter has already been fully reported on in the Press. The Mirror itself devoted a great deal of space to it and incidentally has revealed the derisive laughter of all returned soldiers who saw the photograph of the instructor loading a rifie of pre-war vintage with the magazine removed. Really, The Mirror's musketry expert should be put back for further instruction. Furthermore, a military court of inquiry is rather the trial of an individual, nor a coroner's inquest. When the latter occurs it will be open to the public and the Press will be able to publish all the evidence and, of course, 'authentic' illustrations. Some Boy!

A broth of a boy is Sergeant Alvin C. York, who lives 'way down in Tennessee, and whom the New York World recently described as 'the most heroic figure' in the Great War. According to that famous recorder of absolute fact, 'York's escape from the bullets of a whole machine gun battalion on October 9, 1918, at Chateau Chebbery (sic), he still considers a sort of miracle. Military experts think that the miracle was what he accomplished, not what he missed. . . .'. The difference between a military expert and a soldier is this: a soldier goes to the front line and fights battles; a military expert remains in a newspaper office and tells generals how to win them. 'He killed 20 Germans with his pistol and rifle, put 32 machine guns out of action, and took 132 prisoners home.' "What did you," Marshal Foch told him, "was the greatest thing accomplished by any private soldier of all the armies of Europe."

Well, well, and likewise, 'struth!' The first great American soldier, George Washington, had a reputation for varacity. It is stated that he never told a lie. Historians are unanimous in recording this fact, having considered thereby that they found it rather singular. That being so, we must accept this unvarnished account of Alvin C. York.

Near York's home, The World informs us, there used to be a sign explaining why Jamestown is famous. Now it has been taken down. "Everyone round here knows where I live," asserts the modest "hero," and the folks of the old home town call him "Al."

He has medals galore and has turned down handsome offers from photographers, picture producers and vaudeville people. Truly a modest and unassuming hero. Now, diggers, let us all arise in honour of the "world's best soldier," the modest and veracious Alvin C. York, and sing the Soldiers' Chorus. Al's no Vulgar Hero!

"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine—OUT!!"

Larrkins and Larwood.

The regrettable happening on the Melbourne Cricket Ground, when a larrkin
It is even stranger, in the light of the information that several ex-diggers have had their applications to the department disallowed under the department's professed retrenchment scheme. The Federal Ministry has just issued instructions for the restoration to advertisements for labour of the stipulation relating to preference to returned soldiers. Surely the Ministry will not stultify its own instructions by retaining in his appointment an individual who not only did not go to the war but appears to be unsympathetic to those who did.

An Assertion which is almost a Confession.

A curious commentary on the method of filling Government appointments is contained in an advertisement inserted in the State Education Department in a recent issue of the West. The advertisement in question called for applicants for an instructor's job at the local Technical College, and ended with an illuminating statement of the applicant's qualifications. The Hon. Minister for Education would render the applicant ineligible for appointment. Rightly or wrongly, it has become a matter of public belief that political influence is necessary, not only in the matter of securing appointments, but, in the case of those already in the public service, to safeguard an individual from injustice. The Education Department's advertisement would seem to be a tacit admission that this state of affairs exists, and is to be condemned for putting the ban so decisively upon the political wire-puller—provided, of course, that the heads of the Department have the backbone to do as their word.

So far so good, but the Listening Post would have been better pleased with the advertisement had it contained some enunciation of the principle of preference to returned soldiers. In this matter of preference the Department has been slipping of late. In the case of a recent appointment to the Teachers' College—not the one that caused all the fuss in Parliament, but that of the lower December advertisements—there were several returned soldiers, eminently qualified for the position among the applicants, whose qualifications were enhanced as a result of their war training. These were passed over in favour of a youth who was certainly too young for the war, but who possessed no special qualifications for such a post. At the outbreak of the war three very senior men in the Department were of military age, and two even held a species of commission in the Defence Force, and all three are rather highly regarded physically. Nevertheless, they kept the home fires burning, while a senior official of another department of the Public Service went away as a plain digger. Perhaps this is why the principle of preference is being ignored of late.

A man and a girl were playing golf, at which the latter was quite a novice, and had reached the point where she was on top of a little hill. The man ran up to see the lay of the balls. "A styke, he shouted, a dead styke." The girl approached with a sniff. "Ah," she said, "I thought they meant something as I walked up the hill."
Varia

Why does Bert Strehl, of the Criterion, remind you of a hymn-book? Because he's the Church's one foundation.

The day after Jack Barry sold out of the Criterion, a customer paid for a round of drinks with a handful of threepenny pieces. "Hope you don't mind church money," he apologised to the barman.

"It's all Church money here now," Tom McGow told him.

General Jess was in a somewhat reminiscent mood at the Press Sub-Branch dinner, and told a tale of his experience as a junior officer. While still a captain he attended

RETURNED SOLDIERS' MONUMENTAL WORKS.

Only Address:
KARRAKATTA (near Station)

Write or Ring FA832 and we will post Catalogue.

We call by appointment.

the State Commandant at a function in a Victorian country town. The local reporter was anxious to get everyone correctly in print, and asked him his name.

"Captain Jess," he was told.

"How on earth can I remember that?" moaned the reporter.

" Easily," replied C. H. J. "Think of Rider Haggard's 'Jess.'"

The next day the paper reported:

"Among those present were the State Commandant, Colonel Parnell, accompanied by Captain Sheehy."

SAMPLES OF AMERICAN HUMOUR

Selected from their Magazines.

She was only a gardener's daughter, but, gee! she knew her onions.

She was only a plumber's daughter, but she knew how to swing the lead.

She was only an electrician's daughter, but she was the light of the town.

The following, which denote the superlative, are screamingly funny:

Just the cat's pyjamas.

Just the 'frog's feathers.

&c. &c. ad nauseam.

Now, aren't we Australians a dead and dull crowd not to be able to think-out brainy things like these?

"Sport: Yes, when I got home at 3 a.m. yesterday, I told the wife I'd met that fluffy-haired girl from "The Barley Mow," and we'd gone along to her flat where she was giving a party, an' I did in the rent money in a poker game, an' had to borrow a taxi fare home. The missus only says, 'Well, dear, so long as you're happy an' have a good time I don't mind.'"

"Snort: Splendid, old chap. Now I'll tell you one."

The old furphy that the majority of the A.I.F. were born in the United Kingdom has received its death knell by the publication of the official figures showing where those who went overseas with the A.I.F. were born. The figures, which have been supplied by the officer in charge of base records, are as follows—Queensland, 28,253; New South Wales, 88,250; Victoria, 92,553; South Australia, 27,761; Western Australia, 8,042; Tasmania, 13,104; United Kingdom, 64,221; New Zealand, 4,214; other British countries, 2,246; foreign countries, 3,137; total, 331,781.

The summary shows that 77 per cent of the man who left Australia with the A.I.F. were native born.

The Victorian Education Department has not only established two annual scholarships for sons of returned soldiers, but has to its credit the sum of £40,000, the balance of the department's war-relief fund. Last month the Director, Mr. Hansen, informed the members-Soldiers' Teachers' Association that this fund would require careful administration because a number of men would not develop their own war experiences until they reached the age of 40 or 50.

A speaker at the annual meeting of the Victorian Ex-Soldier Teachers' Association accused the late Hogan Government of suppressing references to the gallant deeds of the Anzacs in publications issued by the Education Department. Unless the accusation is false that particular ministry has been guilty of an act which is not only futile, but a gratuitous insult to members of Mr. Hogan's own party, which was well represented on Gallipoli and elsewhere. Forgetting the war and bowdlerising all the romance from the kiddies' textbooks is not the way to stimulate a desire for universal peace. The same youngsters go to the pictures and the type of film shown will give the rising generation the opinion that Germany's sole opponent in the war was the Neutrified States. Even if only as a counterblow to such pernicious perversion of history the youthful Australian should be taught the history of the Great War.

The Listening Post

Varia

Why does Bert Strehl, of the Criterion, remind you of a hymn-book? Because he's the Church's one foundation.

The day after Jack Barry sold out of the Criterion, a customer paid for a round of drinks with a handful of threepenny pieces. "Hope you don't mind church money," he apologised to the barman.

"It's all Church money here now," Tom McGow told him.

General Jess was in a somewhat reminiscent mood at the Press Sub-Branch dinner, and told a tale of his experience as a junior officer. While still a captain he attended

RETURNED SOLDIERS' MONUMENTAL WORKS.

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the State Commandant at a function in a Victorian country town. The local reporter was anxious to get everyone correctly in print, and asked him his name.

"Captain Jess," he was told.

"How on earth can I remember that?" moaned the reporter.

" Easily," replied C. H. J. "Think of Rider Haggard's 'Jess.'"

The next day the paper reported:

"Among those present were the State Commandant, Colonel Parnell, accompanied by Captain Sheehy."

SAMPLES OF AMERICAN HUMOUR

Selected from their Magazines.

She was only a gardener's daughter, but, gee! she knew her onions.

She was only a plumber's daughter, but she knew how to swing the lead.

She was only an electrician's daughter, but she was the light of the town.

The following, which denote the superlative, are screamingly funny:

Just the cat's pyjamas.

Just the 'frog's feathers.

&c. &c. ad nauseam.

Now, aren't we Australians a dead and dull crowd not to be able to think-out brainy things like these?

"Sport: Yes, when I got home at 3 a.m. yesterday, I told the wife I'd met that fluffy-haired girl from "The Barley Mow," and we'd gone along to her flat where she was giving a party, an' I did in the rent money in a poker game, an' had to borrow a taxi fare home. The missus only says, 'Well, dear, so long as you're happy an' have a good time I don't mind.'"

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The Listening Post

28th Battalion Notes

One wonders whether a parallel could be found for the following:

The Honorary Colonel of the Young 28th Battalion is the man who trained the original 28th, and led it into action. The present C.O. served under him as a sergeant before the war, as a private, lance jack, lieutenant and skipper during the war, and as a field officer since the war.

Both are still young men, one guides the destinies of the Returned Soldiers of W.A., the other those of the 28th Battalion Association—doing their bit, all right.

The last monthly luncheon was rendered the more enjoyable by the presence of Major Charlie Field all the way from Broome, where he successfully holds down the job of Resident Engineer. Some well remember him as "Handsome Charlie," a "joint" in the "backbone" of the original 28th; others as the first N.C.O. to gain a commission in the field; others again as an expert machine-gunner; and all who knew him as a good soldier and the battalion's bon raconteur for excellence.

Also in town, the redoubtable Tim Curran, the man who, as signalling officer, never failed to gain contact (in more ways than one) in the hottest action. They all drop in to the monthly luncheons. Hop along and meet your old cobbers on the 28th of each month. Place: The Soldiers' Institute; time: 1 p.m. Falls on a Thursday this month.

A financial membership of two hundred is the goal for the Centenary Year. Sixty-nine subs. have been received during the first quarter. Follow the good example. Although not favoured by warm weather, the annual river trip of the 28th Battalion Association held last month proved most enjoyable, the pleasure of the evening being greatly enhanced by the old favourites played by the young 28th-band.

The young 28th will be under canvas from the 3rd to the 10th of April. Find time to have a look at the youngsters who are carrying on our traditions. You'll enjoy it; they'll appreciate it.

"Does your wife enjoy the radio?"

"Certainly got! Why should she? She can't talk over it!"

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"SWAN" BRAND PURE MALT VINEGAR—Best Obtainable

March 22, 1929.
Ministerial Praise for the League

Complimentary references to the League and its activities were made by two members of the Federal Ministry at the congress of the Federal Territory Branch of the League.

Mr. Abbott, Minister for Home Affairs, who opened the congress, in the absence of the Prime Minister, announced the intention of the Government to give effect to the principle of preference to returned soldiers. Mr. Abbott, who was a colonel in the A.I.F. and is now a League member, considers that a national organisation such as the League should have its headquarters in the Federal capital. There were many returned soldiers, he said, who reaped the advantages of the League and undertook none of its responsibilities. It was difficult to believe that successive Governments since the Great War would have been so easily and rapidly moved in the interests of returned soldiers, had it not been for the organisation of the League. The Ministry was determined to maintain its policy of preference to returned soldiers. In Canberra, where young boys who could not have enlisted were growing up and seeking employment in close proximity to their parents, there were difficulties, but they would be solved in accordance with the Ministry's policy.

The task of keeping alive the traditions of the A.I.F. was becoming increasingly difficult because of the change of numbers. More than 2,000 pensioners, including soldiers and their dependents, died each year, and there were many other deaths of which no record was kept. With every year the rate of mortality would increase, and the influence of the League from the standpoint of numbers would wane. That would intensify the obligation of those who remained. No living member of the A.I.F. should be outside the League. On its members would depend whether the memory of a great army existed only in mute emblems or monuments bronze or marble, or in the soul of the generation which would succeed them.

In addressing the second session of the same congress, Sir William Glasgow, the Minister for Defence, said: "It should be remembered that Australia largely owes to the A.I.F. the greatly improved position she holds to-day. I feel sure," he added, "that Australian soldiers can still be relied upon to give of their best in the interests of the Commonwealth in times of peace."

The League, he continued, had played an important part in the solution of repatriating members; it was a valuable army which now largely been completed, and he would stress the necessity of taking up the tremendous problems of development which faced Australia to-day. There was no work to which the League could turn its attention which would be of greater benefit to themselves, to the people of Australia, and to the Empire. Such an attitude on the part of the League would be in keeping with the great tradition of the A.I.F.

Sir William Glasgow, who is a vice-patron of the branch was presented with a gold badge.

It will be noticed that both ministers have done what this paper has done on past occasions, namely, emphasised the duty of every ex-soldier to join up with the League. The number of those eligible for membership is rapidly diminishing, therefore all should become financial members, as in so doing, the League, as an organisation, becomes more representative and the suggestions it brings forward are thus rendered more worthy of consideration.
The annual general meeting of this sub-branch was held at the Council Chambers on 17th March, when, owing to the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. Vice-President W. R. Kemp was in the chair. The Secretary's report disclosed that the 1928 Anzac celebrations in Claremont Park attracted a good attendance. The sub-branch received help and support from the Rev. H. H. Harper and other clergy of the district, the Mayor, Councillors, and staff of the Claremont Council, the Scouts, Girl Guides, and other bodies, together with the various schools of the district. The State Executive was represented by Capt. J. Tozer, who delivered a suitable address.

A successful social was held at the beginning of the year.

Poppy Day was not quite so profitable as had been anticipated, which was due mainly to the little assistance given by the Women's Auxiliary, but it is hoped that next year members will be improved in this direction. Several cases of distress were relieved during the year. The sub-branch regrets the loss of one of its hon. members (the late Sister Deacon, R.R.C., late Q.A.I.M.N.S.), and one member has suffered a bereavement during the year.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. E. Summerhayes; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. R. Kemp (second year) and A. Brown; treasurer, Mr. V. Barrwood (sixth year); secretary, Mr. A. G. Cook (second year), and hon. auditor, Mr. J. Prendergast.

At this meeting it was decided to hold fortnightly meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month, commencing from April next. Will those interested kindly take notice?

The sub-branch holds its annual smoke social in the Claremont Picture Hall at 8 p. m. on 4th April, 1929. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to be present. Tickets at 2/- each may be obtained from the secretary, Mr. A. Cook, 12 Dalgety Street, South Cottesloe; Mr. S. V. Barwood, 10 Sadlier Street, Swanbourne; Mr. W. R. Kemp, Greville Street, Cottesloe; or Mr. A. Brown, 7 Sadlier Street, Subiaco.

Maylands

Maylands Sub-branch held its usual fortnightly meeting at the Maylands Town Hall on 7th March. The president (Mr. T. Butler) was in the chair, and was supported by Messrs. A. Rose (past president), R. Cook (secretary), and H. J. de Wahl (assistant). Thirty-nine members signed the attendance sheet. The circular letter from the State Executive, urging sub-branches to aim at 100 per cent. membership, was received, and it was resolved that at the next meeting the names of members who had not paid were read out. Several members announced their intention of being present at the Bunbury Re-union. It was resolved that the sub-branch order a sample set (six volumes) of the war publications, so the members might order their own. The secretary reported on his visit to the South Perth Sub-branch, assuring members that that particular sub-branch was alive and that Maylands would have to keep moving in order to retain the standing of leading sub-branch of the State.

It was reported that the Women's Auxiliary was conducting a social evening in the Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, March 16; admission, one shilling.

PRESS

Hilarity and good fellowship were password and currency at the first quarterly dinner of the Press Sub-branch, which was held at the Institute on Saturday, 9th March. Among those present were Mr. C. P. Smith (chairman and president of the Sub-branch), and many distinguished visitors, including the District Naval Officer (Commander Griffiths-Bowen), the District Commandant (Brigadier-General C. H. Jess), Lieutenant-General Sir Talbot Hobbs, Colonel Collett, and Mr. Aidan Bryan, of Cottesloe. In welcoming the visitors, Mr. C. P. Smith stated that General Hobbs was eligible for membership of the Sub-branch, being a director of the West Australian Newspaper, and considerable amusement was caused when the General was promptly "nipped" for his subscription.

After the toasts of "The King," and "Fallen Comrades," Colonel R. F. Fitzgerald proposed a vote of "The Navy and the Air Force," to which he referred as the great trinity which safeguarded the Empire during the war. Commander Griffiths-Bowen, responding for the Senior Service, traced the development of the world's navies from 1200 B.C. to the launching of H.M.A.S. "Canberra." Although the press had reported what Germany has achieved in the realm of post-war naval competition, Britain was keeping out ahead. There were many improvements on the "Canberra" that were not revealed to the public. The policy of the British Navy and other arms of the service to-day was not only to interest themselves in defence, but also in matters of commerce, colonisation, exploration, and science, so that thereby they may better serve the Empire.

General Jess, replying on behalf of the Army, paid a tribute to the work the press of Australia is doing by keeping the public informed of the work and progress of the three branches of the service in peace time. He pointed out, incidentally, that the word "trainee" only applies to those civilians who fail to fulfil their military obligations. All young men in training as soldiers were "soldiers," and not "trainees."

Mr. J. Patterson, responding on behalf of the Air Force, alluded to the important part this service had played in winning the war, and to the demoralising effect of aerial bombardments. He pleaded for the development of an "air sense" in Australia.

In proposing "The Returned Soldiers' League," General Hobbs said that in no part of Australia was the League more deserving of honour than in Western Aus-

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tralia. Very few persons appreciated the great benefits the returned men owed to the formation of the League. The League had done more for the success and prosperity of Australia than people realised. He warmly eulogised the work done in this respect by the State President, Col. H. B. Collett.

Mr. Glenard supported the toast.

In replying, Colonel Collett stated that in front of the members of the League now lay the great task of serving Australia in peace as they had in war. He referred to the establishment of an entitlement board and an assessment board, and said that soldiers and their dependents should benefit considerably by the creation of these bodies.

"Our Branch" was given by Mr. A. Hood, "Success to the 'Digger Book'" by Mr. T. Birtwistle, and seconded by Mr. E. S. Watt, and the toast of "The Chairman" was honoured on the motion of Mr. J. S. Pocklington.

The speeches were interspersed with musical items of a very high order.

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MUNDIJONG
The Annual Meeting of the Mundijong Sub-Branch was held on the 14th February. The membership for 1929 totalled 33 financial members, which is a very near approach to the desired 100 per cent membership. It was expressed that the widow and five children of the late George Ashley are now in receipt of a full pension. Mr. Jack Ashby, who has been secretary for the past five years, was elected President for 1929. Other office-bearers for the year are: Mr. W. Clarke (secretary) and Messrs. A. W. Thomas and Dimnock (vice-presidents).

The usual monthly meeting was held in March, a week earlier than usual, in order that Messrs. Jack Ashby and George Bett, who are representing the Sub-Branch at the Bunbury Re-Union, might be present. The Sub-Branch advanced £2 to relieve the necessities of an ex-Imperial man's family who are in very straitened circumstances. A local committee of citizens who are interested in returned men also donated £5 and voted a further £5 to be used when needed. Mundijong is only 29 miles from Perth, and city diggers are invited to bow along to the monthly meetings of the Sub-Branch, which are usually followed by a musical evening.

NAREMBEEN
This Sub-Branch held its annual social in the R.S.L. Club on Friday, February 22nd. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. T. F. Ward occupied the chair. Apologies were received from the State Executive. Musical and other items were presented by Messrs. Jim Galloway, Jack Rolfe, Arthur Barker, "Digger" Elliott, "Snowy" Refill, and last but not least, "Cheerful Bill" Marleed, who sang one of his own compositions, entitled "Paying the Swag." (What's wrong with the Emu?—Ed. L.P.)

MOUNT BARKER
The ordinary meeting of the Sub-Branch was held on Friday, 2nd March. Among the correspondence read was a letter from the Anglican Church Vestry asking the Sub-Branch to co-operate in the arrangements for a farewell social to be tendered to the Rev. E. J. Penistan, who leaves for England shortly. Mr. Penistan has been a very active member of the Sub-Branch and it was decided to donate two guineas towards a present to be purchased by district friends.

The name plates of fallen soldiers to be placed at the trees planted some time ago are now available, and it was decided to leave the placing of these plates for a date to be arranged. As a few of the trees had died in the meantime, it was agreed that these be replaced as soon as the weather is suitable for planting.

Other matters such as repatriation, pensions and Anzac Day were discussed. The membership now totals 118, the highest yet reached. There are still a few eligibles in the district who have not yet joined up, and so far the secretary has been unable to interview them personally. It was regretted that owing to members being engaged in fruit export, it was impossible to give the Sub-Branch representation at the Bunbury Re-Union, but the secretary was instructed to write, wishing the Bunbury Sub-Branch every success in the venture.

Accounts amounting to £24 8s. 9d. were passed for payment. The President reported very favourably upon the visit of the Ministerial Party at the invitation of the Sub-Branch, to Mt. Barker.

RAILWAY WORKSHOPS
This Branch thought that it was nearly time a Women's Auxiliary was formed in connection with the Branch, and at the Annual Picnic, an appeal was made to the ladies present, to assist us in this way.

About 50 signified their willingness, and the Secretary of the Branch was instructed to circularise them all, calling a meeting for 5th March, at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth.

This date was arranged by Mrs. T. C. Wilson (State President R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary), who kindly put it by for the afternoon, telling those present the why's and
wherefore's of a woman's auxiliary. It was decided, by the ladies present, to form an auxiliary, and hold meetings on the second Tuesday in each month, commencing on 9th April.

It was also decided that, owing to the membership covering the whole of the metropolitan area, with the majority between Bellevue and Perth, the meetings would be held in Perth, Maylands, Bassendean, and Midland Junction, without, of course, interfering with any local body. The first meeting will be held at the President's house, in Bassendean.

There were 27 ladies present, and, they elected the following to office:—President, Mrs. P. Reilly; Vice-Presidents, E. T. Dean and W. Woods; Secretary, Mrs. A. H. Major; Treasurer, Mrs. T. Lovell. Trustees, Mesdames F. W. Lovell, F. Blakemore, and W. M. Gould.

Mr. R. Gibson (President), and Mr. W. J. Lovell (Secretary), of the attached Sub-Branch, both addressed the meeting, and congratulated the officers on being elected, and thanked all present for showing, by their presence, that they had the movement at heart.

It was explained by these gentlemen that a small part of the work of the Women's Auxiliary would be to visit the sick members, work the social side of the Branch (with the exception, perhaps, of social events), and they would materially assist the Amelioration Fund, by turning out in force on Happy Day. A cheque for £5 was handed to the Treasurer from the Branch as something to start with.

Mrs. Wilson said that the annual fee was 2/-, and the Treasurer was open to receive subscriptions as fast as they could be sent in. On payment of the first 2/6, members would receive a badge, which, they were asked to wear at all times. Subscriptions may also be paid to the Treasurer’s off-sider (Bill Lovell), Secretary of the Workshop's R.S.L.

At the close of the meeting, a motion was carried by acclamation to the effect that "We very much appreciate the address, and assistance given by Mrs. Wilson, in the formation of this Auxiliary."

The Branch is indebted to J. H. Mann, for his donation of West Australian wild-flowers, which were raffled in aid of the Amelioration Fund. J. Greer framed the pictures, and we are also grateful to him for his work. We desire to thank all those who purchased tickets for this worthy object, and trust the winners were satisfied. The profits of the raffle amounted to £9 3s. 10d., which, though a respectable sum, was below our expectation. Another raffle of a similar nature is coming later, for Jack Mann has already promised the Secretary a further donation. This one will surprise everybody when it is put on the market.

It is with regret that we have to state that a member of the Workshop's Sub-Branch, in the person of Mr. T. B. Hilton (ex-R.F.A.), has suffered a bereavement recently. His dear old mother has passed away in England, and the sympathy of all goes out to Jim and his bereaved relations.

KONDININ-KARLGARIN

Some time ago this sub-branch came to an agreement with the local hospital committee in terms of which the sub-branch was to organise a sports meeting, and to devote one third of the profits to the R.S.L. and the remainder to the funds of the local hospital. The sports meeting, followed by a dance in the evening, was held on 28th January, and a sum of £70 was raised, a highly satisfactory result, especially as no raffles were run either day or night. As the hospital is sorely in need of funds at present, a motion has been tabled to hand over the whole of the League's share of the profits to the hospital, and it is extremely likely that the motion will be carried. Members have had a pretty hard battle this season to meet their liabilities, and the results for 1929 are coming in slowly. Still, they are carrying on with smiling faces and looking forward to a good return next year.
Ministerial Visit to Mt. Barker

On Sunday, February 3, a Ministerial party, consisting of Mr. H. Millington (Minister for Agriculture), Mr. Hector Stewart, M.L.C., Mr. Sutton (Director of Agriculture), and Mr. Wild (Agricultural Specialist), arrived at Mt. Barker, where they were met by Mr. A. Wansbrough, M.L.A., Mr. T. G. Sounness (President of the Mt. Barker Sub-Branch), Mr. Ken Sounness (R.S.L. Committee Representative), and Mr. Ted Thomas (Fruit Growers' Association). The party visited Kentangup, arriving back at Mt. Barker, where they remained over night. The next day they were picked up by Messrs. T. Sounness, K. Sounness, and A. Martin, of the local sub-branch, and Mr. T. Thomas, who motored them round the district.

This visit was the outcome of requests that have been forwarded during the past eighteen months by the Mt. Barker Sub-Branch that a representative inspection should be made by Departmental officers who would thus be enabled to say whether the district was or was not the top-dressed on the ground in different proportions. Clover and other grasses, shot in the middle of the season, were in the top dressing, and at the last sales, the owners, Messrs. Sounness and Sons, had a return of 25 pounds per pound for 11 bales of the clips, this being the top price for the January sales—all served to satisfy the Minister that the district is fast becoming a first-class wool producing centre, with an assured rainfall.

The party was then taken on to a returned soldier's block, where the Minister saw for himself the advantages of partial clearing, the owner being busy preparing fire-grounds in the same manner. Mr. Millington was impressed with the work done, the results, he considered, being an object lesson to them all. It is just along these lines that the sub-branch has been endeavouring to induce the Government to make more liberal advances, so that the returns to the settler would be forthcoming earlier, instead of making the advances for the ground to be cleared fully before the crop is sown—a system which necessitates so much hard and strenuous work during the timber-down, burning, and ploughing before being able to crop and reap any benefit. The route then led through the Mt. Barker Estate, where the crop for the season is estimated at 40,000 cases.

Here, under the chairmanship of Messrs. James and Alec Martin, and again at the Frog Gully Orchard, with its fruit trees pruned up to bear their loads of apples, the visitors were afforded ample evidence of what the district can grow in the way of fruit, clover and other grasses, not to mention oven-hays.

On the return to Mt. Barker the visitors were entertained at a luncheon prepared by Mrs. J. Fairclough, at the Park Hotel. In addition to the visitors and those gentlemen already mentioned, there were present Messrs. E. Webster and W. J. Sampson (Plantagenet Road Board), Mr. A. T. Booth (Secretary Mt. Barker Co-op.), Dr. Leigh Barlow, Mr. A. B. Clarke (Bank of New South Wales), Mr. H. Goodridge (E.S. & A. Bank), Mr. J. McNeil Martin, and Mr. E. Thomas (Directors, Fruitgrowers' Association), Mrs. Millington, Miss Poole, and members of the local sub-branch.

Mr. T. G. Sounness (President, Mt. Barker Sub-Branch), who officiated as chairman, in welcoming the visitors, regretted that it was not possible for the visit to be made earlier in the season, when the clover and other grasses were in greater profusion, but even now they had seen what the district could produce with cultivation and top-dressing. Messrs. Sampson, J. McNeil Martin, and H. Stewart, M.L.C., also spoke.

In responding the Minister expressed pleasure at the active part Mr. T. Sounness is taking in the district's development. He was very pleased to have been able to accept the invitation of the Mt. Barker Sub-Branch of the R.S.L., and after what he had seen that day, and especially the work that was being done by one ex-soldier on his block in the way of partial clearing, top-dressing, clover and sheep, he was going back able to report to Mt. Barker's possibilities and that the district is rapidly becoming a sheep district, as well as an orchard one. Any reasonable suggestions made by the Mt. Barker Sub-Branch would always have his favourable consideration, after what he had seen, and he was satisfied that Mr. Sutton (Director of Agriculture), and the rest of the party would back him up in his remarks.

The party then motored to the Porongurups.

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<td>20 Gallons</td>
<td>9 10 0</td>
<td>9 Gallons</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Gallons</td>
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<tr>
<td>44 Gallons</td>
<td>16 3 0</td>
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<td>66 Gallons</td>
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<tr>
<td>90 Gallons</td>
<td>29 9 0</td>
<td>50 Gallons</td>
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