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Ourselves and Others

Cables that have been appearing from time to time in our dailies compel one reluctantly to form the conclusion that the spirit of amity and cooperation, which actuated Britain and America during the war, is being smothered under the pressure of present financial needs. America's uncompromising attitude towards the repayment of the allied debts has provoked adverse criticism in both the Empire and the European press. Derisive comments, also, have been made upon the United States' policy of advocating disarmament and the signing of peace pacts, and, at the same time, pursuing a vigorous campaign of cruiser construction. Uncle Sam, a national nickname implying geniality and benevolence, has been replaced by the more apropos sobriquets of Uncle Slylock and Uncle Sham. In the American press the recriminations have been too hot to linger.

Yet, Continental people have been castigated for their ingratitude (according to the American point of view) in pocketing the wealth poured into their lands by American tourists, while reviling the United States for demanding its share of the burden. France, too, has been the subject of critical comment.

Further, American eyes cannot see how the maintenance of large armaments can match in step with debt extinction. It was just this point of view that impelled the United States to refuse to grant France any further respite in the matter of the payment for the war material which the American Forces left behind in France at the conclusion of the war. America had no longer any use for it. France was allowed to purchase it, and the creditor nation insisted that the payment be made on 1st August last, the date it fell due.

Closely bound up with the question of war debts is the matter of reparations demanded of Germany. It will be remembered that some years back, Britain offered to cancel all debts owed her by her late allies, provided the United States acted similarly. America's refusal and her insistence upon full repayment of reparations are matters of history, and there was nothing magnanimous about this attitude, though it must be admitted that it can be defended both from the legal and the ethical standpoint. A debt is a debt and should be paid. Nevertheless, the sum has to be divided among the allied powers. As far as the amounts and the rate of payments are concerned, everyone, including Germany, seems agreed. It is recognised that even a beaten enemy cannot be held in irremediable bondage indefinitely. Nevertheless, it is felt that British interests are being sacrificed in the plan of distribution.

During the war, Britain made immense sacrifices, of treasure as well as of blood. It is not generally known that the British Government paid rent for the very trenches in which our soldiers were defending, that we paid France a head-tax for every British soldier landed in that country. In the later stages of the war, Australian reinforcements proceeded to the war zone via Suez and, through Italy. The Italian Government insisted upon Britain building permanent barracks at Taranto, which became the property of the Italian Government after the war. During the building process, several trees of no commercial value, were cut down, for which Britain paid compensation at the rate of £30 per tree. These are not isolated instances, and are quoted to show that, quite apart from the matter of loans, John Bull treated his Allies with a generosity that was extremely quixotic. Again, at a time when every man was needed to meet the expected German offensive in France, Plumer's army was sent to Italy to stem the tide of disaster, set in flood by Cadorna's ineptitude.

What do we find on the other side of the picture? Italy disgruntled at not receiving mandates over former enemy possessions captured by other powers; France reluctant to pay her debts, but a harder creditor to Germany than America has been to Europe; Australian war pilgrims insulted at a cemetery gate as rich foreigners glibbing over France's poverty; the Mayor of Villers-Bretonneux, above all places, churlishly refusing reimbursement and requesting money. The last mentioned incidents were so absurd, that the rumblings of the storm that burst in full fury when the spokesman of the British delegation to the Conference, meeting at the Hague to accept or reject the Young Plan, defined Britain's attitude towards the distribution of the annuities to be paid by Germany. Mr. Philip Snowden (the British Chancellor of the Exchequer) made it quite clear that the Young Plan called for disproportionate sacrifices on the part of Britain, and that Britain cannot accept the plan as it now stands.

We can pass over the vilification of Mr. Snowden evoked by the construction placed upon certain words he used. More serious is the attitude of the other powers towards Britain's stand. Naturally, they desire to accept in full any plan which will yield them all the financial advantages and leave Britain the short end of the purse. Nevertheless, one thing is certain. Mr. Snowden is assured of the unreserved support of the Empire as a whole. Too long has this Empire of ours sworn that others may reap. Our name is John Bull, not Joan Mirth-cow.

"SWAN" BRAND SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having.
State Executive Meetings
24th July, 1929.

Present—Colonel Collett, Messrs. Parker, McAdam, Philip, Watt, Yeates, Sadlier, Cornell, Wells, Smith, Tozer, Pady, Margolin, Cooke, Lovell, Freedman, and Bader.

Federal Correspondence.—Membership: A communication from the Federal President giving the membership figures of the League as at 31/12/28, was laid on the table for the information of members. Proposed amendment: to extend the duration of preference for life members. The amendment was seconded by Mr. McAdam. The amendment was carried.

Life Membership.—A circular concerning the issue of Life Membership Certificates was received.

Light Horse Memorial, Egypt.—Information concerning the erection of this memorial was received.

Old Age and Invalid Pensions.—A letter was received from the Federal Executive with reference to Resol. 147 of the 13th Annual Congress, which dealt with an amendment to the Old Age and Invalid Pensions Act.

Employment Grant.—Figures for the month of June for the Employment Bureaux throughout the Commonwealth were received.

National Anthem.—Mr. Smith reported on his interview with Mr. Shannon, General Manager of the Ambassadors, concerning the playing of the National Anthem at the beginning of entertainments. His report was received and discussion deferred.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Wells, that in the next circular to sub-branches the State Secretary ask that action be taken by sub-branches in an endeavour to have the National Anthem played at the beginning of entertainments in their respective districts—Carried.

Leaves of Absence.—Mr. Longmore applied for leave of absence for six weeks, owing to ill-health. This was granted, and the Secretary was instructed to forward a letter of sympathy to Mr. Longmore.

Invitations.—Cottesloe Beach, 31st July. State President, Messrs. Wells, Philip, Parker, and Smith to attend.

Mundaring Sub-Branch advised that their Re-union Dinner would be held on 2nd August, and not the 1st as previously intended.

Upper Chapman.—An invitation to a smoke social on the 3rd August, at Nabawah, was left in the hands of the Professor.

Morning Mills.—The State Secretary was appointed to represent the Executive on the 29th August.

Kojonup Sub-Branch.—August 5th: The State Secretary was appointed to attend.

Kalgoorlie.—The State President advised that it was his intention to visit Kalgoorlie on the 29th August. This action was approved.

West Perth.—Mr. Yeates was appointed to represent the Executive at the West Perth Sub-Branch Smoke Social on the 26th July.

Change of Name.—The Broome Sub-Branch sought leave to change their name to the Kimberley Sub-Branch. Approval was granted.

New Sub-Branch.—A request was received from 17 ex-soldiers at Mullewa for permission to form a sub-branch of the War. The request was seconded by Mr. Freedman. The request was approved.

Bruce Rock.—A letter from Dr. Dean, concerning election of officers for the Bruce Rock Sub-Branch, was received. Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. McAdam: B.E.S.L. Delegates. A letter from L. S. Bracegirdle, Federal Treasurer, in this connection was received. The State President's reply to the Federal letter of September 14th, concerning the appointment of B.E.S.L. delegates, was read for the information of delegates.

Quelling Sub-Branch.—The Secretary reported that approval had been granted for the formation of this branch in 1927. $5 had been received in accordance with the Constitution. Receipt book and other stationery was forwarded to the appointed Secretary, but nothing had been heard from the sub-branch, and efforts had been made for the last six months to regain possession of receipt book, badges, etc. The assistance of the League's solicitor had been sought. The badges had been returned, but all efforts had failed to secure the return of receipt book. It was agreed that the matter be left in the hands of the League's solicitor.

Smith Family Appeal.—A letter was received from Mr. J. P. Stratton, in which he stated that the business which Mr. Smith had commenced at Wubla was progressing very satisfactorily.

Comprehensive Insurance.—The Premier's Department had been approached with the request that legislation be enacted to provide a comprehensive insurance to cover property of soldier settlers. Returned soldier members of Parliament had also been consulted with. A reply had been received from the Premier's Department saying that on two previous occasions the Upper House had declined to permit the passage of such legislation, and that it would be useless to attempt it again. Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Philip, that the matter be referred to the Land Committee for report.

Soldiers' Welcome Committee.—Honor Board.—A letter was received from the Secretary of the S.W.C. suggesting that an Honor Board be erected at the Soldiers' Institute containing the names of those people who had served on the Welcome Committee during the period of the War. Moved by Mr. McAdam, seconded by Mr. Parker, that before any consideration be given to the proposal, a list of names be asked for.—Lost.

An amendment was moved by Rabbi Frank, seconded by Mr. Watt, that the S.W.C. be informed that the Executive is of the opinion that if an Honor Roll was compiled it should include the names of all ladies and gentlemen throughout the State who had carried out voluntary work on behalf of returned sailors and soldiers, and further, that this Executive considers that such a proposal is impracticable.

A further amendment was moved by Mr. Cornell, seconded by Mr. McAdam: That a simple tablet be erected in a prominent place at the Institute in commemoration of the voluntary work carried out by the S.W.C.—Lost.

Soldier Settlement Losses.—Information was submitted by the Secretary concerning the losses sustained by the Government in connection with soldier settlement. Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Bader: That the Constitution be changed to permit the Committee to deal with these matters. A letter was received from Mrs. Riley thanking the Executive for their message of sympathy, also one from the Rev. C. L. Riley, concerning the part taken by the League in the Archbishop's funeral.
An acknowledgment of a donation of £10 10s. towards the Archbishop's presentation fund was received.

Explosives, Government.-A letter was received from the Minister for Mines concerning the use of explosives for Group Settlement.

State Congress.-The following committee was appointed to arrange the social programme for the forthcoming State Congress: Messrs. Tozer, Tyler, Philp, and Cooke.

Federal Congress.-It was decided that the committee be the Management Committee, which shall have power to add to its numbers.

Reports.-State Secretary: A report was received from the State Secretary concerning the office for the preceding fortnight. The report was received and adopted.

Women's Auxiliary State Executive.-A report was received from the Women's Auxiliary Executive.

Art Union.-Mr. McAdam submitted a report which showed the results of the recent Art Union, which was considered most satisfactory, and contained an expression of appreciation for the excellent results achieved. The report also contained recommendations concerning the branches that had defaulted.

Beverley Sub-Branch.-The report was then adopted.

Belmont Sub-Branch.-Mr. Yeates reported on his visit to the Belmont Sub-Branch.

Campion Sub-Branch.-Mr. Cornell reported for Campion Sub-Branch.

August 7th, 1929.

Present.-Messrs. Collett, Riley, Parker, McAdam, Philp, Watt, Freedman, Yeates, Sadler, Cornell, Wells, Smith, Tozer, Pady, Tyler, Margolin, Cooke, Lovell, and Bader.

An apology was received from Mr. Logie.

Cottesloe Beach Sub-Branch.—The President reported having visited the Cottesloe Beach Sub-Branch.

Mandurah.—Mr. Cooke reported having visited Mandurah in company with Messrs. Tyler, Yeates, and the Assistant State Secretary.

Mornington Mills, Collie and Koongup.—Mr. Sadler reported having visited these sub-branches in company with the State Secretary.

Boyanup and West Perth.—Mr. Yeates reported having visited these sub-branches.

Federal Correspondence.—War Service Homes: A letter from the Federal Executive concerning the eligibility of a female dependant, was received.

Blinded Soldiers' Children.—The Federal Executive have received a communication from the Minister in Charge of Repatriation concerning resolution 51 of the 13th Annual Congress, which asked for Educational Benefits for Blinded Soldiers' Children.

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letter was received from Mrs. Cornell stating that there was a balance of £72 17s. 1ld. in a Government Savings Bank Account in the name of the Ladies Auxiliary, West Subiaco. As this body has ceased to function, it was suggested that the W.A. Branch take over this fund, and hold it in trust pending the reformation of the Women's Auxiliary.

Moved by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Riley: That Mrs. Cornell be thanked for her suggestion, and that action be taken accordingly.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. McAdam, seconded by Mr. Tozer: That the amount be placed in a trust account.—Carried.

State Presidency.—Standing orders were suspended.

The State President was informed that it was the unanimous wish of the State Executive that he offer himself for re-election to the office of State President at the forthcoming State Congress. Colonel Collett signified his intention of standing.

Standing orders were resumed.

Amendments to Constitution.—Suggested amendments to the Federal Constitution had been before delegates since the last meeting. It was moved by Mr. Riley, seconded by Mr. Tyler: That the amendments to the Federal Constitution as submitted be sent on to Congress for discussion.—Carried.

Moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Philp: That a special meeting be called to deal with the amendments.—Lost.

W.A. Branch Rules.—Suggested amendments: Amendments as suggested for the W.A. Constitution were agreed to with one or two minor exceptions, for submission to the State Congress.

International Peace.—It was agreed that the following item be included in the Agenda for the forthcoming State-Congress:

"That while placing on record its belief that it is the duty of every citizen of this country to support the nation in the event of its own country being attacked, and while it affirms the principle that Australia should continue to maintain its policy of conserving a national defence adequate for the protection of our civil and social ideals, and for the preservation of the integrity of the Empire, this Congress of the West Australian Branch of the R.S.S.I.A. heartily welcomes the negotiations which have been taking place between the Great Powers..."
for the outlawry of war, and gives its warmest support to every practical proposal which makes for the establishment of international peace.

Wubin Sub-Branch: A letter was received from the Wubin Sub-Branch censuring the Executive for lack of support of the Sub-Branch in not being represented at their functions. The letter was left in the hands of the Secretary for explanation.

Art Union, Albany: The Albany Sub-Branch advised that they were seeking permission to conduct a local art union. It was agreed that no objection be raised.

Aged Sailors and Soldiers' Relief Fund: A draft proposal for the establishment of a Relief Fund for aged sailors and soldiers was recommended to the State Congress for approval, on the motion of Messrs. McAdam and Riley.

Reports: Management Committee: The report of the Management Committee dealt with the defaulting agents of the last Art Union, the appointment of an advocate for pension appeals, the perpetuation of the League, and the entertainment of Delegates to the Federal Congress, 1929, was submitted and adopted, with the inclusion of the following resolution:

Moved by Mr. Sadlier, seconded by Mr. Tyler: That consideration be given to the holding of a social to which representatives from all sub-branches be invited, and that a charge be made for other than sub-branch representatives.

"Listening Post:" The recommendation by the Management Committee that the subscription fee to the "Listening Post" be restored to 1/- was agreed to for submission to Congress.

State Secretary's Report: The State Secretary reported on the operations of the office for the preceding fortnight, and recommended that a committee be formed for the purpose of visiting Ward II of the Perth Hospital. It was agreed that the present visiting committee be appointed to carry out this work, and that they be given power to co-opt.

Finance Committee: Report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 29th July, was received. The report dealt with the default of a sub-branch secretary. It was agreed that this matter be left in the hands of the Committee, and the report was adopted.

House Committee: The report of the House Committee meeting, held on the 30th July, was received and adopted. An addendum recommending that surplus furniture and fixtures in the Institute be disposed of was agreed to.

Trustees: The report of the R.S.L. Relief Fund for the month of July was received.

Mory Day: Delegates were reminded that a service would be held in St. George's Cathedral, on the 18th August, to commemorate Mors Day.

A big policeman, just off duty, stopped in Wellington Street to have his boots blacked. "Charle," shouted the bootblack to his mate, "go and get some more blacking, and tell the missus I'll be late for supper."

Proposed Abolition
OF REPATRIATION STATE BOARDS
THE LEAGUE'S PROTEST

Information reached the R.S.L. State Executive at its last meeting that the Commonwealth Government now proposes to abolish State Pensions Boards, it being claimed by the authorities that the recently created Entitlement and Assessment Tribunals overlapped the work of State Boards. Such view was not endorsed by the W.A. Branch Delegates, who pointed out that the work of State Boards covered the initial proceedings of a pension claim, whilst the Entitlement and Assessment Boards only dealt with pension claims after the Commission had finally given a decision considered unsatisfactory by the soldier. The suggestion put forward by Captain Dyett, Federal President, that Honorary Boards could still function, was not favourably regarded. As Mr. Hubert Parker pointed out, a man with the available time to put in all day at the Repatriation Department may not possess the qualifications necessary for the job. The opinion of R.S.L. officials is that the State Board acts as a watchdog for local interests, and therefore should not be interfered with. It would be a declaration retrograde step if the local boards were abolished, and the State-Branch intends to fight for their retention.

"The Listening Post"
FUTURE PLANS

It has been encouraging to the proprietors of the "Listening Post" to receive, from time to time, letters of appreciation from sub-branches of the League, and from individual members. The journal has evidently given a great deal of satisfaction, but its scope has been limited. The bulk of the nourishment for a journal of this type comes from advertisers, and the more nourishment received the larger the growth. This is where every League member can help, by assisting to place advertisements, and in encouraging advertisers by giving them a preference.

The proprietors are prepared to put back into the journal what they get out of it, and it is their intention to try and improve it by printing on better stock, by including a number of illustrations, and, if possible, by increasing its pages and introducing new features. A start will be made with the September number.

The Editor invites his readers to send items of personal or general interest, and particularly, appropriate photographs.

The League's power, influence, and scope is extensive, and this journal can serve it best, only with the goodwill and co-operation of the sub-branches, and the individual members of the League.

"Dad" Fanning
Late 46th Batt. & Dingup Sub-Branch
has purchased a
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stationed in front of Commonwealth Bank in FORREST PLACE, Perth
where he sells the BEST OF FRUIT
at THE LOWEST PRICES

"SWAN" BRAND SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having
THE MONTH

Relations with Russia.

Labour politicians in England have looked upon the Russian Soviet with that same benevolence with which the English Whigs regarded the French Revolution. To them it was but the legitimate striving of a people after democratic forms of government. Even Napoleon was hailed as a deliverer of oppressed peoples by such statesmen as Charles James Fox. Fox lived just long enough to see the promulgation of the Berlin Decrees, and not quite long enough to witness the seizure of Portugal and Spain.

It is gratifying to note that, however sympathetic towards democratic aspirations, the new British Cabinet has no intention of allowing England, and her time to be the spawning ground of revolutionary propaganda. As was expected, an effort was made to resume diplomatic relations with Russia—relations which had been broken off after Russia had abused British neutrality and put a stop to the British trade by an act of deliberate treachery. Trade relations with the Soviet had already been resumed, but hardly with advantage to ourselves. Like America, Russia has proved a good salesman, but a very poor customer, the goods she has sold us being vastly in excess of those she has purchased.

The resumption of trade relations has proved profitable to a few British capitalists, but hardly so to the bulk of British taxpayers themselves. Added to this there is the question of Russia's debt to Britain, which the revolutionary government has repudiated.

The Ramsay MacDonald Government is to be commended for its common-sense attitude in demanding some arrangement regarding the debt. It is only reasonable that sedulous propaganda will be discontinued in British countries. Naturally, the negotiations broke down. Russia believes in give and take, provided others do all the giving and herself the taking. After all, what has Britain to gain by the resumption of diplomatic relations? Even the financial profit that may accrue to a few importers is not to be weighed in the balance with the safety of the Empire as a whole.

Hughes the Third.

Australia will soon come to the conclusion that Hughes is just another name for "indiscreet utterance." William Morris, of North Sydney, is never particular as to whom his public and plain sneaking adverbs. In our own State we have T.J., the apostle of effervescence and worst manner of the well-known gymnastic feat of opening his mouth and inserting his foot. Finally, there comes to our shores, one Collingwood, stated to be a journalist and former member of the British House of Commons. Friend Collingwood, evidently, has more honour in his own country than he is likely to acquire in this. Until his extremely pyrotechnic arrival, Australia had heard nothing of him either in his journalistic or his legislative capacity. Among other things, he tells us, he is an authority on migration and the problems associated therewith, and in this capacity, regardless of the old proverb anent the ill bird, he passed some very

scathing criticisms upon his fellow passengers on the "Bendigo."

His published remarks aroused a wild storm of protest, and on his return to the "Bendigo" he found himself as popular as a pork chop in a synagogue. Stubbornly he refused to retract or to modify any of his utterances. He even refused to accept an invitation to go ashore and resume his journey eastward by another boat. Up to this point, while deploiring his indiscretion, we rather admired the courage of Mr. Collingwood Hughes. But what a slump in his stock, when the hero reached Adelaide. There he retracted and used the threadbare expedient, so frequently employed by tent-rate politicians, of blaming the reporter.

No doubt, we get a certain sprinkling of undesirable degenerates and degenerates among our immigrants, but, on the whole, Australia should be well satisfied with the type of Briton arriving in this country. Moreover, it is a well-known fact that an immigrant rarely shows up to advantage on his arrival in a new country. It takes him some little time to fit into his new environment.

Whatever Collingwood Hughes thought he should have consumed his smoke until he had left the boat, and having made his statements, he should have had the grit to stick to them. It is not likely that his views would attract much notice or gain much credence in Australia.

Our daily press is certainly over ready to give publicity to the ill-digested opinions and ill-considered remarks of globe-trotting obscurities, but the bulk of the people treat these with good-humoured contempt. One thing, however, is intriguing the LISTENING Post. Who the devil is this Mr. Collingwood Hughes? Billy we know, T.J. has amused us, but who, when, where, what, and why is Collingwood?

Anniversary of the War.

The month of August saw the fifteenth anniversary of the outbreak of the World War, and finds the League in a stronger position than ever, numerically, financially, and as regards influence. More of our members are entering into public life and pulling their weight in peace as they did in war, a factor which must greatly enhance the reputation of the League. Perhaps the main reason for the strength of our position is that the League has pursued the policy outlined by Captain Dyett, the Federal President, in a recent speech in Brisbane. It has been one of diplomacy rather than of reckless demands. It was easy to demand things, he said, but governments could not be driven, although they could be encouraged and led. The reputation of the League stood higher to-day than at any previous period. This was due to its policy of reasonable give and take that had been observed. The League had worked harmoniously with all parties and sections, due to the diplomatic handling of its affairs.

The good work must continue, and we anticipate that next anniversary of the war will find us in a stronger position still.

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"SWAN" BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES—Appetising, Piquant
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SOME GERMAN WAR BOOKS.

Stark realism is the keynote of "All Quiet on the Western Front," written to describe the viewpoint of the German infantry soldier by Erich Remarque, and translated into English by Captain Wheen, M.C., a Sydney Rhodes Scholar. Too disconnected for a story, too discursive for a history, and too impersonal for a biography, it has some of the features of all three, and is characterised by acute observation of a highly developed descriptive faculty. It is what reviewers of an older generation used to call a human document. Describing life in the front line in all its ghastly details, it neither glorifies war nor seeks to vilify it. It is the plain, unvarnished tale of the life of a number of young men who have left the school for the barrack room. While it contains many passages of fine writing, the author does not seek to embellish his picture. On the contrary, he goes out of his way to render it with filth. He waxes lyrical over army latrines. The daily exercise known to our troops as "chatting," and the physiological effects of terror are described with the filthiness that all find revolting. Then, too, he could not be a German if commercialised love did not find prominence in his narrative. We are far from being prudish, yet, to our taste, the inside of the latrines are the beastly aspects of life in general and war in particular, is unnecessary and overdone. It makes one think that the author would be eminently qualified to write a cycle of bawdy lyrics for the Journal of Pornography. Even in referring to parts of the body and physiological functions, he uses phrases and terms which are found in Chaucer, and which would boggle the eye of a child. Possibly these are the main reasons why the book has had a wonderful sale in Germany, and the English translation has already run into thirteen editions. Personally, we feel its financial success is incommensurate to its literary merits.

The author cannot resist the temptation to strain probability for effect. The life of a fighting soldier in war time is not one continuous round of latrines, lice and liaisons. These things were merely incidental, but Remarque gives them an undue prominence. The incident of the butterfly resting on the teeth of the skull strikes a false note. It is too obviously dragged in for the sake of stagy realism, too evidently suggested by the famous painting of Plato meditating upon immortality before the altar of a statue of a butterfly and a skull. Remarque must set the picture at all costs, even at the cost of the eternal verities.

But despite these blemishes it has its points of interest. It gives evidence of descriptive ability and power—it is at once powerful and pornic.

A minor fault, and this must be laid at the door of the translator, is the irritating practice of rendering German Army slang by British equivalents. It jars one like a discord of music to read of a German soldier finding a "cushy" job, or getting a "Blighty." The translators of other German books to which we refer on this page are delightfully free from such faults. The translator of Sergeant Grisha makes as little a rendering as possible, and gives the corresponding English slang a footnote. We may seem finicky, but we prefer the latter method; it may be more cumbersome, but it gives the text a greater semblance of truth.

Far more human in its appeal is Anton Zweig's "Case of Sergeant Grisha," a novel of the Eastern Front, obviously written from the point of view of the German Staff Officer. The characterisation is splendid. They are living personalities and even likable. Von Lychow, the divisional commander, "Daddy Lychow," as the troops call him, is a dear old boy, a soldier and a gentleman to his finger tips. But for the name and the uniform he might be taken for the best type of British general. Other characters, the Chief of Staff, the civilians doing staff work, Posanski, Berta, the nurses and the rest, are truly and sympathetically portrayed. The central personages, Grisha and his sweetheart without benefit of clergy, Babka, are of course, splendid creations, and here one may pause to admire the technical skill by which the thin thread of story, the simple tale of a Russian prisoner's escape and execution, are made the lines on which to hang pictures of back area work, petty personal jealousies and friction between various branches of the staff, and the smouldering resentment of Austrians against Germany.

It is a picture of life behind the lines. We get no nearer the front than divisional headquarters. There are no descriptions of fighting. Zweig is never mean-mouthed, but he does not wallow in the beastly and horrible like Remarque. Grisha himself is a Russian prisoner of war, becomes homesick, and to facilitate his escape from a timber camp, assumes the identity of a dead countryman. He endeavour to make his way to Russia through the lines, but is caught near the

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General Jess, who, he stated, had proved himself a very efficient soldier, both in war and in peace. He also recalled the many times that the General had gone out of his way to assist the League in obtaining its objectives. The General, responding in a reminiscent strain, spoke interestingly of his early life and later adventures.

Rabbi Freedman proposed the toast of the Imperial Printing Co. Ltd., and congratulated Mr. Watt and his staff on the success of the Company, which was reflected in the spacious building they were in, and the very modern, and in instances, new machinery on view. In response, Mr. Watt stated that he was not unmindful of the assistance, by way of practical patronage, given him by Company by sub-branches and returned men throughout the State. The business was owned and controlled entirely by ex-service men, and the little success achieved was only made possible by the loyal co-operation of all the members of the staff, and by sheer hard graft. He thanked the delegates for honouring them by their presence.

Padre Riley proposed the toast of the State President, who, in response, made one of his characteristic witty speeches. Mr. Alf Pady took advantage of the fact that Padre Riley was attending his first Executive meeting since his illness, and subsequent holiday, to propound his health. The Padre, in responding, thanked delegates and returned men generally for their wonderful turn-out on the sad occasion of the funeral of his father, the late Archbishop, and for their many expressions of sympathy.

The very interesting and social function terminated at about 11.30 p.m.

British United Services' Association

ANNUAL SMOKE SOCIAL

One of the best attended, and certainly one of the most enjoyable smoke socials of the year was held by the B.U.S.A., on Monday, 19th August, at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, the President, Captain Edmonds, being O.I.C.

A fine spirit of comradeship prevailed, and from the looks and general bearing of the British Imperialists present, it would be very difficult for a stranger to perceive that the gathering was not made up of men born and reared in Australia, which goes to prove that the best immigrants for Australia are the ex-service men. Many kindly references were made to the work done for ex-Imperials by the R.S.L., and the need for all members of the B.U.S.A. to join the League was mentioned many times, and always drew applause.

General Sir Talbot Hobbs made a very interesting speech, and was given a flattering reception. The State Secretary (Mr. Benson) spoke eloquently, and drew rounds of applause when responding to the toast of the R.S.L. The proposers of toasts included Captain Edmonds, Vice-Presidents Holmes and Laurie, Mr. T. A. L. Darby, M.L.A., and Mr. S. M. Thomson, and the responders, Messrs. Bull (32nd Battalion), S. Jones (28th Battalion), Geo. Mellor (Perth R.S.L.), E. S. Watt (Press), and Cox (Artists).

The harmony was of a particularly high order, the artists being Messrs. Parsons, Bert Handley, Harold Hopperton, George Mellor, Smith and Cox.

The outstanding success of the function is another feather in the cap of Secretary George Cattermole.

“The W.A. Digger Book”

It is expected that the “W.A. Digger Book,” which is being prepared by the Press Sub-Branch, will be available for purchase some time in October. It is one of the Centenary efforts of the League, and all profits will go to the State War Memorial Tablet Fund. The price will be 5/-, and it is anticipated that at least 3,000 copies will be required. It will be a book worthy of our great organization, and of the special historic occasion.
Miss Mary Meares
AN APPRECIATION

We are in receipt of several letters from ex-patients of the Repatriation Ward, which speak in terms of glowing – gratitude of the work done on behalf of returned men by Miss Mary Meares. Miss Meares has been a regular visitor to the ward, and not only has she done everything in her power to make the incapacitated digger’s lot more endurable, but she has been indefatigable in arranging motor transport to enable them to participate in such public functions as Anzac Day and Armistice Day. She has consistently mothered the boys, and if ever they are left out in the cold on any important occasion, it will not be the fault of our Mary. There is an old saying about those who “do good by stealth and blush to find it fame.” This is particularly applicable to Miss Meares and her work. There is a charming absence of ostentation about everything she does. While others boast from public platforms (always assuming that reporters are present) and endeavour to make the world sober and pacific by passing wildly worded resolutions, Miss Meares proceeds quietly and efficiently so that the crooked digger and even the soldier for having known her and come under her influence. And the beauty of it all, her work continues. Unlike those ardent patriots who belch loud sentiments during recruiting campaigns and forget the soldiers entirely once they had received their pilling little O.B.E.’s, Miss Meares has carried on during the years of peace, and is still carrying on. Long life to her, and may she be spared to us for years and years.

Kojonup Re-union

A stranger cautiously finding his way into the Kojonup Memorial Hall on the night of August 5th, would have been struck with the extraordinary good feeling and conviviality dominating proceedings. In a lengthy toast list there was not one respite or jarring note. The whole proceedings went with a swing, all the diversities from most of the great Southern Sub-Branches, although surprise was expressed that Mr. Barker’s gallant contingent did not answer their names this year. The stories of McSipie, from Kojonup, who took the soldier to say, were also missed, but the consequential sorrow was to a certain extent assuaged by the silver tones of President Bill Cobb, who was in great form. In front of proud President Pat. Ross, the magnificent face of Gillespie of Gnowangerup, whilst on the right Cliff. Saddler, V.C., who represented the State President, sternly and rigorously maintained the dignified air of Colonel Collet almost to the last. It was a gallant effort, and appreciated by the big gathering of 130 diggers. If the proceedings needed any encouragement, this came from the progress reports of the Bunbury contingent, headed by President Cliff. Gillett, whose advance was maintained throughout the danger zone between Bunbury and Kojonup, until the gathering were apprised that the brave fellows of the sea port were now encroaching the last stage of 68 miles without a “pub,” and in due course they survived even this ordeal and arrived bright and thruty to the strains of “cheerio.”

The usual toasts were honoured with Cliff. Sadler responding for the State President and State Secretary Benson for the R.S.L., both proposed by the President. Most of the visiting delegats had their say and one of the tit-bits of the evening was Bookmaker Jack Levy’s (Bunbury) response to “The Air Force.” As an impromptu contribution it was a gem, he said he had had many dealings with high fliers in following his own calling. He had known of men to fly so high that the inevitable crash came. Continuing, he said that whilst the “talkies” were booming in Perth, he had been compelled to patronise the “walkies,” and that put him in physical condition fit enough to walk to Kojonup had the old buzz-wagon not been available. Proceedings closed near midnight, with all present standing to the National Anthem and “Auld Lang Syne,” soon after which the Bunbury contingent were pushed down hill on their homeward journey.

28th Battalion Association

The Committee of the 28th Battalion Association was unanimous in its decision to subscribe to the Unit Directory about to become a feature of the Listening Post, well knowing the value to members and diggers generally of that compact and spirited organ.

In the absence of Colonel Dunkley, who is present combining business and pleasure in the Eastern States, the genial Sammy Jones took the chair at the last 28th Executive meeting, and disposed of the business in the style characteristic of quartermaster. As “Ambassador for the Association, Tom Rowe has no equal. His business takes him to all parts of the State, whither he goes armed with a receipt book and a few spare copies of the Battalion History, and a hearty interest in every social cobbler.

The last monthly luncheon was the more enjoyable for the presence of Tom Carlyle, who happened to be in town. Tom has now taken up a secretarial post down Cranbrook way.

Don’t forget — no cut luncheon on Wednesday day the 28th August, when all “Good Twenty-eighths” foregather at the Cabin Tea Rooms, Murray Street, at 1 p.m.

48th Battalion Association

The newly formed 48th Battalion Association held its first re-union smoke social in the Soldiers’ Institute, on the night of the 20th. It was a well attended gathering, and the President (Mr. C. A. Hendry) occupied the chair. A telegram from General R. Leane, Commissioner of Police in South Australia, who commanded the Battalion in France, was read and well applauded.

Musical items were contributed by Captain L. Carter, Messrs. Mille, Hope, Bush, Courtney, Scott, Linton, and Prendiville. Captain G. R. Collins and Mr. G. Hope assisted with piano and violin.

Though a young association, the 48th is a live one, and the success of its first re-union is largely due to the energy of the Secretary, Mr. W. H. Tonkin, and his Committee.

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Personalia

As a prisoner of war for five minutes, the new Federal Secretary of the Returned Soldiers' League (Mr. John Webster) had a war experience that must be almost unique.

Dashing ahead of his platoon in a "hop over," in France, he outdistanced his men to such an extent that he ran into a fierce encounter with a German party. In a terrific fight he sustained wounds which subsequently cost him his right arm.

A German officer found the wounded Australian lying helpless. He was about to take him back to the German lines, but noticing his serious wounds and the activity of Australian stretcher bearers near by, he wavered.

Then, evidently touched by the condition of the Australian who had made such a gallant fight against heavy odds, he muttered something in German, pointed to the advancing stretcher bearers, and left him to their care.

Mr. Webster is over 6ft. tall, and a fine stamp of young Australian. He is 37 years of age, and served with the 12th Battalion in Egypt and France. Joining as a private, he reached commissioned rank.

For eight years, Mr. Webster has been Secretary of the Launceston Branch of the Returned Soldiers' League, which has a membership of 900. In 1927 and 1928 he represented Tasmania at the Federal Congress of the League.

American Ambassador Dawes is one of the world's most successful and accomplished men. He is effectively fostering a spirit of real friendship between the two great English-speaking nations.

General Dawes has had a varied career. He is chiefly famous as the author of the Dawes Reparations Plan of 1924. For that he has earned the gratitude of the whole of Europe.

Other big jobs he has held, have been the reorganisation of the machinery of the State of Santo Domingo, the position of vice-president and a successful leader in the American Senate.

General Dawes is popularly known as the soldier-banker-statesman. In all three spheres he has distinguished himself for his long views and steady judgment. During the war he won the title of "Hallelujah Dawes" and for that was how he could best express his feelings in a hot corner.

He is as distinguished in his social attainments as in his public capacity. He is himself a fine musician, a musical critic of exceptional judgment, and has been composed several numbers of music.

During the war, whenever he could snatch a moment, he was to be found in the Louvre admiring the work of the classical sculptors.

As an after-dinner speaker, he is the rival of Lord Birkenhead. His keen wit and his understanding of his fellow men have earned him many friends.

Apparently, neither years nor work can quench the enthusiasm of Harry May, and his old colleague, ex-President A. E. Anderson, of Collie, who, with many more of the old enthusiasm, gathered at the Soldiers' Institute, Collie, on Sunday evening, August 3rd, to welcome Messrs. Sadler and Benson, journeying from Mornington to Kojoenup. Harry May told the visitors of the splendid financial standing of Collie, and of the wonderful work accomplished by their lady helpers. The visitors thanked members for attending in such numbers, particularly when they had to deny themselves church service for the evening, but as one of the visitors said, instead of the age-old gospel, they might have heard preached the gospel of the League. Messrs. Benson and Sadler expressed their keen appreciation of the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Harry May.

Mr. H. L. Roach, President of Kojoenup R.S.L. wore kangaroo feathers with the famous 16th Light Horse at Gallipoli, whilst Jack Finlay, his chief of staff and hard worked secretary, rode a steed in the same unit, claimed by mounted men to have taken an active part in the big strife. The Kojoenup Memorial Hall is not only a lasting monument to the diggers of the district, but will always be associated with the efforts of local diggers by the enthusiasm of Jack Finlay.

Amongst many country identities in Perth, recently were George White, of Corrigin; Messrs. Loney and Munday, of Noombling; Jim Whiteman, of Torbay; Cassey, of Kojoenup, and last, but not least, the redoubtable Captain Flanagan, of Karridale.

Reported that Mr. H. H. Howard, the Chairman of the Assessment Board, will shortly be visiting the State in connection with appeals against the present pension percentages paid. For diggers not satisfied that the pension received compensates for their disability, the Assessment Tribunal was established to hear appeals. It must be understood, however, that a previous appeal must have been declined by the Repatriation Commission.

The stork arrived at 7 Bennett Street, Perth, on the 28th May last, with a son to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Butcher, thus making Louis G. Butcher, of 116 Eighth Avenue, Maylands, President Maylands Sub-Branch, a proud grandfather.

Dave Donaldson, the popular publican of Boulder, who had erected, at his own expense, the beautiful war memorial in his own town, is shortly to leave Boulder to live in retirement in Perth. Mr. Donaldson has been a wonderful supporter of the digger, and the holder of the League's Certificate of Merit.

Now that Colonel Collett has signified his intention of again accepting nomination for State President, it looks as if he will be honoured with another walk-over. Colonel Collett was a great war leader, but his peace-time work of guiding the ex-service men into paths of national endeavour, far transcends anything that he did in the war. Rich in learning, and with a wealth of wit, the Colonel's most valuable asset is his keen understanding and appreciation of his fellow men. The ex-service men of W.A. are proud of their leader, and wish for nothing better than the opportunity to follow him for many years to come.

The State Executive is particularly proud of its most distant sub-branches at Port Hedland (Pilbara Sub-Branch) and Broome (Kimberley). The comradeship of the A.I.F. keeps very much alive in the far North, and without the stimulating effect of a visit occasionally from League headquarters. Stalwarts like Ross Keens, A. E. Clark, Jimmy Hay, H. E. Thorlie, H. D. Foray, still support the great work of the League.

"The Listening Post regrets to report the death of Mr. C. McKenzie, the Secretary of the Celtic Club, and ex-senior of the 28th Battalion, who died as the result of an accident. Mr. McKenzie received his education at the Perth Christian Brothers'
College, and returned from the war a serious taking over the secretaryship of the club, he had held many public positions. He will be mourned by a large circle of friends, and we extend our sympathy to his sorrowing relatives.

Seen in town happily recovered from his recent operation, Big Bill Powers, of the 48th. Bill has been a very sick man of late, and we hope the operation has set him on the road to permanent health.

E. W. Corboy, M.L.A., formerly of the 28th, now the youngest of our legislators, and Mrs. Corboy, were presented by the residents of Bullfinch with a silver-mounted tea tray as a recognition of their services to the district. It was a graceful compliment with which, no doubt, the recipients are well pleased. Still, methinks, Ted will not get much fun out of a tea tray.

Colonel W. J. McCann, D.S.O., M.C., and Mr. E. Turnbull, who were the Australian Delegates to the British Empire Service League Conference, passed through Fremantle on their way home, on Tuesday, August 20th. During their stay in port, they were honoured by being tendered a civic reception by the Lord Mayor of Perth. The State President and Executive Delegates later entertained the visitors at a dinner held in the Soldiers' Institute. The speeches of the two delegates were very interesting and informative, leaving an impression in the minds of their listeners that the League's choice of delegates was a wise one.

Fred Bateson is back at Midland Junction, after having been absent in the South West for a couple of years. For three or four years, Fred was a delegate on the State Executive, where he was noted for his earnestness and willingness to pull his weight.

There passed away during the month, Mr. J. F. Reading, born in Bunbury, and educated at Prince Alfred College, Adelaide, was tendered a large circle of friends by the residents of Bullfinch with a silver-mounted tea tray as a recognition of their services to the district. It was a graceful compliment with which, no doubt, the recipients are well pleased. Still, methinks, Ted will not get much fun out of a tea tray.

Home again after a holiday trip extending over a period of six months, is Mr. Arthur Wilson, the popular digger Member of Parliament for Collie. Arthur visited England and the Continent, not forgetting his birthplace, Scotland, and as a result is much improved in health.

A bright and promising life, was cut short when Corporal Dan Burrows passed away at the Edward Miller Home, Victoria Park, on Monday morning, 19th Inst. Enlisting at the age of eighteen years, experiencing the rigours of the Palestine campaign, to return home and resume his position with a Perth bank, with which his prospects appeared extremely bright; to have experienced the bliss of married life for only one short year, and then, after an eighteen-months' struggle, to succumb from the inroads made by an insidious disease. Dan Hughes is only another of the youthful legion, who, escaping the shells of the Great War, were nevertheless destroyed by the upheaval. The deceased Dan was a member of the Nedlands R.S.L., whose members turned up in force to pay the last honour to one held by all in great esteem. At the graveside, Padre Eric Nye, on behalf of his Church and fellow members of the R.S.L., expressed profound sympathy with the young widow and child.

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Jacko.—Read in a contemporary the other day the old story of the origin of the word "Anzac." The writer concludes that the word "Anzac" in Turkish meaning "almost," literally, the writer may have been near the mark, but actually he was miles out; the word "Anzac" in Turkish meaning "just," right and fair.

Camel.—It is encouraging to know that the "Aden" has been successfully crossed and increased so rapidly this year, and I understand that the number is now 7,000. It is to be hoped that sub-branches will continue their activity, and that there will be at least 10,000 members before the end of this Century Year. There are a few slack sub-branches that have not commenced organising their membership "drive." On the return of the bulk of the troops in 1919, the League membership in W.A. was nearly 11,000, but shortly after it fell to 3,000. The prosperity of former years has now been replaced by harmony, and confidence in our leaders. Vive la Ligue.

Spot.—Your July leader, "Retrenchment versus 'Economy'" was timely. The only true insurance a nation has for the retention of its national life is its capacity to defend itself. Australia is gambling on the uncertain future, and I pray that future generations will not have cause to curse the short sighted politicians of this generation for their almost criminal folly. The economic axe should be kept away from the tree of defence—the issues are too vital. We haven't even a decent nucleus. We have only about 350 regular soldiers in Australia when we should have at least 3,000. In the last war, Australia had plenty of time to develop its fighting force. In the next national emergency such conditions may not prevail, and the saving of a few pounds now may be paid for many-fold in the blood of the cream of the nation. Will not Australia learn from the bitter experiences of the past? We can only afford to curtail or scrap our defence when the millennium arrives. Perhaps some day our political leaders have some inside information regarding this desirable state of affairs.

Since attending Mornington Mills' first Diggers' Re-Union, Cliff, Sadler, V.C., has exhibited a tendency for Italian opera, no doubt being impressed by the vocal and dramatic efforts of Senor Pom Pom and other ex-service men of Italy, who joined the Mornington diggers at their social function. Mr. W. J. Fulton, ex-28th, held, and used to some purpose, a locally made gavel, and certainly, at various times in the night, it needed a good stern nod to arrest the confusion. After the debut of the gigantic Pom Pom and his miniature cobbler, the applause was tumbling, necessitating, as of course, a repeat performance, which appeared to be well paid for many-fold in the Italian language. A good strong fatigue party of stewards, presided over by Secretary E. Robinson, also of the 28th, saw that all glasses were kept charged, and someone whispered next day "the pizzas was served to the mess at the mess orders that turned the weak heart of one of the singers into a robust chorus. Amongst the visitors at Mornington were Messrs. Ashton and Blowfield, of Harvey Sub-Branch, who reported all quiet on the irrigation front. Mr. E. Briggs, an old 28th identity, met with at Mornington Mills, is a very sick man, although up to date he has been unsuccessful in his plan for recognition by the Repatriation authorities. We understand that an appeal is being negotiated by the R.S.I.L.

The present slump in the timber industry has its reflection in Mornington, where only one mill is at present working. The big reduction in staff, of course, is apparent in general business affairs of this timber centre.

The Annual State Congress commences on the 25th of next month, and already some 30 odd sub-branches have sent along the names of their delegates. Meredith's President and Secretary will both be attending. There will be Dr. Yule, from Darling Range; Cliff. Gillett and Arthur Murray, from Bunbury; Major Summerhayes, from Clarendon; Clarrie Fairley, from Kal-goorlie; Colonel Flintoff, and Alan McDonald, from Mt. Lawley; and George Mann, from Kellerberrin; whilst if any digger feels fresh, there will be Alf. Morey, one-time champion boxer of the State, ready to "hop him a trick." The Entertainment Committee, consisting of Messrs. J. H. Tozer, Chairman; Bob Tyler, X-Garnet Philp, and Bob Cooke, have already been at work to see that delegates will not lack one, or two cases in the desert of discussion. There will be the usual big smoke social on the opening night, theatre and racing parties, while there is also a suggestion to complete proceedings on the Sunday with a picnic party at Mundaring. Colonel Gifford has already announced his intention of standing for President, and in the parlance of the digger, the late lamented and daring Ned Kelly, were he alive, would not be game to enter the competition.

The ban of the law has fallen upon the works of D. H. Lawrence, novelist and artist. According to cables, those responsible for the exhibition of his pictures have been prosecuted for obscenity. Lawrence is of interest to Westralians, as he collaborated with Miss M. L. Skinner of this State, in writing that awfully crude and extremely snobbish novel of bush life in the West, "The Boy in the Bush." To those who have read later novels, written separately by these writers, it will be evident that the snobishness and the crudities were Lawrence's main contributions to the partnership.

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August 23rd, 1929.

NEDLANDS PARK.

ANNUAL MEETING

Colonel Jim Denton, D.S.O., Retiring President, had a refreshing story to tell in his address to the Annual Meeting held on the 13th instant. In spite of the dirty weather, some fifty diggers attended to hear of the wonderful achievements of the past year, and to elect new office bearers. The President's report was an encouraging one, and reminded the members that on the 31/7/28, the Sub-Branch boasted of 32 members, whilst at the end of last month the number had increased to 261, of which 39 were associate members. For this extraordinary achievement, he extended thanks to Mr. W. Henderson, the Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, together with his two staff officers, Harry Pernam and "Snowy" Jackson, who, between them, were responsible for a tally of 110 new members. The President would be pleased to hear if such a proud record had been equalled by any two diggers in Western Australia.

He thanked the members who had loaned their cars for the drag-net Sunday morning tactics, when the diggers residents of the district were grappled with on their own laws, and after the overtures of a few minutes, were glad to present the persistent Committee with 10/-, and so be allowed to continue gardening. Someone has said that "spots" were in many cases encountered on the laws.

To continue with the report, Nedlyand had the high honour of topping the State record for Poppy Day sales, due to the devoted work of the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary acting in conjunction with the members of the Sub-Branch Poppy Day Committee. Social activities had been many and varied, whilst for the first time the district commemorated Anzac Day by a parade of R.S.L. members, together with allied organisations, and by a service at which over 260 residents attended. The ameliorating fund stood at £104 15s. 11d., although during the year nine cases had been investigated and assisted.

Colonel Denton regretted that he was unable to take office for the coming year, but will always maintain a lively interest in the affairs of the sub-Branch. In the election of officers, Mr. Harry Ottewell was unanimously elected to the Chair, whilst Messrs W. Henderson and H. Lewis, after a close election, polled for Vice-Presidents. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. Bill Dufflefield, and a strong working Committee of ten was appointed. After the meeting, a moderate convivial function was held.

The Sunday Times

Western Australia's Leading Weekly

A paper no returned soldier can afford to be without. The activities of ex-service men, their present and future welfare are chronicled every week and information published that is invaluable to "diggers." "The Sunday Times" has fought more battles for returned men, and secured more privileges and concessions and the adjustment of more grievances than any other journal in Australia, if not the British Empire. Its pages are replete with the latest and the best in the way of news. The farming, mining, motoring, sporting and social pages are recognised as authorities in their respective spheres. Published every Sunday morning at 4d. If you are not a subscriber you have been missing opportunities.

The late John Garth

Requiescat—John Garth

All diggers who have passed through the routine of the Repatriation Department will mourn the loss of the late John Garth, who passed away on Thursday, 22nd August.

John Garth enlisted in the A.I.F. early in 1915 and served with the Royal Australian Artillery (55th Battery Siege Brigade, A.I.F.) and sustained severe gunshot wounds on 15th March, 1916, at Arras. His father and two brothers also enlisted, the father and one brother being killed in action.

John Garth's work since the war, particularly in the interests of deceased soldiers' children, is known to all returned men and to the public at large. His humanity, which was displayed officially in connection with his work in the Repatriation Department, and his outside activities, especially that with the Legacy Club, will make his loss a heart-felt one. His general kindness to sons of deceased soldiers and to the widows of the war, together with his lovable disposition, has made him a host of personal friends.

Jack's great sufferings, as the result of his war service did not deter him in his humane work.

Soldiers' boys, soldiers' widows, and soldiers, too, mourn his loss, and on their behalf we extend sincere sympathy to Mrs. Garth and her infant son. Jack Garth was a guardian and a friend to the orphaned children of the war.

Congratulations and appreciation to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of Perth, J. T. Franklin, M.C., M.I.C., for appointing a digger to the big job of General Manager of the City of Perth Electricity and Gas Department.

Also congratulations to Frank Edmondson on securing the big job, which carries a salary of £1,200 per annum. Frank is probably the youngest man holding such a position in the Commonwealth, being only 34 years of age. He is a member of the Perth Sub-Branch, and an original member of the Legacy Club, where he has done, and is doing, big things for the orphan children of fallen comrades.

Frank is a fine athlete, being among the four, best tennis players in the State.

An extremely peppery major, playing a round for substantial stakes, was none too pleased when at one hole he was kept waiting for a few minutes by a woman who sauntered carelessly down the fairway with a baby in her arms.

"Come away, madam," he called out testily, "Hurry up with that baby of yours." The woman glared at him indignantly.

"Baby yours!" she snapped, "playing with that little ball, and in those ridiculous short trousers, too! Go home to your ma!"

The Truth About the War

It was hoped to complete this article in this number, but owing to pressure on our letterpress we have been obliged to hold it over.

"SWAN" BRAND PURE MALT VINEGAR—Best Obtainable
Casualties
IN THE AUSTRALIAN RAILWAY UNITS, TUNNELLING COMPANIES AND MINING CORPS, 1914-1918.
(Compiled by Colonel H. B. Collett, C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.)

UNIT
RAILWAY UNITS—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>With B.E.P</th>
<th>In U.K.</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Railway Supply Detachment</td>
<td>O. 31</td>
<td>O. 31</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Light Railway Operating Co'y.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Light Railway Operating Co'y.</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Light Railway Operating Co'y.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Broad Gauge Railway Co'y.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Broad Gauge Railway Co'y.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1455</td>
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TUNNELLING COMPANIES—

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<tr>
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<th>96</th>
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<tr>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>71</td>
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<td>2nd Tunnelling Company</td>
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<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>268</td>
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MINING CORPS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>O. 82</th>
<th>82</th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>19</td>
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Woman’s Service Guild
AND COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING

We have received the following communication from the State President of the Women’s Service Guild (Miss A. Bromham), which gives us pleasure in publishing:

“Our attention has been drawn to an article in the ‘Listening Post’ of June 19, incorrectly criticising the attitude of our organisation to Compulsory Military Training. For your information we might state that the resolution protesting against the continuance of compulsory military training was not carried at our State Conference as reported in the West Australian. The resolution actually carried by Conference was ‘That this matter be referred back to the Guilds for further discussion, and brought forward at a later date. We would therefore be glad if you give this statement publicity in your paper.’

Foreigners on Mines

A little more than twelve months ago, Kalgoorlie and Boulder sub-branches were seriously perturbed, and lodged definite protests to the State and Commonwealth Governments on the apparent increasing of foreigners amongst mine workers. The R.S.L. asked the Minister rigidly to enforce the language tests as provided for by the Mines Regulation Act. Following the protests, instructions were issued to mining inspectors to see that every safeguard was placed on Britishers working alongside of aliens. The Minister for Mines has now presented to Parliament a Bill aiming at the amendment of the Mines Regulation Act, and the measure is at present in Committee before the Lower House. For every ten Britishers working underground, only one foreigner could be employed, and for every twenty Britishers working above ground, one alien could be given work. The proposed amendment was recently discussed by the State Executive, and realising the district provisions of the Bill, it was decided to appoint a small committee to investigate the amending Act, and later report to the Executive. Kalgoorlie and Boulder sub-branches will also be asked to submit their views.

Bad Australians

Those local patriots who employ part-coloured labour when returned soldiers are walking the streets looking for work, usually excuse themselves by stating that the Ding is thrifty, reliable, and a good worker. He does not get drunk, neither does he leave unpaid accounts at stores, and he is civil to his boss. In fact, these excuses are pushed forward with a vigour that almost amounts to a self-accusation. When it is suggested that the Ding finds favour because he is cheaper than the white man, it is indignantly asserted that he receives the award rates just as anybody else. In fact, he is a compound of virtue and efficiency, the inference being that the white Briton is just the reverse.

However, it was left to the Three Springs Roads Board to release the feline from the portmanteau. With cynical candour, the Board decided to give preference to Southern Europeans, because 150 per cent, and in one instance, 900 per cent. more wages had been asked by Australians, and that in expending the ratepayers’ money economy should be observed. If this is so, we contend that the Board is shamelessly sweating the foreigner. The rates being paid them were not stated. We ask, are the Dings being paid award rates? If not, why not? We cannot commend that economy, either on the part of the ratepayers or of their representatives on the Board, which saves by employing foreigners while Australian soldiers are workless. It looks as though the excuses advanced during a recent parliamentary debate are so much eyewash. As a happy relief from the old story, and for their cynical candour, we take off our hats to the Three Springs Roads Board, but their bad Australianism makes us want to take our coats off to them.

16th Battalion Association

The Annual Re-Union takes place at the R.S.L. Institute, on Friday, October 11th. This will give country members, who are visiting Perth for the Show, an opportunity to meet their old comrades.

Colonel Margolin, D.S.O., who has been the Battalion’s best worker, since his return from active service, has opened a petrol station near Nedlands, on the Perth-Fremantle Road. His many old comrades who served under him wish him every success.

The history of the Battalion has reached its final stages, and will shortly be for sale.

Thanks to many enthusiastic members who subscribed 45 each, the book will be sold for 7/6 per copy.

It’s Here! — The New

SWAN LAGER

“SWAN” BRAND SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having
PLAISTOWE'S
ALL BRITISH CHOCOLATE & NEW WORLD CHOCOLATE
THE CHOCOLATE THAT MEN LIKE

Women's Auxiliary Doings

A most successful juvenile plain and fancy dress ball was held in the Town Hall, Bassendean, on Friday, August 9.

The number and variety of fancy costumes displayed would be hard to beat, and many, original ideas were noticed. The grand march was directed by Mrs. Fraser, and afforded a brilliant and pretty spectacle for the large number of adults present, and was conducted without a hitch.

The music supplied by Rita North (Mrs. Smith), piano; Lionel Selling, banjo; and "Buzz" Sullivan, drums, left nothing to be desired, the time being excellent.

The judges, Messdames S. C. Wilson (State President Women's Auxiliaries), Bessel-Browne, Chalmers, and Barnes, had a very difficult task selecting the prize winners.

Supper was served in the basement, the smaller children going down first, the elder ones being served after, and judging by their pleased looks when they returned to the ball-room, they evidently enjoyed the good things provided.

Mr. N. Graham, President of the sub-branch, on behalf of the Ladies, thanked all those who assisted to make the function a success, specially mentioning the ladies who judged, the musicians, and the M.C. Mr. Smith. Mrs. W. D. Johnson then presented the prizes.

During the evening, Mrs. Wilson, in the course of a short speech, made an appeal to the ladies of the district who were eligible, to join up with the Women's Auxiliary, and assist in the work of helping, where necessary, the dependants of returned soldiers.

The monthly meeting of the Perth Sub-Branch R.S.L. Auxiliary will take place at the Soldiers' Institute, at 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 3rd. Business; election of delegates to Congress.

A United Auxiliary Meeting (in the form of a cup and saucer evening) will take place at the Soldiers' Institute, at 8 p.m., Tuesday, September 10th. Members of all auxiliaries participate.

The first annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary R.S.L. State Executive will take place at the Soldiers' Institute at 2.30 p.m., Monday, September 10th.

The Second Conference of R.S.L. Women's Auxiliaries will commence at 10.30 a.m., Monday, 23rd September. Mrs. Hopperton, Hon. Secretary, called in this office to inform us that reports were not yet to hand from most sub-branch auxiliaries. Time is short, and secretaries of auxiliaries can help by sending in, as early as possible, (1) list of names and addresses of all office bearers, (2) names of all financial members, (3) a copy of their annual report, and (4) copy of motions for Congress Agenda. These should be addressed to Mrs. H. Hopperton, Soldiers' Institute, St. George's Terrace, Perth.

The Railway Workshops Sub-Branch R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary has held several successful dances at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, recently. Novelty dances, competitions, and a good musical programme contribute to the enjoyment. This committee work hard, and deserve their success.

Auxiliary members regret to learn that Mrs. Kirke, Hon. Secretary of Bassendean Women's Auxiliary, is very ill, the last news received was that she expected to enter Perth Hospital. We hope she will soon recover.

Mrs. Rita Smith is lending her services as accompanying to Perth Sub-Branch, pro tem. Mrs. Smith's sunny disposition endears her to all.

Queensland Resolutions

Three very useful resolutions were carried by the Queensland Congress:—

1. That Anzac Day be declared a close holiday.
2. That the State Government be requested to protect returned soldiers in any retrenchment scheme, especially in the railway service.
3. That an appeal be made to every newspaper in the Commonwealth to eliminate the words "returned soldier" from reports of criminal cases.

These resolutions speak for themselves, and no returned man will question the desirability of their being carried into effect.

Regarding Anzac Day, the Premier of Queensland, it is understood, has already promised the League to pass the necessary legislation for making Anzac Day a close holiday.

Centenary Wheat Belt Re-union

The members of the progressive Merredin sub-branch are leaving no stone unturned in an endeavour to make their big reunion day, on Friday, September 13th, a wonderful success.

It is anticipated that on that day Merredin will contain its record crowd. From dawn, when the State President will lay a wreath on the local memorial, until late at night, every minute can be spent in an interesting and enjoyable manner. The programme for the day is published in our advertising columns. It is expected that hundreds of ex-soldiers on the land will be present and at least half the members of the State Executive.

Gaynor's
His Majesty's Hotel
Hay Street, Perth
Splendid Residential Hotel COUNTRY VISITORS SPARICALLY CATERED FOR
Terms Moderate. Phone B1232

Genuine Browning Automatic Shot Gun

12 Gauge, 5 Shot, Solid Breech, Hammerless 28 in. Cockerill Steel Barrel, Walnut Stocks

Sole Agents: MCLEAN BROS. & RIGG LTD., 104 Murray Street, Perth.

"Swan" Brand Mustard Pickles—Appetizing, Piquant
A CENTENARY RE-UNION OF RETURNED SOLDIERS
in the Eastern Wheatbelt
to be held at
MERREDIN, on FRIDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER
Programme of Events:
The day will be commenced by the Laying of a Wreath at the Memorial Tablet, at Dawn.
9.45—Reception of State Officials of the League by the Chairman and Members of the Merredin Road Board.
10.45—R.S.L. Rifle Championship (Section A) and S.A. Veterans’ Rifle Championship (Section B), on Merredin Range.
First Party to Merredin State Farm for Lecture-Tour of Experimental Plots.
1.0 p.m.—Lunch.
2.0 p.m.—Army Shoot (open to Returned Soldiers other than those competing in Sections A and B).
Second Party to Merredin State Farm.
Picnic Sports on Recreation Ground for soldiers’ wives and children.
7.45—RE-UNION DINNER, with Musical Programme, in Merredin Town Hall.
Cinema Entertainment for women and children, in Cummin’s Theatre. (Soldiers’ children admitted free on ticket from secretary.)

Visitors wishing to secure hotel accommodation should advise the Secretary, Merredin Sub-branch, immediately.

Scott’s Commercial Hotel
MERREDIN

Special accommodation for CENTENARY WEEK VISITORS
Diggers will be specially catered for at the WHEATBELT RE-UNION

Jack Scott — Lessee

Duff’s Hotel
MERREDIN

W.A.’s Leading Country Hotel.

All Beers, Liquors and Spirits stocked

Dining Room accommodation for 125 persons.

K. R. Duff — Manager

“SWAN” BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES—Appetising, Piquant
### R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH AND UNIT ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

**Note.**—The State Executive issued a circular to Sub-Branches and Unit Associations, inviting them to advertise in a Directory to be included in the **LISTENING POST** at a cost of £1 ls. per annum. The following is obviously far from complete.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President and Address</th>
<th>Secretary and Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Potts, State School, Albany</td>
<td>F. W. Thorn, P.O. Box 60, Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>When and where called</td>
<td></td>
<td>C. R. Gillett, Bury St., Bunbury</td>
<td>A. E. Murray, Stephen St., Bunbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup State School</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. McKinnon, State School, Cowaramup</td>
<td>J. I. Williams, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILDFORD-BASSENDAEN</td>
<td>Council Chbrs., Guildford</td>
<td>1st Thursday, alt. months, N. Graham, commencing January</td>
<td>A. Green, James St., Guildford</td>
<td>H. L. Kirke, 6th Avenue, Bassendean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Dunn, Box 85, Geraldton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERNE HILL</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bassendean</td>
<td>1st Thursday, other months</td>
<td></td>
<td>F. C. Blake, Vine St., Herne Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATANNING</td>
<td>Herne Hill Hall</td>
<td>29th August, 1929</td>
<td>W. J. Cobb, Katanning</td>
<td>H. A. Fildes, Katanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>W. Flanagan, P.O. Kudardup</td>
<td>C. Smith, P.O., Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELMSCOTT</td>
<td>Kelmcott and Roleystone</td>
<td>Bi-monthly</td>
<td>R. G. McLean, Roleystone</td>
<td>E. Franklin, Roleystone</td>
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<tr>
<td>KELLERBERRIN</td>
<td>P.P.A. Room</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>G. L. Oglevie, Kellerberrin</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mann, Kellerberrin</td>
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<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>Broome</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>J. V. Hay, Broome</td>
<td>H. E. Thurlke, Broome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Commercial Hotel</td>
<td>Every 3rd Thursday from J. Brindle</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koorda</td>
<td>J. G. Finlay, Koondup</td>
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<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonup</td>
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<td>L. J. Carter, Koorda</td>
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<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td></td>
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<td>H. H. Pelham, Lake Grace</td>
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<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Supper Room, Town Hall, Alt. Thursdays, 7.30 p.m., L. G. Butcher, Maylands from 22nd August</td>
<td>116 8th Ave., Maylands</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koorda</td>
<td>R. Waddington, 11 Morrison St., Maylands</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Room, 1st Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td>P. F. Jamieson, Midland Junction.</td>
<td>Edward Gray, 36 North St., Midland Junction</td>
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<td>MUNDARING AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Alt. Mundaring and Mt. 3rd Thursday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>T. A. Scott, Mundaring</td>
<td>H. Scott, H. Ottewell, Broadway Theatre (Lesser 2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>H. Patton, Mundaring</td>
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<td>NEDLANDS</td>
<td></td>
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<td>W. A. Duffield, 19 Broadway, Nedlands</td>
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<td>NORTHAMPTON</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>A. Wheeler, Northampton</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERTH</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, Perth 2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koorda</td>
<td>C. Longmore, Soldiers’ Institute, Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRESS</td>
<td>At Luncheon</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, noon</td>
<td>C. P. Smith, C/o West Australian, Perth</td>
<td>I. T. Birtwistle, C/o The Western Mail, Perth, Tel. BS 7558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAILWAY WORKSHOPS</td>
<td>In the “Mill” at Work, Alt. Tuesday, 12.10 p.m., R. Gibson, shops from 3rd September</td>
<td>Olive St., Subiaco</td>
<td>W. J. Lovell, 90 Sixth Ave., Maylands</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH PERTH</td>
<td>Masonic Hall, Cr. York 3rd Monday</td>
<td>E. M. H. Parfquharson, Forrest St., South Perth</td>
<td>J. H. Adams, 26 Coode St., S. Perth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WAROONA</td>
<td>Mr. Hair’s Office</td>
<td>1st Friday, 8.30 p.m.</td>
<td>V. Walker, Waroona</td>
<td>R. H. Roberts, Waroona</td>
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### ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH UNITED SERVICES ASSN.</td>
<td>Executive at 229 Charles 1st Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Capt. E. W. Edmonds</td>
<td>Geo. E. Casterton</td>
<td>229 Charles St., North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, Perth When necessary</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. I. E. Da Dunkley, Mrs. W. James</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James</td>
<td>86 Angove St., N. Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Cabin Tea Rooms (opp. Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2Lt.-Col. I. E. Da Dunkley, 86 Angove St., North Perth</td>
<td>E. M. H. Farquharson, Forrest St., South Perth</td>
<td>H. K. Kahn</td>
<td>69 River St., S. Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIXTEENTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, Perth When called Colonel E. L. Margolin, Nedlands</td>
<td>V. Kettridge</td>
<td>C/o Dept. of Repatriation, Perth</td>
<td></td>
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*“SWAN” BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES—Appetising, Piquant*
Sub-Branch Notes

KIMBERLEY.

One of the most successful functions of its kind was held at Broome on the 21st June, when a children's fancy dress dance was given by Broome Sub-Branch. About 100 children were present, as well as a large number of adults. The children's dresses were wonderful, and a most appetising supper was provided by the energetic Ladies Committee.

For the past eighteen months endeavours have been in progress to enrol men from the Derby District in the League. Early in the year a letter was sent to all returned men in that district explaining the objects of the League. The response was most gratifying, and on 4th July, a general meeting was held in Broome, when it was decided to change the name from "Broome" to "Kimberley" Sub-Branch, with head quarters at Kimberley.

On the 12th July, the President (Jimmy Hay), Vice-President (H. D. Forbes), and Secretary (H. E. Thurkle), journeyed to Derby by motor car. On arrival they were entertained at a dinner, at which some 20 diggers were present. After the usual toasts had been honoured, a meeting was held. The visitors explained the object of their visit, after which several of the "Derbyites" expressed their whole-hearted approval of the efforts made to help them to join the League, at the same time stressing the difficulty of forming a sub-branch at Derby. It was then decided to appoint Messrs. J. Knopp and Sam. Waycott representatives of Derby, with a seat on the Committee. (Incidentally, most of the success in extending the League's membership is due to Sam's indefatigable efforts.) This concluded the meeting, and a smoke social was then held. Musical items, "chors" and refreshments helped to pass the remainder of a most pleasant evening. Mine host of the Port Hotel, Jack Graham—a digger—deserves special thanks for his hospitality in providing most of the refreshments of the evening.

Saturday was spent in talking things over and exchanging reminiscences with various diggers.

On Monday morning the visitors returned to Broome, slightly tired after their journey of 200 miles by car over bush tracks.

PILBARA.

Annual Meeting.

There was a splendid attendance at the Tenth Annual General Meeting held at Port Hedland, on the 16th of July, the President, Mr. Ross A. Keeling, presiding.

Proceedings opened with the honouring of the toast of the King, followed by that of Past Comrades. The Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting having been read and confirmed, the President conveyed to those assembled a message from the State President of the League (Col. H. B. Conroy). Mr. Keeling, during a short address, congratulated the Hon. Secretary and members on the vastly improved state of the membership list, touched on the work that the League was doing in Australia to-day, expressing the hope that the W.A.* Branch would be successful in its endeavour to place General Sir John Monash at the head of the League in Australia. In conclusion, he thanked the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. E. Clark) and members of various committees for their support during the past term.

The toast of "Absent Members" was proposed by the Vice-President (Mr. V. C. Watson), who pointed out that as 75 per cent. of the sub-branch's membership was scattered through the country out back, they were fortunate in having such a large attendance at the meeting. The toast was suitably responded to by Mr. Frank Leed, of "Abdios Station.

On behalf of the members, the President presented to Mr. A. L. Wild, an illuminated address. "At a time when the Branch was at its lowest ebb, both from a membership standpoint and from the point of those who were financial members, but found the ordinary routine of meetings monotonous, Mr. Wild stepped into the post of Hon. Musician, and in the President's opinion, was strongly instrumental in bringing the Sub-Branch back to to-day's strong position. He leaves Port Hedland with the well wishes of every member individually, and the thanks of the officers of the sub-branch as a whole."

Mr. L. E. Taplin supported the President's remarks, and proposed the health of our Comrade "Oscar"ild. Mr. Wild suitably responded, and thanked the meeting for their present and well wishes.

Statement of receipts and expenditure and balance sheet was read by the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. A. E. Clark), and followed by the report of the Hon.-Auditor (Mr. W. Woods). The Chairman of the Finance Committee (Mr. Keeling) reported an increase of assets over liabilities of £121 during the year, a most creditable result for a small sub-branch. £7 odd had been received as the quota of the last Art Union conducted by the State Executive, which amount had been helpful to the finances, and should be encouraging to members to support further efforts on the part of the organisers. Details were given in regards to assistance granted and various other matters.

Messrs. Lammond and Smith, in moving the adoption of the reports and balance sheet, asked that the appreciation of the members for the Hon. Secretary's work should be placed on record.

The toast of the State Executive, coupled with the name of Col. Collett, was drunk with musical honours, and on the motion of Messrs. Taplin and Jeffings, a vote of confidence in that body as at present constituted was placed on record.

Sub-Committee reports were received from the Librarian, and the Chairman of the Social Committee; the former disclosed an excellent state of affairs, stating that the Library was worthy of better support from the members and the public generally. However, it was more than paying its way, and was being kept up-to-date with a constant stream of new issues.

The toast of the Navy was proposed by Mr. M. Ford, and replied to by Mr. Nicho-las, after which the election of officers was held, with the undermentioned result—

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"SWAN" BRAND TOMATO SAUCE is Delicious.
President, Mr. Ross A. Keening (re-elected unopposed); Vice-President; Port Hedland, Mr. W. Wood (balloted); Marble Bar, Mr. R. V. McCracken (re-elected unopposed); Trustees, Messrs. W. W. Goode, and E. J. Jeffries (re-elected unopposed); Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. E. Clark (re-elected unopposed); Committee, Messrs. Woods, Taplin, and Watson (re-elected unopposed); Hon. Auditor, Mr. V. C. Watson (unopposed).

On the motion of Messrs. Woods and Gallop, it was decided to write to Messrs. Goode and Jeffries thanking them for their willingness in carrying on the responsible post of Trustees.

The matter of the formation of a Rifle Club in the town was brought forward by Mr. Sholl, and it was moved by Messrs. Thornton and Lamond: That particulars be obtained from the Defence Department in regard to the initial steps. The President vacated the chair to move an amendment, which was seconded by Mr. L. E. Taplin: That the Branch takes no active part in the formation of a Rifle Club, but that we give every assistance in our power to our whole-hearted support to persons whom we understand are already moving in the direction of the formation of the aforementioned club. The amendment was carried.

The business portion of the meeting closed on a toast by Mr. Taplin of the President's health. He spoke at length on Mr. Keening's long connection and interest in the workings of the Sub-Branch, and intimated that the officers and the members had every confidence in him as their leader, and in his ability to uphold the prestige of the League when occasion arose; these remarks were supported by the retiring Vice-President, Mr. V. C. Watson.

In thanking the meeting for the manner in which the toast had been honoured, Mr. Keening pointed out that he had been one of three persons who launched the Pilbara Sub-Branch (the others being Capt. W. Lynam and Mr. W. Newman), since then he had been instrumental in guiding its destinies through many ups and downs, and to-day he was proud of the confidence placed in him by the members of the, tp him, finest sub-branch in the State, in reflecting him at their head.

The meeting was declared closed, and until the "wee small hours" of the morning the time was spent by the boys in the singing of popular choruses.

KELMSCOTT.

A meeting of the Sub-Branch was held at Roleystone, on July 22nd. Mr. McLean, President, being indisposed, the chair was occupied by Mr. Piesse, Vice-President, Kelmans members coming up with Mr. Bunny, in his T-rusty Chrysler. Arrangements were put in hand for a smoke social to be held in Kelmscott Hall, on September 21st.

BOULDER.

The membership of this Sub-Branch has never been greater than at present; 75 new members have been enrolled during the year, and the President and members are confident of again winning the Newdegate Cup. That the League is gaining in prestige is manifest by the number of new members and the majority of whom have stood aloof for years for various reasons hard to understand.

Quite a gloom was cast over a recent meeting of the Branch when it was announced that Mr. Dave Donaldson was disposing of his business and going to reside privately in Perth. The League, and the Boulder Sub-Branch in particular, had no more worthy supporter. Dave always had a soft spot in his heart for the digger, and many a one he has helped along the road. In addition to being a foundation endowment member of the Branch, he is also a recipient of that coveted distinction—the League's Certificate of Merit. The beautiful monument standing in the Railway Reserve, Boulder, which was erected by Mr. Donaldson, will forever stand as a reminder of the generous donor. On Friday, July 5th, a complimentary farewell social was tendered Mr. Donaldson by the members and endowment members of the Branch, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all present. The hall, as well as the tables, was tastefully decorated, and the evening was devoted mostly to music and song. During the evening, the President, on behalf of the members of the Branch, presented Mr. Donaldson with an enlarged framed photo of the officers and members of the Branch.

Mr. Donaldson, on rising to respond, received a wonderful reception, and was visibly affected. He thanked the members for their generous action, and assured them that no matter where he should reside in the future, his heart would always be in Boulder, and he would never forget the boys, or cease to be a supporter.

The evening concluded with the singing of a "Wee Deoch and Doris," and "Auld Lang Syne."

Dave has presented the Branch with two beautiful large framed oil paintings; same are admired by all, and are hung in the main hall.

Recently the Secretary was notified that a returned soldier, r.med James Quirk, had died at the Government Hospital; Kalgoorlie, after being an inmate for only a few hours, and that we have lost a member of the League, and was practically unknown to any of the members, arrangements were at once made to have this late comrade in arms buried from the Rest Rooms.

The casket, resting on bearers and draped with a large Australian flag, was placed in the main hall. The funeral left the Rest Rooms at 4 p.m., a large number of our members attending. The members of this Sub-Branch deeply appreciate the kindness of the members of the Boulder Band who turned out and marched at the head of the procession. The hymn, "Nearer My God to Thee" was played at the graveside, and the Rest Post was sounded by Mr. J. Wallace.

Who said that the true Digger spirit is dead?

Snapshots.

Judging from the animated discussion which took place at recent meetings re items for the Agenda Paper, there is likely to be some fireworks at the forthcoming Conference.

Bill is back in harness again after an extended holiday in Perth. Welcome, Bill.

No wonder Ernie wears a smile these days. Ernie is the proud father of a sturdy young digger—Good old Ber.

Who said that Pat is running on too light a mixture?

Inman has nothing on our genial Tom when it comes to a wielding a billiard cue. We do not wonder, seeing that Scotty has taken him in hand.

The Branch has no keener supporter than the "live wire" Sec. of the Greengrocers' Association, Ike Shields—more power to you, Ike.

Percy has gone into training for the combined social to Colonel Collett next month.

KOJONUP.

Work has slackened off in this district and employment is hard to find for ex-service men, and is likely to remain so for the next few months.

While picture-secretary Billy Millons is away, the movies are being well looked after by Bernie Hickling and Tom Harry, ably assisted by Harry Oris and Jimmy Gorman. By the way, Harry has just re-
Comrades missing. As.

Members generally are reminded that several library books are outstanding, and missing. At present it is due to clear out old books, defaulting members are respectfully asked to return at earliest. Fourteen days a book is the time limit for readers.

At the last meeting of this branch, accounts amounting to £61 7s. 3d. were passed for payment. It was decided to obtain a price for painting and renovating the meeting room, but up to date the price asked for has not been submitted to the Secretary. Local painters must be busy.

The Annual General Meeting date has not yet been fixed on account of auditors having too much other secretarial work to perform, but the meeting should eventuate this month. Notices will be posted to all members when the date is fixed.

Bill Lefort returned from his annual vacation on the 4th, looking well after his sojourn in the metropolis.

MT. BARKER R.S.L.

June 30th saw the Branch membership total 117. There are still a few around the Cranbrook district who have not joined, and it is up to members of that district to endeavour to induce their outstanding “cobbers” to link up with the Mt. Barker Sub-Branch. A little hint through this Journal’s columns may have the desired effect.

Sub-Branch members will be pleased to hear that Billy Millons is doing better now after two months’ treatment at No. 11 Ward, Perth.

Art union tickets sold well in this district, but no luck in the big prizes. About 600 books at half a dollar each went through this Branch, which is a very good effort.

Mr. H. Hocking, of the Repatriation Medical Department, visited the district this June to adjust a difference of opinion or outlook between local ex-service men and the District M.O. We understand that his mission was successful.

COWARAMUP.

A very delightful “At Home” was held in the State School, on Saturday, July 27. Musical items and competitions added greatly to the success of this, the first, of what is hoped to be a series of social functions.

The sub-branch has made wonderful strides for such a scattered district, since its formation in May last, and new members are being recruited at every meeting.

OSBORNE PARK.

A member of the branch is now employed at the Zoo, South Perth, it is reported, as a lion-tamer. It is suggested that he be nominated for vice-president. A triple birthday party was held in the Soldiers’ Hall, in honour of Mr. J. O’Malley, the soldiers’ ugly man, Mrs. A. Glass, the hon. musician to the branch, and Mr. G. Taylor, a prominent worker of the agricultural society. There was a large attendance of friends to celebrate the triple birthdays. Dancing, singing, anecdotes and games comprised the programme, and there was the usual scramble for pieces of the birthday cakes. The President of the branch (Mr. H. Nugent) on behalf of the members, presented Mr. O’Malley with a wicker arm chair; Mr. J. Crawford (vice-president), presented Mr. J. O’Malley with a pocket wallet, and Mr. E. Robinson, president of the Agricultural Society, gave Mr. Taylor a pouch and tobacco. At the usual meeting of the sub-branch, Mr. H. Nugent presided. A letter was read from the head teacher of the central school thanking the branch for the donation to the school dance. A case of a neglected widow was brought before the members, and it was decided to forward particulars to the Executive. A member commented adversely on the treatment of patients in the Repatriation Ward of the Perth Hospital, and alleged that in a ward for 35 cases there were 55, and also that sufferers from chest complaints were not provided with coats during the cold weather, while leaving their beds.

The Perth Roads Board, at the request of the Maylands sub-branch, decided that a clause be inserted in all contracts affecting Mr. Lawley, Inglewood, and the Peninsula wards making it compulsory for contractors to employ only British labour. Osborne Park and the coast are two wards connected with the Perth Roads Board, and at the meeting the branch unanimously decided to ask the Perth Roads Board why Osborne Park and the Coast Wards were not included in the arrangement.

There is a story circulating in the Park regarding Mr. J. O’Malley’s adventures with a huge snake, but full particulars were not obtainable at the time of going to press. Our Ugly Man is still a valuable asset of the branch, and we could not let a snake get him.

Our secretary has been a cot case in hospital, but is recovering. Our President is also feeling the wear and tear of official life, and has resigned the office of vice-president of the Agricultural Society. However, that body has decided to ask him to retain office until after the show. Mr. Nugent also reports that he will probably have to retire from the Chairmanship of the branch owing to ill-health. Harold is a grafter in Osborne Park.

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MIDLAND JUNCTION.

The Centenary smoke social of this sub-branch was held in the local Town Hall, on Friday, July 26th. A large gathering included the State President and State Secretary, and Executive Delegates Pady, Lovell and Cooke. The branch President, Mr. P. Jamieson, opened the proceedings with the loyal toast, and with a speech of welcome to the visitors. Mr. R. Marsh, in proposing the toast of the League, complimented the State Executive on the wonderful results achieved and pointed out that every returned soldier had benefited materially as the result of the League's existence. Colonel Collett, responding, stated that the League was going to make a membership drive in the near future. Mr. R. Pady proposed the toast of the Midland Junction sub-branch, and complimented the officials on the good results achieved. Mr. P. Jamieson, responding, said that his branch was going to make a membership drive in the near future. Mr. F. Bateen proposed Kindred Branches and Mr. R. Cooke responded. Midland Junction Council was proposed by Mr. F. Doig, which was responded to by the Mayor, Mr. W. R. Crookie. Mr. Ed. Gray proposed the Business Men, and Mr. F. Jacoby responded.

Messrs. H. Jenkins, G. Kennedy, Monner, Priddle, Hommingsway, Gleeson, Brasiflwaste, E. Oldham (Cornet), G. More and Groves (piano) contributed to the harmony of the evening.

MORNINGS MILL.

On August 3rd, the official opening of the Mornington Mills Sub-branch of the R.S.L. took place, the occasion being marked in the form of a public smoke social, at which Mr. Cliff Sadlier, V.C., and the State Secretary, Mr. Benson, were in attendance.

The following toasts were honoured—Fallen Comrades, by the Chairman (W. J. Fulton); The Army, Navy, and Air Forces, by N. Smart, Cliff. Sadlier, V.C., responding. Mr. Ashton (Harvey Sub-Branch) proposed the toast of the State Executive, which was responded to by Cliff. Sadlier, V.C., and the State Secretary—the latter giving a brief resume of the activities of the League, which was greatly appreciated. Mr. Bert Cousins proposed the toast of the Reserves, to which Mr. R. McIntosh responded, while Messrs. Potemkin, Deacon, Miller, Jones, contributed items of song and dance. A special Italian operatic turn was also staged by Messrs. Americana and Pom-Pom, of the weak heart.

Allegro a, a most enjoyable evening was spent, and concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

SOUTH PERTH.

Ordinary business was suspended at the August meeting of the sub-branch in order that members and their friends might have the pleasure of hearing General Jess lecture on "Galipoli." The audience numbered well over a hundred and filled the Masonic Hall to its capacity. The General has the ability to make his subject live again and memories of Gallipoli days were revived in the minds of some of the troops to such a degree that several of them declare that they are hanging for a bit of "Frank Bentos." The members are under a debt of gratitude to the General for his kindness in coming so far from Australia and giving his lecture, and, like Oliver Twist, they are already asking for more.

The Social Committee has made arrangements to hold a social and dance at the Swan Street Hall on Tuesday September 3rd. Ladies are asked to bring a pound of mixed cattles and the menfolk will be charged two shillings. This affair will give the opportunity to wives and sweethearts to compare notes with each other and any member who has been telling his better half that the sub-branch meets three times a week is asked to communicate with the committee in order that his "pot" may not be put on. S.F. diggers are asked to reserve this evening and to bring their wives or "hunts."

The Gaiety Theatre has been chartered for the evening of Wednesday, September 11, and tickets are now available for the entertainment to be provided on that night. A travel talk, illustrated with a series of unique slides, will be given by Captain E. H. Sheffield, the subject being "Through Darkest Africa with a Camera." The Captain, who is a member of the S.P. sub-branch, spent two years chasing the elusive Hun around the docks of Kenya and Tanganyika, and during the pursuit of 5000 miles he had the opportunity of collecting the material for his very interesting talk. The proceeds are to be shared by the Parkerive kiddies and the S.P. R.S.L. amelioration fund, and as our own Roy Glenister is looking after the musical part of the programme the committee looks forward to filling the theatre.

The "Fatigue Party" is still going strong, and several little jobs have been carried out. Anyone desirous of adding his name to the list of volunteers may do so on application to the C.O.

One or two very important matters are set down for discussion at the September meeting to be held in the Masonic Hall on Monday, September 16th, and as some of these matters are of far-reaching consequence, it is expected that every member will do his utmost to attend.

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