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PERTH
Peace on Earth

It is regrettable that, at a season usually associated with the birth of the Prince of Peace, and the ideals He strove to inculcate upon earth, there should have occurred, on a New South Wales coalfield, something that bears a strong resemblance to civil war. Time was when Australian crowds, even during industrial troubles, were noted for their good humoured sanity, and abstention from violence on the larger scale; but of late, specially since the intrusion of Moscow worship into our politico-industrial affairs, an ugly spirit is abroad in the land. Bombing, bashing, and other acts of mob violence are becoming the recognised accompaniments of strikes. This is not the place to discuss the rights and wrongs of an industrial dispute in another State, but all good citizens must regret that actual bloodshed has occurred, and feel a certain sympathy for the victims on either side. Thinking men, too, must deplore the interminable language that has been used in the affair, notably the stupid and rather blasphemous ravings of a Sydney suburban alderman. Utterances of this sort only add to the bitterness that must ensue, and place further difficulties in the way of settlement.

It is a singular thing that those who are always advocating universal brotherhood and general disarmament are always the very first to resort to violence when their own interests are threatened. Peace ideals, it would seem, are like a dress suit, to be worn only on special occasions.

While Australia faces the prospect of a miserable Christmas, and an unhappy New Year, matters do not look much better abroad. Civil war still rages in China, and there is intermittent fighting in Manchuria. Sporadic warfare is still occurring in Afghanistan, and, no doubt, bootleg whisky will be responsible for the usual crop of Christmas tragedies in America.

In pleasing contrast to all this, one learns that the arrangements for the Five Power Naval Conference have been completed, and London will be the scene of an honest effort on the part of those nations who would be least likely to fight in any case to carry on with the work of disarmament. As Britain and America will be able to face the Conference in complete agreement, there is every prospect of its successful issue. Whether it results in a greater degree of peace on earth and more goodwill between men or not, it seems fairly certain that the British taxpayer will be relieved of some of his burdens, and that politicians will have more money to waste in other directions.

In the meantime, we must hope for the best; the darkest hour precedes the dawn, and we have the doubtful consolation of knowing that matters cannot very well become worse.

We take this opportunity to thank our readers for their generous support, and to wish them all the compliments of the season.

A Belated but "Spirited" Reply

The following letter speaks for itself:

Dear Billy,—How extremely kind of you to send me that case of whisky for Christmas. I have never tasted such marvellous whisky and I keep tasting it.

The whisky you have sent for Christmas is marvelous. I keep tasting it and how kind of you to send me this

wonderful whisky for Xmas which I keep tasting.

It's really really its miskind of you to kispersending these whiskys in cases which I keep tashing for Xmas and tashing his tick dickery dock.

What kind whisky old man how ex this extremely marvelous to tash Xmas you great friend that thank you old for extextra extra wwhenishky iniinaihas cashase4 yu xnx Kindse kisses Kiesmas & xMu (€) Y+Y OL "PPA ///...? Sherio old P5/16g ,

"The W.A. Digger Book"

"The W.A. Digger Book" is selling well, and readers are reminded that copies may be obtained from the Secretary, the R.S.L.; the Anglican Book Depot, Hay Street; and Harris, Scarfe and Sandover. Neither of these firms is making any profit from the sale of the book, the price everywhere being ordinary copies 1/-, edition de luxe, one guinea, postage extra. Remember this during Christmas week, for the book will be an ideal Christmas present.

At the last Executive Meeting it was suggested that the House Committee be requested to provide better seating accommodation. Alf. Yeates proposed deferring the matter, clinching his argument with the anatomical truism: "Our brains are not altogether on our chairs."

We are able to contradict the rumour that Ted Corboy recited Hodd's "Song of the Shirt" at the 28th Battalion Reunion. Ted saves that woeful ballad for Vice-regal functions.

"SWAN" BRAND PURE MALt VINEGAR—Best Obtainable
State Executive Meetings
27/11/1929


Apologies were received from Messrs. Cornell, Parker and Denton.

Minutes.—Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, with the following alterations: on page (1),—Entertainment of V.C.s should read, “A telegram was read from the Federal President, in which it was stated that the Governor-General had been requested to invite State Governors to send a dinner to V.C. holders in the various States. A reply had been sent that this State was in accord with the suggestion and action had already been taken.”

Visitors.—Colonel Dibdin, the League’s representative on the Entitlement Board, attended the meeting and was welcomed by the President. He addressed delegates and dealt with the work of the Board.

Messrs. H. May and F. W. Wood, of Collie, also attended and were welcomed by the President.

Condolence.—The State President announced that Mr. J. F. MacBride, the District Finance Officer, had passed away that afternoon. It was agreed that a message of sympathy be forwarded to his relatives. The resolution was carried by delegates standing.

X-Ray, Perth Hospital.—The Secretary reported in connection with his enquiries concerning the delays complained of by ex-soldiers who attended Perth Hospital for X-ray purposes. The report was received.

Memorial Park, Maylands.—A letter was read and received from the Perth Road Board, stating that a deputation consisting of Messrs. Wells and Cooke had waited on the Board, and that the Board had agreed not to permit any further building encroachment on the land in question, and suggested that the legal advisers of both parties agree to a line of decision to be finally determined by both parties.

Mr. Cooke also submitted a report in this connection, and it was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Cooke, that a copy of the letter from the Perth Road Board be sent to the Maylands sub-branch.

Federal Correspondence.—Financial Clips, 1930: Further samples of financial clips were received from the Federal Executive. Moved Mr. Lovell, seconded Mr. Farquharson, that authority be granted to purchase on the samples submitted.

Federal Congress Delegates.—The Kalgoorlie sub-branch reported having entertained delegates during their brief stay in that town. It was agreed that the secretary should communicate with the Kalgoorlie branch and convey the appreciation of the State Executive for the trouble they had taken in this connection.

Invitations.—Lake Grace, January 6th, 1930: Left in the hands of the State President, W. Robin, March 17th, 1930: Left in the hands of President. Victoria Park, December, 6th: The President, Rev. Riley, and Mr. Edmunds accepted.

Letters of Appreciation.—Letters of appreciation were received from the ex-soldiers and dependants whose cases had been successfully finalised through the League’s advocate to the Entitlement Board. A communication was also received from the Blinded Soldiers’ Association thanking the League for the use of a room for their conference. Moved Rabbi Friedman, sec-}

[Continued on the next page]
Diggers!

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submitted on a visit to Ward 11 of the Perth Hospital. Report received.

R.S.L. Relief Fund: The report of the operations of this fund for the month of October was received.

House Committee: Mr. Philp submitted a report by the Executive of the House Committee meetings held on the 6th and 20th November. Discussion on the report was deferred.

Finance Committee: The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 21st November was submitted by Mr. Smith. The report deals with the account for the efficiency trophy presented by the League, the cost of which amounted to £26 4s. This was passed for payment and the report adopted.

Employment Bureau: The report of the operations of the employment bureau for the month of October was received.

Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive to be held on Wednesday, 4th December. Messrs. Ridley and Smith were granted leave of absence from that meeting.

Collie.—Mr. Wells reported on his visit to Collie sub-branch. Report received.

North Perth.—Rabbi Freedman reported having visited North Perth in company with Mr. Tozer and having explained the position concerning the Ed. Millen Home. Report received.

Murray.—Mr. Logie reported having visited Murray sub-branch. Report received.

Nedlands.—Col. Margolina reported having represented the State president at Nedlands. The report was received.

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EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

4/12/29


Apologies were received from Messrs. Parker, Wells and Margolin.

Federal: Correspondence- State Repatriation Board.- Information was received from the Federal Executive that the Minister in Charge of Repatriation did not propose to take any action at present to interfere with the conditions under which the State Boards are now functioning in the Eastern States.

War Service Homes.- The Federal President advised that the Federal Government had decided to make available an amount of £50,000 for War Service Homes.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Yeates, that in view of the fact that the total amount of £50,000 made available for the Commonwealth is only a small proportion of the immediate necessities of Western Australia only, and also that advances under the scheme are only loans which experience is showing are being repaid by the soldier recipients in a very satisfactory manner, this Branch emphatically protests against the almost cessation of the building of War Service Homes, and requests the Federal Executive to once again interview the Minister with the object of an adequate sum being made available to the War Service Homes Commission for present and future needs.-Carried.

C. Menin Gate at Midnight."- A communication was received from the Federal Executive which set out the position with regard to the final payment which may be expected from the Australian War Memorial in connection with the sale of those pictures.

Letters of Appreciation.- Mr. W. L. Allnatt wrote expressing appreciation of the hospitality extended to him and co-delegates at the recent Federal Congress.

Mrs. Nicholls communicated expressing appreciation of the League's work, particularly in regard to pension matters, she being a widow whose case had been successful at the Entitlement Tribunal.

C. W. Brick.-This ex-soldier wrote expressing appreciation of the assistance received before the Entitlement Tribunal.

Victorian Branch expressed appreciation of the hospitality extended to their delegates during the recent Federal Congress.

Federal Delegates.- The Boulder Sub-Branch wrote asking why both the Boulder and Kalgoorlie Sub-Branches had not been advised that the Federal Delegates were returning. It was decided that a letter be forwarded to Boulder on the lines of the one already sent to Kalgoorlie.

Moved by Mr. Longmore, seconded by Mr. Tyler: That wherever possible, in the cases of distinguished R.S.L. visitors journeying Eastwards from Kalgoorlie and Boulder Sub-Branches be notified.

The Collie Sub-Branch wrote deplore the attitude of the State Executive in not extending an invitation to representatives of country sub-branches to meet the Federal delegates socially during the Federal Congress. The matter was left in the hands of the Secretary for reply.

Defaulter's Member.- A communication from the Mandaring and Districts Sub-Branch concerning a defaulter member was referred to the Management Committee for action.

Deferred Congress Items.- A number of items referred by the State Congress to the Executive were dealt with.

Art Union.- Pilbara Sub-Branch requested permission to conduct an art union for the purpose of replenishing their amelioration and distress funds. It was decided that subject to the usual conditions permission be granted.

World Disarmament.- A communication from the Secretary of the World Disarmament Movement was received.

Reports.- The Land Committee submitted a report of its meeting held on the 9th November. The report was read and adopted.

House Committee.- The report of the House Committee, deferred from the last meeting, was then taken.

Arising out of the House Committee report, the following resolutions were carried:

Billiard Room.- Moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Mr. Pudy: That authority be given to the House Committee to expend on renovations and repairs to the Billiard Room an amount not exceeding £125.-Carried.

Chairs.- Move d by Mr. Tyler, seconded by Mr. Lovell: That 30 chairs be upholstered at a cost of 10/- each.-Lost.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Logie: That the report relative to the re-conditioning of the Board Room be adopted.-Carried.

Dining Room.- Moved by Rabbi Freedman, seconded by Colonel Denton: That the House Committee be given authority to re-open the Dining Room, and to make arrangements for the leasing of the premises to suitable tenants.-Carried.

Notice of Motion.- Mr. Watt gave notice of his intention to move at the next meeting that Standing Order No. 2 be amended so as to allow all reports and discussion of business of which notice has been given to be taken in the order next after confirmation and discussion of minutes. State War Memorial.- A letter from Sir Thomas Coombe undertaking, until his death, to maintain the Memorial, and to pay for the cost of electric current in illuminating it, was received and referred to the Management Committee.

11/12/29

Present.- Colonel Collett, Messrs. Smith, Philip, Watt, Tyler, Longmore, Logie, Cooke, Parker, Philp, Denton, Mr. Pudy, Mr. Lovell, Farquharson, Tozer, and Bader.

Apologies were received from Messrs. Riley, Freedman, Cornick, Dunkley, and Edmonds. Messrs. Yeates and Sadler were on leave.

Confidence.- An acknowledgement was received from the widow and family of the late J. C. D. McBride.

Federal Correspondence.- Trade within the Empire: A communication was received from the Federal President expressing copy of a cable and letter sent to the British Empire Service League concerning Empire Tradcs, 14th Annual Federal Congress.- The minutes of the 14th Annual Federal Congress were laid on the table for the information of members.

Employment Bureaux.- The report of the Employment Bureaux throughout the Commonwealth was received.

Imperial War Graves Commission.- Reports of this Commission were laid on the table for the information of members.

W.A. Bakers' Union.- A letter was received from the W.A. Bakers' Union complaining that the League had sent two bakers to Bencubbin for less than the award rates as provided by the Arbitration Court. The report was submitted by the Employment Officer, and the matter was left in the hands of the Secretary to reply.

Edward Millen Home.- The Darling Range Sub-Branch forwarded a resolution carried at their last meeting expressing the opinion that the Executive's explanation through the Press concerning the Edward Millen Home Enquiry was incomplete, and did not exonerate the matron and staff, and also the medical officers from the stain cast upon them by motions carried at Congress.

Moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Logie: That the Darling Range Branch be asked to arrange a special meeting in order that the Victorian Committee of the Executive and the State Secretary may attend that meeting and explain the position of the Executive in regard to the recent Edward Millen Home Enquiry.-Carried.

Employment.- C.P.S.- The Secretary submitted information concerning the appointment of a non-selling agent of the returned soldier in the Commonwealth Public Service. He had communicated with the Federal Executive concerning the matter, and his action was endorsed.

Pensions and Employment Committee.- It was agreed that the Pension and Employment Committee be concerned with the question of preference in employment.

Notice of Motion.- Standing Orders: Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Parker: That Standing Order No. 2 be amended so as to allow all reports and discussion of business of which notice has been given being taken in that order next after confirmation and discussion of minutes.-Carried.

Reports.- Management Committee: State War Memorial: The State President, on behalf of the Management Committee, submitted a scheme for the Memorial of the State War Memorial.

Moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Tyler: That the scheme be submitted.-Carried.

Defaulter's Members.- Mandaring Sub-Branch: The Management Committee report recommended that the Secretary, in his next monthly circular, invites sub-branches to first communicate with him before accepting an application for membership from any person bearing a name similar to that of any person referred to.-Adopted.

Defaulter's Secretary, Tambellup: The Tambellup Sub-Branch had advised that their late Secretary had defaulted and left a deficit of £14 9s. The matters referred to was at present undergoing imprisonment for another indictable offence, and the Management Committee recommended that he be expelled in accordance with Rule 5 (k) of the Constitution.-Adopted.

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LISTENING POST.—Congress, at its last session, increased the subsidy of the LISTENING POST from 6d. to 1/. Up to date the agreement between the League and the LISTENING POST had neither been terminated or varied. The Management Committee had proposed to bring the new arrangement into force as from the 1st January. It was pointed out that in the meantime the Imperial Printing Company, acting in perfect faith, had incurred certain extra expenditure in connection with the Journal, and stood to lose £40 or £45 unless some understanding was arrived at.

After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Denton, seconded by Mr. Shaw: That the increased subsidy to the LISTENING POST, involving an alteration from 6d. to 1/-, proportion of capitulation fees, passed by Congress, date from the 1st October, and that the increase be collected from sub-branches as from that date. The agreement to be amended accordingly.—Carried.

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

Lemons Board of Victoria.—Reports of meetings held by this Board on the 31/10/29 and 14/12/29 were laid on the table for the information of members.

Employment Bureau.—A report of the Employment Bureau for the month of November was received.

Women’s Auxiliaries.—The report of the Women’s Auxiliaries State Executive was received.

R.S.L. Relief Fund.—The report of the R.S.L. Relief Fund for the month of November was received.

Federal Congress.—The State President reported on behalf of himself and Rabbi Friedman as delegates to the recent Federal Congress. The report was received, and a vote of thanks tendered to the delegates.

Employment State Government.—Moved by Mr. Farquharson, seconded by Mr. Tozer: That this Executive of the R.S.L. approach the Premier with a view to an enquiry being made into the dismissal of temporary returned soldier employees from State Government Departments, while temporary hands who are not returned soldiers, and who are, in some cases, single men, are retained.—Carried.

Greetings.—Mr. Watt took the opportunity of extending Christmas greeting on behalf of delegates to the State President.

The Unveiling Ceremony of the War Memorial
UNFORTUNATE NEWSPAPER CRITICISM.

Some foolish and unwarranted words have been spoken and written regarding the arrangements for the service of the unveiling of the State War Memorial. A section of our week-end press tried to create discord at a most solemn ceremony by elaborating on the fact that no special invitations were sent, and no particular section reserved for the relatives of the fallen.

Now, it should have been obvious that the present surroundings of the memorial do not permit of a large enclosure, and as the ceremony was an official one, naturally, certain officials were necessary for its conduct. Only 150 special invitations were sent out, the large majority being to men and women representing the various soldier and allied organisations. Through the press, a general invitation was extended to the public to attend.

Of the 10,000 people who were present, probably there were few who had not lost kith and kin at the war. It would have been acceptable to the Committee, could they have found special seating accommodation for all bereaved relatives, and also for all subscribers to the fund, but such proceeded were obviously impossible.

It should also have been borne in mind that all members and officials of the Committee were working in an honorary capacity, and neither the personnel or the necessary funds were available to stage an elaborate ceremony.

Perhaps the most untrue and unfortunate statement printed was that many bereaved relatives forced their way into the seated enclosure.

A further grossly misleading statement printed was the suggestion that the representative of the Legacy Club, in hoisting one of the flags was usurping what should have been the right of a representative of the Navy. The simple explanation is that the members of the Legacy Club had donated the flag in question, and the Memorial Committee had naturally requested one of the donors to hoist it.

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“SWAN” BRAND TOMATO SAUCE is Delicious
Colonel Collett’s Christmas Greeting

Once again the members of the Executive, in whose hands you have placed the welfare of the League, desire to acknowledge the great help they have received from members during the past twelve months. Much has been accomplished. Many homes and individuals have been brightened and made happier.

In this State the R.S.L. appears to be working harmoniously and effectively—imbued with the laudable ambition to render unselfish service to others. The community has accepted it as a great and valuable organisation in the promotion of its social welfare.

To those who are so striving, and to all who have worn the King’s uniform, the Executive extends its thanks and best wishes. May Christmas see the disappearance of many ills and troubles and the New Year be replete with renewed enthusiasm, greater hopes, and increased prosperity.

“The Old Sixteenth”

The historian who describes events some years after they have occurred has the advantage of gaining access to a mass of records and other data that were probably not available at an earlier date. He can make his work both accurate and comprehensive, and it is these two qualities that mark the excellence of the story of “The Old Sixteenth,” probably the best unit history yet produced.

It is now nearly two years since the History Committee of the battalion undertook the task of producing this history. That it was a labour of love does not lessen the immense amount of work that committee performed; the searching of official records, the tabulation of nominal rolls and casualty lists, the reading of numerous diaries, the weighing of evidence, and the final sifting of the enormous quantity of data so that it could be knocked into literary form. The performance is all the more creditable when one realises that the War Diary and other official records of the Sixteenth were destroyed by enemy shell-fire near Guillascourt on August 16th, 1918.

Captain C. Longmore, who modestly describes himself as the compiler, is to be congratulated on the simplicity and dignity of his style. Sincere and always impressive, he has written a history in every way worthy of the great battalion whose magnificent fighting record is described. There were many battalions in the A.I.F. the very mention of whose name is sufficient to thrill the soul and send the blood pulsing more rapidly through the hearer’s veins, but none has a more splendid record of valour and devotion, none grander traditions, than this unit, the battalion of Percy Black and of the Super-V.C., L. McCarthy.

The full-length portrait of Major Percy Black, which forms the frontispiece of the book, and its dedication to the memory of that very gallant gentleman, and the rest of the battalion’s sacred dead, is but another example of the forethought and good taste characterising the history. In fact, one could write indefinitely upon the many aspects of excellence this very comprehensive record manifests.

Clearly printed and generously illustrated, it contains a complete list of the battalion’s battle honours and awards, casualty lists, and a nominal roll of every man who served in the unit, giving even the number of the reinforcement and the name of the troopship in which he sailed.

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“SWAN” BRAND-SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having
Nothing has been overlooked, nothing neglected. It is a record of hard marching, of harder fighting, and, reading between the lines, one catches many illuminating flashes of the indomitable Digger spirit and of the Digger's unfailing sense of humour.

Particularly impressive is the story of that red day of Bullecourt, where the Fourth Division suffered so heavily and where Major Percy Black found a soldier's death. The plain unvarnished tale of McCarthy's exploits, a piece of desperate valour carried out singlehanded, and which caused the London press to hail him as the Super-V.C. of the war, reads like an epic of Troy or Ancient Rome.

The history is a compendious record of effort, sacrifice and gallantry, of hard marches and harder fighting, of suffering, sorrowing and rejoicing, which should find a place on every Digger's bookshelf. We, of the other units, are all proud of the Sixteenth, and the battalion itself has every reason to be grateful to its History Committee and to Captain Longmore for the splendid history they have produced.

28th Battalion

Friday, the 13th, held no terrors for the men of the 28th, and their Re-Union Smoke Social in the Institute on that evening was one of the best attended functions of the year. Apologies were received from General Sir Talbot Hobbs, Messrs. C. H. Longmore, and E. S. Watt.

Among the guests present were Colonel Sweetapple (10th L.H.), Messrs Cooper (11th Battalion), W. Ketzerer (16th Battalion), R. Alexander (32nd Battalion), W. James (Blind Soldiers), Williams (Maimed and Limbless), Cattermole (B.U.S.A.), Captain C. R. Collins (47th Battalion and Listening Post), and Sergeant Parker (Young-28th).

In his summing up of the year's work, the Chairman (Lieutenant-Colonel Dunkley) referred to the recent change in defence policy, and mentioned that 45 per cent. of the young 28th had re-enlisted under the new conditions. Proposing the toast of the League, coupled with the name of Colonel Collett, Mr. R. Kahan paid a tribute to the Colonel's having discovered the secret of eternal youth. In his response, Colonel Collett recalled previous thirteenths of December, when the Battalion was at Lemnos (1915), Somme (1916), St. Vaast (1917), Charleroi (1918). Of the 3,800 who wore the Battalion colours, 3,000 were casualties, and 1,077 were killed. Efforts should be made to complete the Battalion history, and to place tributes to fallen comrades in the crypt of the War Memorial.

The toast of kindred associations was proposed by Mr. Armstrong; Colonel Sweetapple, Mr. Cattermole, and Sergeant Parker responded: Colonel Sweetapple suggested that ex-A.I.F. men could do much in fostering esprit de corps in the young units, and might aid in donating trophies for unit athletic competitions. Mr. Cattermole, who took part in a naval survey of Lemnos and Gallipoli thirty-five years ago, referred to the cohesion between the B.U.S.A. and the League.

Mr. Edgar, who proposed the "Press," had several complimentary things to say about the Listening Post. In responding, Captain Collins pointed out that the big newspapers gave a great deal of publicity to the League and its ideals. He alluded also to the work of the Press Sub-Branch in producing the "W.A. Digger Book."

Don't Fail to Read—

"A DIGGER'S DIARY"

IN

The Western Mail
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News of League doings.
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Christmas Carols
A Listening Post Anthology, Compiled by "The Office Nark."

Some months ago we asked several of our local warrior bards to celebrate the approach of the festive season by forwarding carols suitable to the occasion. They responded nobly, but it would appear from their efforts that they mistook the word "by" after "season" for "and." Our old friend, Benjamin Buttonstick, submitted some of his characteristic parodies, the first of which is a new version of an old classic.

"We're having ir.

"The diggers' boots were full of mud, Their thoughts were all of beer.

A gallant young staff captain Splashed through those muddy walls; "A merry Christmas, diggers!" The diggers answered, "Billiards!"

The Captain flew into a rage And swore by all his gods: "You'll get no Christmas pudding, You cheeky lot of clods!"

Up spake an aged Anzac, Whose face was tough and queer, "We don't want your blinking pudding, Evacuate it to the rear!"

[We pointed out to Mr. Buttonstick that the second stanza does not rhyme, but he explained that it would have rhymed correctly had there been a billiard table in the trench.—Ed. "L.P."]

Little Jack Simon Accosted a pieman, Demanding his Christmas pie; And then with Vic. Risleys, He revelled full wisely, Although the proceedings weren't dry. —Benjamin Buttonstick.

["Jean Dell" is both topical and pastoral in his contribution.]

A Carol of Carilla.
The hillsides round Carilla Are scented with vanilla, While geese and ducks drive slumber far away; And we hear the mellow wobble Of the turkeys' "gobble, gobble"; We'll gobble them ourselves another day.

But, in this mingy meantime We're having quite a lean time; These weather changes every heart appall, And my thoughts fly to the city, To those yarns so blue but witty, Of pals like Captain Dick and Lyall Hall.

So I'll hie me to the "charry," Bidding every muse "go marry!" And strip the bags from this perspiring brow, And help some companion Of the clan "Dum spiro beneo," To drain the nectar sold by Tom MacGow.

—Jean Dell.

[Peter Hopegood is both whimsical and macabre.]

Christmas Bell's,
Ding, dong, dangalong,
How can one gang along
This flaming street called Hay?
Diddle, diddle, hi,
And likewise dinky di,
How can one find his way
Without a corpse or two
To guide pedestrians who
Are fearful lest they stray.
(While bells go dingle dangalong)
To some such place as Wandalong,
In Burma.
A place exposed to suns
(As we learned from recent puns)
Will make his presence felt;
While a sole upon the ice
Will desist from being nice,
When the ice begins to melt—
He'll murmur—
So ting, ting, tingaling,
The bells all ringing
To mystify those narks;
Those pedants, dull and drear,
Who demand a meaning clear
From all these sage remarks.
Whing, wiang, Wollongong,
Bing, bang, bullarong,
The music sways and swells
When kids make joyful noise
As their stockings bulge with toys,
I sigh for Christmas Bell's.
—Peter Hopegood, 1939.

"Pip Tok," as usual, is chastely classical.

I know full well a spirit of devotion,
This season, should a poet's verse inspire;
Or, failing that, a pleasing pagan notion;
But both have shrivelled the sun god's fire.
When "per" replaces "in" before spiration,
How can my Muse hymn pastoral to Ceres?
Or Pegasus attain due elevation
When every vagrant thought a thought of beer is?
Appropriate now the time and place to drag
In references trite to rural charm;
And perpetrate once more the ancient gag Concerning Horace and his Sabine farm;
But Kalamunda, stern and wild, thy brakes,
I fear, are housing for the stickfast fleg.
Wongan, thy hills conceal the lurking snakes,
Such truly rural joys are not for me.
I shun the crowded beach of Cottesloe,
Where skins assume the hue of burning copper,
Where modern Daphnis goes to seek his Chloe?
(Let's hope the sequel won't be so improper).
My table sags beneath a load of toil,
Enforcing weeks of dry urbanity;
While on my neck a most infernal boil
Uplif ts the floodgates of profanity.

Castilian fountains slaked the Muses' thirst,
Falernian ripened Ovid's lengthy nose,
Ambrosia served for each Olympian burst,
But give me Swan, whereon the wild time grows,
Or Emu; Swan and Emu! Sacred birds,
Twin deities of our city's brightest stars—
Lo! Some new god his temple now up-girds,
Oh, may there be no moaning at the bars.
There's time and space for every kind of vat.
Give me a taste as catholic as Jean Dell's.
Although at times I'm forced to wonder at
The way Pete Hopegood always sticks to Bell's.
But now the point. This time of joy and bliss
Has blunted all my happiness's edge;
What boots this heat, what use a thirst like this,
When months ago I went and signed the pledge?
—Pip Tok.

Lid Songmore waxes lyrical:
One and two, the barley brew,
Three and four, a tankard more,
Five and six, it's time for thicks,
Seven and eight, an Emu straight.

—Lid Songmore.

[As we went to press we were confronted with an angry deputation. The members of the Poets' Union, after holding a stop-work meeting, barged into our sanctum, declaring that the fires of their wrath could be quenched only in barrels of the best. We fired both barrels at them, and threatened to endorse their poetic licenses, and now they are all on strike. The afternoon's post brought us a very nasty letter from a prominent member of the State Executive, and we are in receipt of vehement protests from two country sub-branches. In the meantime, the "Office Nark" stands charged with plagiarism and forgery, and has been suspended pending investigation.—Ed., "L.P."]

Extract from a schoolboy's essay on "Good Manners"—"Never laugh at a man because of the clothes he wears, for many a patched pair of pants covers a warm heart."

The Unveiling of the State War Memorial

Colonel Collett, speaking on behalf of the R.S.L. at the ceremony of the unveiling and dedication of the State War Memorial, said:

"It is my privilege this afternoon to say a little on behalf of the ex-service men and women of Western Australia.

"One of the objects of the R.S.L. is to preserve the memory and records of those who suffered and died for the Nation and to erect memorials to their valour.

"You can, therefore, appreciate our feeling of satisfaction at to-day's ceremony. After years of waiting and disappointment the goal has at last been reached and we realise that honour is being done to those to whom the greatest honour is due.

"Our gratitude goes to all those who have so generously assisted and I want here and now to pay a tribute to Mr. E. S. Watt, of the State Executive, who urged us to disregard the failure of the first appeal and whose action led to the formation of the Committee of Citizens responsible for to-day's success.

Legislative Council By-Election

METROPOLITAN-SUBURBAN PROVINCE

POLLING DAY: SATURDAY, 11th JANUARY, 1930

EX-SOLDIER ELECTORS—

- I am appealing for your support on Polling Day, 11th January, because I feel that my services on the War Patriotic Fund for W.A., which was inaugurated in 1914, will bear the closest inspection. This fund's relief and assistance helped 3,000 wives and 6,000 children of our soldiers, and the amount expended totalled £129,000. Meetings were held four and five times weekly, over a period of five years, and I attended all of these with the exception of five. On the death of Mr. James Corbett, who was treasurer, I was appointed, and carried right through in this capacity until the funds remaining were handed over to the Council appointed by Parliament to take over the balance. The fund was administered at the remarkably low cost of 1 per cent.

- My experience of six years in the Legislative Council as Member for the Metropolitan Province, and seven and a half years as City Councillor, must be added as a great asset, and I need not remind you of my manufacturing interests where primary products are concerned. These also now constitute a thriving secondary industry, which has proved to be of direct benefit to many ex-soldiers among the primary producers of the State. It is from the primary development of the State that will come all future prosperity. I claim that service to the State during the War, and over a period of thirty years' industrial pioneering, will rank high in your opinion and be the means of securing your solid support to my candidacy.

Yours faithfully,

J. W. MACFARLANE

VOTE MACFARLANE 1

Authorised by A. LAWSON WEIR, Murray Street, Perth

"SWAN" BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES—Appetising, Piquant
"This Memorial is symbolical of high ideals and a great achievement. In that connection I would like you to remember this—that the sailors and soldiers saw their comrades yield up their all in circumstances that will not bear relating. The survivors alone understand the immensity of the sacrifice that was then made and they are jealous that no portion of the debt due to our great men shall remain unpaid. In all reverence they have asked for this Memorial. The site and its environment are in themselves a tribute to men who had much in their lives that was beautiful, and it is possible to imagine that their spirits looking over the calm waters may commune together and say that, so long as peace prevails, the sacrifice shall not have been in vain.

"Those of us who served in the Eastern Mediterranean can, to some extent, understand the origin and richness of the mythology of the ancients. Those of us who left the deserts of Egypt and entered the valley of the Rhone know why the Frenchman was prepared to die for France. All of us here to-day, if we look around, can value that which has been held for us and be reminded of our obligation to the men and women who worked to leave us free to enjoy it. Even the grossest utilitarian may find a sermon in stone and admit that had it not been for them which he has to-day would have been denied him.

"Upon the steps of this Monument is inscribed the words 'LEST WE FORGET.' They contain a warning, a lesson, and a solace. The warning is to our statesmen and other leaders to remember the price of strife and to put forward every effort to preserve peace abroad and at home. The Lesion is to the young, and it is this: 'Every time you look on a war memorial make this resolution—that as those men went to their death, so you will go to your life.' The comfort is to those who are bereaved—there are many here this afternoon. To them I would say, when you visit this hallowed spot during the quiet of an evening, or on a Sunday afternoon, remember the words, of Lord Plumer when opening the Menin Gate Memorial: 'He is not missing. He is here.'

"And now, Your Excellency, on behalf of the W.A. Branch of the R.S.I., I gratefully accept the charge you have laid upon us—to guard and preserve this great Memorial erected by the people of the State."

THE MONTH

Proposed Ban on Books

The new Federal Ministry has already raised the embargo on what has been humorously called "working class" literature, which, for the most part, is mere propaganda written by non-workers to foster the demand for less work. It is on even more debatable ground when it proposes to ban entirely works that are of an indecent or salacious nature. The expressed intention to preserve the minds of the young from contamination is a laudable one, but despite the cynic's dictum—"one touch of indecency makes the whole world grin"—indecency, like most other things, is a matter of degree. For instance, certain medical and quasi-medical works, like those of Krafft-Ebing, and the "Post Mortems of Charles Maclaurin," while almost indispensable to the medical student, are dangerous reading for the pervert. Most of the masterpieces of literature, the works of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and the other Elizabethans (it was the great litterateur, Stopford Brooke, who said: "Beaumont and Fletcher were studiously indecent."). Rabelais, Fielding, and Smollett, to mention but a few, contain passages which cannot be read aloud in mixed company; while portions of the Old Testament are hardly Sunday reading for the young. Nevertheless, the student can, and must, read these to arrive at an appreciation of what constitutes good literature.

An informal censorship already exists. Under existing regulations the Customs Authorities may forbid the importation of indecent and obscene books into the Commonwealth. Parents, schoolmasters, and others standing in loco parentis, exercise a supervision over children's reading; while the big libraries do not place works which may, under certain circumstances, be classified as dangerous, on the shelves accessible to the general public.

Probably the new proposal entails nothing more than a tightening up of existing regulations; but who is to be censor, and according to what canons of taste is the censorship to be exercised? Recently, the writer waded through two works of fiction that had come under the ban of the censor overseas. He found them outspoken, quite innocuous, and rather dry reading; certainly, not suitable reading for the young and innocent, but to the young and innocent, both works would be unintelligible, while the intellectual strain of reading them would prove too great for the more sophisticated flappers of either sex. The last mentioned prefer their flitch in words of one syllable.

Keep out filth by all means, and it should not be difficult to discriminate between mere filth and literature.

It is to be hoped that the Government will go a step further and clean up the films, even at the risk of offending Hollywood. The picture is a greater menace than the book, especially as, in Australia,

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T. SAMFSON, Manager for Western Australia, to whom all communications should be addressed

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there are more picture-goes than readers.

We await, with interest, further details regarding the Government's proposals. If there is any justification for a censorship at all, it should be exercised only by persons who have attained a high standard of culture and knowledge. Canons of taste vary with the ages; the so-called salacious book of one generation has become the literary masterpiece of the next. In fact, the verdict of history seems to be that censorship is just a synonym for intellectual tyranny.

The Safety of the Canal

The Anglo-Egyptian agreement was adversely criticised by Lord Lloyd during a recent debate in the House of Lords. Lord Lloyd, if it will be remembered, was removed from his office of High Commissioner because his refusal to abrogate British interests in favour of parti-coloured foreigners, was displeasing to certain amiable theorists at Home. He pointed out that the navy renders the Suez Canal immune from attacks from the north and south, and the Turkish failure in the late war showed the insuperable difficulties in attacking the canal from the east. As portion of the main line of communication between British and India and Australia, its safety is of paramount importance to Britons at home and overseas, and it can only be endangered in the event of civil commotion in Egypt. Therefore, the removal of British troops, who after all are a necessary safeguard and not an army of occupation, constitutes a strategic blunder, which is worse than a crime.

The dangers of the old overland route led to the finding of the Cape route to India, which ushered in the great era of maritime discovery. The digging of the canal shortened the route, and Disraeli's far-sightedness in buying up the shares of the bankrupt Khedive made Britain the principal shareholder of the canal. The logic of circumstances forced Britain to assume a protectorate over Egypt, and that protectorate has been administered beneficially. The Egyptian fellahen were relieved of oppression by rulers whose ideas of government coincided with extortion and corruption, while the Sudan was saved from lapsing into barbarism. Britain, as Lord Lloyd pointed out, has fostered Egyptian ideals rather than repressed them.

However, there is a medium in all things. Should disturbances follow the withdrawal of the British troops, other powers are likely to intervene in the interests of their own nationals, and we, in Australia, cannot view with equanimity the possible endangering of the main artery of Empire, however much those gentlemen of England, who sat at Home at ease during the war, may desire to pander to the nationalist aspirations of students and other hotheads.

The New Defence Policy

Last month we stated our position with regard to compulsory training, and we stand by what we published.

The Government has relieved the boy of his obligations, and given him a piece of bread and a feather in his hat. However, despite our own views, we stand loyally behind the Government in its endeavour to maintain a voluntary army. It is better than nothing at all. As members of a returned soldiers' organisation, we should make every effort to stimulate recruiting. It is pleasing to note that there has been a good response from the boys themselves. League members can do quite a lot by taking active interest in the affairs of the various units. Colonel Sweetapple's suggestion with regard the donation of trophies is a good one, and we would like to see it adopted.

Fenton's Frenetics

Trips to Europe at the country's expense are one of the sweets of office nowadays, and following out the good old custom, Mr. Fenton, Minister for Trade and Customs, passed through Perth on his way to represent Australia at the forthcoming Navy Conference. (For some reason or other the Minister for Less Defence was not selected to represent the country on a matter which comes within his own province.) At the civic reception accorded him, Mr. Fenton unburdened himself of a good deal of twaddle about war and disarmament. The non-soldier informed his hearers that "All war is hell." General Sherman told the world that over fifty years ago; and had Mr. Fenton served with the A.I.F. he might have found it out for himself. His remarks were saturated with the usual hysteria which the ill-informed manifest towards chemical warfare.

We all realise that war is a foolish and wicked way of settling international disputes, but everyone who is neither crank nor traitor, must realise that in the present condition of the world's affairs, complete disarmament would be equally stupid and equally wicked. It is doubtful whether Germany would have outraged Belgium's neutrality had Britain been prepared for war in 1914. Nevertheless, we hope Mr. Fenton will find time to bring his belated discoveries regarding war under the notice of the Russian Soviet, for, if the extravagant claims of chemists and inventors can be upheld, the next war will be as dangerous for the politician as for the soldier.

Military Procedure

Last week a local paper essayed the task of giving the world a lesson in military procedure by referring to the practice of certain unnamed A.I.F. officers retaining their rank in private life. The remarks were based upon insufficient knowledge, either of military or social etiquette, and were probably tinged with jealousy. As a matter of fact, all A.I.F. officers held substantive rank, and those of them who did not continue to serve with the Citizen Forces after the war were

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"SWAN" BRAND SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having
were transferred to the Reserve of Officers. While they are retained on the forces list they are entitled to all the courtesies due to their rank. For instance, Soando, late A.L.F., when commanding a Citizen Force company, or when having a spot in the Naval and Military Club, should be addressed as Captain Soando. The same rule applies in ordinary social intercourse. On the other hand, when the same gentleman is defending a client in court, teaching a class of boys, travelling for his firm, or acting in whatever civil capacity that now affords him subsistence, plain "Mr." will suffice.

The staff of this paper is most punctilious in addressing two of its members by their rank; and the paper itself made the laughable blunder of "Majoring" a gentleman who resigned his cadet commission some years ago.

The Naval Conference

When statesmen on both sides of the Atlantic assure us that war between Britain and the United States would be unthinkable, it is difficult to understand why America demands naval parity with Britain. However, she does so demand, and in order to avoid ruinous competition in building, Britain has waived certain age-old rights, and has abdicated her proud position of Mistress of the Seas. The representatives of what certain papers humorously call the Anglo-Saxon phone race can face the conference in complete agreement on all the salient points. Whether their proposals will be acceptable to the three smaller powers remains to be seen. Both France and Italy have viewed the Anglo-American conversations with a certain amount of suspicion.

Owing to her stupendous military effort during the late war, France was unable to increase her naval strength, and the co-operation of the British Navy, and later of the American Navy, relieved her of this necessity. At the Washington Conference the status quo of 1919, a sub-normal one as far as France was concerned, was accepted as a basis for the reduction of armaments; and while agreeing to the $, $, $, 1.75 status, France feels that she has been unfairly treated. She resents slipping behind Japan in naval strength, and demands parity at least with Italy. Neither does France view with favour any proposal to limit submarines. With four land frontiers to guard, she must keep up a large army and air force, and while welcoming any proposals regarding reduction of naval strength, she considers under-sea craft a very effective means of sea defence.

It is likely that she and Italy will act in concerted opposition to the Anglo-American proposals. Italy is likely to prove the "dark horse" of the conference. Mussolini has already called into being a vigorous nationalism supported by an enormous citizen army, and now aims at building up a powerful navy as a means of establishing Italian prestige abroad. He appears to have little faith in peace pacts, and disarmament schemes have no place in his policy. One dislikes predicting failure, but it must be admitted that the task of the British and American representatives will not be as easy as it looks.

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"SWAN" BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES — Appetising, Piquant
Personal

Colonel P. C. Raper, who was formerly Base Commandant, and who still has farming interests in this State, was in Perth during the month. Colonel Raper's present appointment is that of A.A. and A.Q.M.G., Third Division (Victoria). He stated that, notwithstanding the drastic changes in the defence system, the lads of the Eastern States are continuing to serve with their units.

Died at Hebburn-on-Tyne, England, on September 28th, George Edmunds, an Indian Mutiny Veteran, who was by the deathbed of General Sir H. Havelock, of Lucknow fame. He was 101 when the final call sounded.

Another link with the past was broken when Robert Small, Secretary of the Imperial Navy and Army Veterans' Association, N.S.W., passed away at his residence, Khartoum Avenue, Gordon, near Sydney. Mr. Small served in the Sudan and the Boer Wars.

The stock has visited "La Maison Ben-sonne," at Nedlands, and at the last meeting of the State Executive, our Branch Secretary was the blushing receiver-general of congratulations. Dave explained that, being now able to mobilise a complete section ofours, he has declared an armistice. "Has it been duly signed?" Colonel Collett enquired.

Congrats to Digger Rice Gemmell, the tennis star, on being the father of a son and heir. Rice has offered his 16 tennis courts at Subiaco free if ex-service men care to organise a tennis tournament. What about it?

The high esteem in which Mr. Arthur Green is held by his many friends in Geraldton was exemplified during the month, when, on the eve of his departure for Meekatharra, there to take over the management of the Royal Mail Hotel, he was farewelled at a social evening given him at the Returned Soldiers' Institute. Mr. Green, who, up to the time of his departure was president of the local branch of the League, was farewelled by numerous friends who wished him God-speed, and further showed their appreciation of his good work for the town by making him a presentation of a Westminster chimes clock, suitably inscribed.

Mr. Alex. Weir, who is assisting with Mr. J. M. Macfarlane's campaign for the Metropolitan-Suburban seat in the Upper House, has two previous election campaign successes to his credit, being those of Mr. John Nicholson, and the late Dr. Athelstan Saw. Alex. joined up in England early in the war, being gazetted for duty with the 8th King's Regiment. Later, after being invalided from France, he saw service in East Africa. He was a "two-pipper."

A recent visitor to Perth from Broome was Colonel R. Mansbridge, the popular and capable leader of the "eggs-a-cook" battalion.

Teacher: "Give me a sentence with the word 'gladiator.'"
Boy: "The dog swallowed the queen bee, but wasn't 'gladiator'!"

"Why," asked the magistrate severely, "did you strike your husband with a kitchen chair?"
"Because," said the lady, "I couldn't lift the kitchen stove."

Varia

The following extract from the minutes of the Y.M.C.A. Finance Committee, held on the 17th October, 1916, will be of interest to our readers. It illustrates how difficult it was for the Returned Soldiers' Association, as the League was then called, to carry on:

"Returned Soldiers' Association wrote asking for financial assistance for eight weeks, so that they might install a permanent secretary. After thorough discussion, it was decided to recommend to the Board that the Association (i.e., the Y.M.C.A.) pay the salary of the Secretary of the R.S.A. for eight weeks."

The inverse order of intelligence: Grad., Undergrad., and Leningrad.

Our ladies have a lot to bare during the summer months.

The British Chancellor of the Exchequer will grant no more 'tick' for the Watch on the Rhine.

In a well-written and highly amusing article in the "W.A. Digger Book," Kenneth Henderson points out that the cooks were the people who really won the war. Some of our correspondents, however, think it was careless of him to omit the prefix "Eggsa," and, of course, there might have been no White Australia to-day had it not been for Captain Cook. There is something in the cook theory after all. The Federal Government has basted the compulsory...
training scheme, and individual ministers have talked so much "tripe" about volunteer armies that the historian of the future will probably dub them the Scullion Ministry.

"Scotty" Wilson, of the 28th, was a keen disciplinarian, even when a platoon sergeant. On one occasion he had administered a severe strafing to one of the "boys," who had been trying to make grey hairs an excuse for slackness. Without turning an eyelash, the delinquent replied:

"All right, Sergeant! I know where there's a lake of burgoo, and I'm damned if I'll tell you where it is."

"The Cock-Eyed World," the new piece of Yankee service propaganda, being screened at the Capitol, came in for much adverse criticism in the East.

In New South Wales the R.S.I., drew the attention of the Chief Secretary (Captain F. Chaffey), who also served with the A.I.F., to the film, alleging that it contained matter which belittled the efforts of British and Australian troops. The Chief Secretary took immediate action, and arrangements were made for the offending parts to be deleted. The tragedy of the whole business is that Captain Victor MacLaglen, who plays the principal part, is an ex-officer of the British Army. Our "very late" Allies are entitled to be proud of their war performances, but it is a bit thick when they expect the countrymen of those who fought at Gallipoli and the Somme to enthuse over their "first to fight" marines. We have a Federal Censor of Films, but, apparently, he has been asleep at the switch.

America will find an opponent for Hindrum if Britain will agree to a limitation of breaks.

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(["Judge as you find" of Karridale preaches a sermon which should have a wider audience than the residents of his district.]

Many a person in Karridale continues to suffer for a small offence long since redeemed, because other people cannot or will not bring themselves to forget their past actions. They go on repeating the details of past to those they meet, so that the offender is regarded with a critical eye, and never given a chance to display the better qualities which have now come uppermost, and produced a worthy citizen. We should hesitate to pass judgment on another until we ourselves have been the victim of wrongful action. There are so many small meanesses and pettinesses in the world that we should be slow to add to them by speaking harshly of another. We should help to restore the balance by putting in a word of encouragement."

Judge not!—but rather in thy heart let pity dwell;

Man's judgment err's, but there is One who "Doeth all things well."

Every, throughout the voyage of life, this piece of advice:

"Do unto others as you would that they should do to you!"

"What is that enormous volume there?"

"That's a collection of the songs sailors and soldiers sing."

"And what's that small pamphlet?"

"Oh, that's the expurgated edition."

The West publishes an illustration of Jacob Epstein's severely criticised stone carving, representing Day, at the entrance to the new underground railway at Westminster. He's the old adage that "Art is to conceal art" is true, Epstein has been eminently successful.

"Is this man honest?" Such as the telephonic query of a certain official in conversation with the State Secretary the other day. "Why?" said the latter. "Well, the last man I saw was not strictly honest." Of course, the reply of the League official can be left to the imagination, but in explanation, he said during the week, that some twelve months ago he took up the

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<td>Farmers Ltd</td>
<td>Citrus</td>
<td>J. R. M. Martin</td>
<td>Py</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. J. Morgan</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td>T. G. B. Souness</td>
<td>P</td>
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<td>B. W. G. Smith</td>
<td>Brogginget</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>H. Taylor</td>
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<td>Onew.</td>
<td>Spradginget</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the year ending 30th June, 1928, a Dividend of 7% per cent, and a Cash Bonus of 2% per cent, per share, be paid to shareholders. Shares may be taken up by Producers on the footing of 10 shares for each Minimum, 10 shares, payable 5/- per share on application, balance 1/2 per share, per month. Bonus earning commences on allotment.

"BECOME A SHAREHOLDER AND RISE IN YOUR OWN MIDDLEMAN"

H. R. HARPER, Manager,"

Kalgoorlie Branch: Hannan St, Kalgoorlie.

G. D. Hunter, Manager.

"SWAN" BRAND PRODUCTS won 1st Prize 1927 Royal Show
The Listening Post

December 20, 1929

cudgels of a digger who had committed a fault and paid for it, and who had then secured a position necessitating certain endorsement. The person mentioned above refused the endorsement, but the digger, in spite of this, remained in the job. It was this way that the petty mind of the man vented its spleen, imputing that all ex-
soldiers were dishonest, simply because one made a temporary lapse, and was endeavouring to retrieve his position. In such circum-
cstances, one wonders what would happen to the lot of us if there were not 7,000 diggers banded together in the West Aus-
tralian Branch, and, furthermore, what strength we would have if that 7,000 were doubled.

The Black Crows do their Bit

Having heard the inimitable Two Black Crows on the gramophone, we seized with avidity the novel, "The Two Black Crows in the A.E.F.", by Charles Mack, who, with his partner, Moran, created these amusing characters. The novel, though pleasant and readable, is disappointing. It is the old conven-
tional plot of the beautiful girl of good family, the villainous, aristocratic lover, and the poor man who succeeds in winning her heart. The hero is blamed for a robbery and takes refuge in the American Expeditionary Force. The villain also goes to the war, and, having turned honest, confesses to the crime, just before he is conveniently killed in action. The ending is the usual conventional happy one, and the Black Crows supply a humorous background to the story. Mack is no propagandist, but, quite unintentionally, he shows up the chaotic conditions that prevailed in Uncle Sam's army, both in camps and in the field. Leonard Nason, who served in France, and afterwards became a brilliant writer of war fiction, and most other American writers, also bring out this aspect of the case. The American soldiers were always hungry, and seemed to be able to wander about from one unit to another without let or hindrance. They had so little sense of direction or locality that they could be bunched in their own back yards. The Black Crows themselves are somewhat disappointing. Possibly we have heard them too often on the gramophone, but it struck us that their humour has become muscle-bound.

The Last Look

White winds the road among the little hills;
Green grow the trees, with creamy blossom crowned;
Sweet through the air a bird-note throbbs
And thrills;
Soft steal the shadows o'er the resting ground.

High hangs the tapestry, now crimson-dyed,
All gold-inwrought, across the gleaming west,
As though from mortal eyes the gods would hide
The inner splendours of the dwellings blest.

Forth rides my knight to join the great crusade;
One backward glance he gives, and hastens on.
The shadows gulf him round; the glories fade.
The day, the sun, my heart's beloved, are gone.

Time brings me word of ships, of distant lands,
Of tilts and tourneys, joulists and journeyings.
The carrier months bring letters from his hands,
The flying weeks bring hopes beneath their wings.
Till suddenly a sable messenger,
Roadworn and sad, appears before my door.
The things that are, become the things that were;
The things that have been, come again no more.

Habit

Habit is repeated action. It may be good or bad. Nature is entirely indifferent as to what the action is. It receives the impression and repeats the expression without regard to the morality of what is happening. Let us make no error about this. The faculty to form the things called habits is a great gift of nature to the economy of life. Nature seems to say it us: "Do what you wish to do, I will make it easier for you to repeat your action each time you try it. If you continue long enough I will cut the matter deeper and deeper in the phonographic disk of your personality, so that in time you can start a particular record of past action, and it will run its course without your immediate atten-
tion. I will see to it that the things you decide to do and repeat shall become a kind of second nature to you, like second wind to a runner. You will be able to do them in an automatic way, and the process will really release your chief attention to other affairs. I will do this so well that it will be difficult for you to check the action, and it will mix definitely in the mosaic of your character." That is the sort of speech nature is making to each of us, and we do not live very long in this world before realising that nature means what she says. She keeps her word. Now this is all fine, provided only that our choices of action are fine. The whole remark-
able experience begins with the choices and decisions which lie back of our action. Back of choice and decision is the thought that produces these, and back of the thought is the source of our ideas. Habit, there-
fore, has a natural history, and whoever watches the process along, and forms habits that are good, may become so strong that he establishes an immunity against evil, so that it cannot touch him nor break through the powerful defence of repeated good. The great question is, do you control your life, and does habit work well for you, or are you the slave of habits that are ill?

"SWAN" BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES—Appetizing, Piquant
Returned Soldier Political Aspirant

Mr. D. ROSS McLARTY, M.M., J.P.

Ross McLarty is announced as a candidate in the Nationalist interest for the Murray-Wellington seat. We understand that he will be the only returned soldier contesting this seat.

Ross, who is 38 years old, was born and bred in the district, having large farming interests at Pinjarra and other parts of the electorate. He was educated at Perth High (now Hale) School, where he was a fellow student with Padre Riley and T. A. L. Davy, M.L.A.

Ross went away with the 44th Battalion as a corporal, and returned with a commission. He was awarded the Military Medal for outstanding bravery at Ypres, during the attack on the Paschendale Ridge. He returned in 1919 with his battalion, and immediately joined the League, being to-day the President of the Murray Sub-Branch, where he has also served as secretary and vice-president. He has been "pulling his weight" in public affairs. In addition to being a J.P., he is Chairman of the Murray District Hospital Committee, is a committeeman of the Race Club, and a number of sporting bodies.

We understand that it has been Ross' life long ambition to serve his State in the political sphere, and as he is a capable and very decent fellow, we wish him luck.

Sixteenth Battalion Notes

"The Old Sixteenth" (reviewed in another column) is a splendid souvenir to all members who volunteered for duty with the unit, and should be highly prized by widows, children, and parents of those gallant men who lie buried in rugged Gallipoli, the green fields of France, and other parts of the world.

Thanks to the money collected by enthusiastic members, including £83 from the Percy Black Fund, the book is being sold at 7/6 a copy (postage 7d. extra), and can be bought from Vic. Ketterer, c/o Repatriation Department, Anglican Book Depot, 571 Hay Street, Perth, and Hancock's Stationery Depot, High Street, Fremantle.

The monthly luncheon takes place at the Y.M.C.A. Dining Rooms, Murray Street, on the 16th of each month, except when that date falls on Saturday or Sunday; then it is held on the following Monday.

Women's Auxiliary

BAYSWATER.

At the monthly meeting of the Bayswater R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary, held on the 5th December, in the Town Hall, Bayswater, the Secretary (Mrs. Noble) reported on a good month. The Auxiliary continues to grow. The ladies collected four dozen cups and saucers for the use of the Sub-Branch and Auxiliary at their social functions.

A social afternoon was given to the mothers and children on Friday, the 13th, when every child received a present.

EXECUTIVE.

The monthly meeting of the State Executive, which took place at the Soldiers' Institute, was a busy one. Many applications were in for clothing, and the Committee had the task of making up parcels of cast-off clothing in addition to cutting up dozens of yards of material for garments.

The State Secretary will be pleased to hear from Secretaries of country sub-branches.

PERTH.

This Auxiliary continues its visits with its concert party to the various soldier hospitals.

At present this Branch is busy preparing a free Christmas tree for the children. This treat takes place at 2 p.m. on Thursday, the 19th December, at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth.

It's Here! — The New

SWAN LAGER

"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 21 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>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bayswater Mechanics Institute</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>D. Burton, Major H. M. Whittell, Bridgetown</td>
<td>R. B. Anderson, R. Urquhart, Box 129, Bridgetown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRIDGETOWN</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>First Wednesday in month, at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Captain Robertson, Gale St., West Busselton</td>
<td>A. Wilson, Cordial Factory, Busselton Roberts St., Bayswater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSSELTON</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>H. May, Johnstone St., Collie</td>
<td>C. Francis, Hutton St., Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Hall</td>
<td>Tuesdays before pension day</td>
<td>R. McKinnon, State School, Cowaramup</td>
<td>J. I. Williams, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup State School</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>G. Brown, “Scotia,” Fairlight St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
<td>J. Holland, 41 Victoria St., Cottesloe Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE BEACH</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>After 15th December, last Wednesday in each month</td>
<td>E. Summernay, Busselton, 7 Blae St., Claremont</td>
<td>A. G. Cook, 12 Dalgety St., Cottesloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT-</td>
<td>Council Chambers, Claremont Institute, Denmark</td>
<td>First and Third Thursday in each month</td>
<td>H. J. North, Denmark</td>
<td>J. Holmes, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE</td>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>T. Brown, Dumbleyung</td>
<td>H. Greaves, Dumbleyung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gums, 1st Friday; Dowak, 1st Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theo Brennan, Forresthill St., Fremantle</td>
<td>P. S. Jane, Carrington St., Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE AND DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute, South Terrace; Council Chambers, Guildford</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays (Pension Nights), at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>N. Graham, James St., Guildford</td>
<td>H. L. Kirke, 6th Avenue, Bassendean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILDFORD-</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Thursday, last month, commencing January</td>
<td>Al Green, Geraldton</td>
<td>J. Dunn, Box 81, Geraldton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASSENEAN</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Thursday other months</td>
<td>J. Bridle, Herne Hill</td>
<td>F. C. Blake, Vine St., Herne Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bassendean</td>
<td></td>
<td>Colin Edwards, Campbell St., Kalgoorlie</td>
<td>T. C. Fairley, 49 Campbell St., Kalgoorlie (Tel. 290)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERNE HILL</td>
<td>Herne Hill Hall</td>
<td></td>
<td>W. J. Cobb, Karridale</td>
<td>H. A. Field, Katanning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers’ Institute</td>
<td>Every 3rd Thursday from 29th August, 1929</td>
<td>W. Flanagan, Karridale</td>
<td>Charles S. Smith, P.O., Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATANNING</td>
<td></td>
<td>Every 2nd Thursday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>R. G. McLean, Karridale</td>
<td>E. Franklin, Roleystone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td></td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>G. L. Ogilvie, Karridale</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mann, Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELMSCOTT</td>
<td>Kelmiscott and Roleystone, quarterly when and where called</td>
<td></td>
<td>J. V. Hay, Karridale</td>
<td>H. E. Thurlke, Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLERBERRIN AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>P.P.A Room</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>G. L. Ogilvie, Karridale</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mann, Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>Broome</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>J. V. Hay, Broome</td>
<td>V. B. Sewell, Kojonup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Derby rep.: J. Knopp and S. Waycott)</td>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td>H. Roche, Mallingup</td>
<td>L. J. Carter, Koorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonup</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koorda</td>
<td>H. H. Pelham, Lake Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Commercial Room, Hotel</td>
<td>Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Collinson, Lake Grace</td>
<td>F. A. Law, Merredin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>J. Kendall, Merredin</td>
<td>J. P. O’Neill, c/o. Shell Co., Moora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERREDIN</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Dr. W. S. Myles, Gardener St., Moora</td>
<td>P. R. Gillam, c/o. A.W.A.G., Moora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MÖORA</td>
<td>Moora</td>
<td>When and where called</td>
<td>T. G. Sounness, “Merryup,” Mt. Barker</td>
<td>S. N. McKenzie, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Bärker</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>P. P. Le Cras, Bencubbin</td>
<td>R. Waddington, 11 Morley St., Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT MARSHALL</td>
<td>Road Board Hall, Bencubbin</td>
<td>Third Sunday, Dec., Mar., June, September</td>
<td>L. G. Butecher, 116 8th Ave., Maylands</td>
<td>Edward Grey, 36 North St., Midland Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Supper Room, Town Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>Alt. Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. from 22nd August</td>
<td>P. F. Jameson, 3 Woodbridge Ter., Midland Junction</td>
<td>H. Patten, Mundaring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Rm.</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>T. A. Scott, Mundaring</td>
<td>L. G. R. Challen, 49 Fourth Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Alt. Mundaring and Mt. Helena</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Col. T. Flitton, 3 Second Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Flying Corps Assn.</strong></td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Reese Price</td>
<td>T. A. Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>British United Services Assn.</strong></td>
<td>Executive at 229 Charles St., North Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Capt. E. W. Edmonds, 218 Railway Parade, West Leederville</td>
<td>Geo. E. Cattermole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blinded Soldiers' Association</strong></td>
<td>Cabin Tea Rooms (opp. Boans)</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1st Wednesday, 1st Monday, 1st Thursday, 1st Friday, 12th Month</td>
<td>Major G. D. Shaw, M.C., P.O., Belmont</td>
<td>Mrs. W. James, 19 Marion St., Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ex-Service Assn. of Engineers and Allied Units</strong></td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2 p.m., 28th of month or nearest weekday thereto</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. I. E. Dunkley, 86 Angove St., North Perth</td>
<td>R. W. Blair, Economic Chambers, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Twenty-Eighth Battalion Association</strong></td>
<td>Cabin Tea Rooms (opp. Boans)</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2 p.m., 28th of month or nearest weekday thereto</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. I. E. Dunkley, 86 Angove St., North Perth</td>
<td>A. D. McLennan, 10 Mabel St., N. Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sixteenth Battalion Assn.</strong></td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. I. E. Dunkley, 86 Angove St., North Perth</td>
<td>H. K. Kahan, 69 River St., S. Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thirty-Second Battalion Assn.</strong></td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2 p.m., 28th of month or nearest weekday thereto</td>
<td>Lt-Col. I. E. Dunkley, 86 Angove St., North Perth</td>
<td>V. Ketterer, c/o Dept. of Repatriation, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10th Light Horse Association</strong></td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>L. St. John Kennedy, c/o I.O.A. Insurance Ltd., 51 St. George's Ter., Perth</td>
<td>R. Alexander, c/o Government House, Perth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEDLANDS**
- Broadway Theatre (Lesser Hall)
  - Place of Meeting: Broadway Theatre (Lesser Hall)
  - Date of Meeting: 2nd Tuesday
  - President and Address: H. Ogden, 19 Broadway, Nedlands, W. L. Owen, Northampton

**NORTHAMPTON**
- Alt. Codrington and Wandering
  - Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
  - Date of Meeting: 2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.
  - President and Address: C. P. Smith, c/o West Australian, Perth

**NORTHAM**
- Avon Bridge Hotel
  - Place of Meeting: At Luncheon
  - Date of Meeting: 3rd Wednesday, noon
  - President and Address: W. E. Elston, Perth

**PERTH**
- (Office hours 9 a.m. to 12 noon)
  - Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
  - Date of Meeting: 2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.

**PRESS**
- Place of Meeting: Press
  - Date of Meeting: 3rd Wednesday, noon
  - President and Address: I. T. Birtwistle, c/o The Western Mail, Perth

**PITARRA**
- Place of Meeting: Billiard Saloon
  - Date of Meeting: 1st Sunday, at 2.30 p.m.
  - President and Address: W. E. Elston, Pitara.

**POPNANYINING**
- Place of Meeting: Yarning and Popanyinning
  - Date of Meeting: 1st Saturday in month, alternately
  - President and Address: A. B. Donaldson, Popanyinning

**PILBARRA**
- Place of Meeting: Port Hedland
  - Date of Meeting: When called
  - President and Address: Ross A. Keesing, Port Hedland

**QUAIRANDING AND DISTRICTS**
- Place of Meeting: Quairading and Dangin
  - Date of Meeting: First Tuesday in each month alternately Quairading and Dangin
  - President and Address: T. W. Etridge, Quairading

**RAILWAY WORKSHOPS**
- Place of Meeting: In the "Mill" at Workshops
  - Date of Meeting: Alt. Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
  - President and Address: H. Roberts, D.S.O., W.A.R., Toodyay

**SOUTH PERTH**
- Place of Meeting: Masonic Hall, Gr. York and Forrest Sts.
  - Date of Meeting: 3rd Monday
  - President and Address: E. M. H. Farquharson, Masonic Hall, S. Perth

**TOODYAY**
- Place of Meeting: Freemasons' Hotel
  - Date of Meeting: Third Friday in each month at 8 p.m.
  - President and Address: H. E. Wells, Freemasons' Hotel

**WAROONA**
- Place of Meeting: Library Hall, Albany Rd., Victoria Park
  - Date of Meeting: 1st Friday, 8.30 p.m.
  - President and Address: V. Walker, Waroona

**WEST PERTH**
- Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
  - Date of Meeting: Alt. Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
  - President and Address: H. S. W. Parker, Perth

**WICCUP**
- Place of Meeting: Road Board Hall
  - Date of Meeting: 4th Thursday each month
  - President and Address: Claude Simpson, Wickepin

**ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN**

**AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS ASSN.**
- Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date of Meeting: When called
- President: Capt. E. W. Edmonds, 218 Railway Parade, West Leederville
- Secretary: Geo. E. Cattermole, 229 Charles St., North Perth

**BRITISH UNITED SERVICES ASSN.**
- Place of Meeting: Executive at 229 Charles St., North Perth
- Date of Meeting: 1st Monday, 8 p.m.
- President: Lt.-Col. I. E. Dunkley, 86 Angove St., N. Perth
- Secretary: Mrs. W. James, 19 Marion St., Leederville

**BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION**
- Place of Meeting: Cabin Tea Rooms (opp. Boans)
- Date of Meeting: Monthly Luncheon, 1st Monday, 1st Thursday, 1st Friday, 11th Month
- President: Major G. D. Shaw, M.C., P.O., Belmont
- Secretary: A. D. McLennan, 10 Mabel St., N. Perth

**ELEVENTH BATTALION ASSOCIATION**
- Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date of Meeting: Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2 p.m., 28th of month or nearest weekday thereto
- President: Lt.-Col. I. E. Dunkley, 86 Angove St., North Perth
- Secretary: H. K. Kahan, 69 River St., S. Perth

**EX-SERVICE ASSN. OF ENGINEERS AND ALLIED UNITS**
- Place of Meeting: Cabin Tea Rooms (opp. Boans)
- Date of Meeting: Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2 p.m., 28th of month or nearest weekday thereto
- President: Colonel E. L. Margolin, Nedlands
- Secretary: A. D. McLennan, 10 Mabel St., N. Perth

**TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION ASSN.**
- Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date of Meeting: General Meeting, October 21th, 1929
- President: L. St. John Kennedy, c/o I.O.A. Insurance Ltd., 51 St. George's Ter., Perth
- Secretary: V. Ketterer, c/o Dept. of Repatriation, Perth

**SIXTEENTH BATTALION ASSN.**
- Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date of Meeting: When called
- President: L. St. John Kennedy, c/o I.O.A. Insurance Ltd., 51 St. George's Ter., Perth
- Secretary: V. Ketterer, c/o Dept. of Repatriation, Perth

**THIRTY-SECOND BATTALION ASSN.**
- Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date of Meeting: When called
- President: L. St. John Kennedy, c/o I.O.A. Insurance Ltd., 51 St. George's Ter., Perth
- Secretary: V. Ketterer, c/o Dept. of Repatriation, Perth

**10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION**
- Place of Meeting: Soldiers' Institute, Perth
- Date of Meeting: When called
- President: L. St. John Kennedy, c/o I.O.A. Insurance Ltd., 51 St. George's Ter., Perth
- Secretary: V. Ketterer, c/o Dept. of Repatriation, Perth
The Future Care of the State War Memorial

The following report, submitted by the Management Committee, was endorsed at the last meeting of the State Executive:

"It may be necessary to recall to mind that some years ago the public was invited to subscribe funds for the erection of a memorial of honour to those Western Australians who died in the War of 1914-18. This movement was not initiated by the League. The appeal was a failure. At a later date the League revived the project. Through its action the present State War Memorial Committee came into being, and our gratitude is due to its members for their work and the satisfactory success they have secured.

"The approaching completion of the structure portends the disbandment of the Committee, and the State Executive having accepted, on behalf of the W.A. Branch of the League, the future care of the Memorial, will be charged with its upkeep, and for the adoption of such measures as will ensure that due respect is paid by all to the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of the country.

"Towards securing those ends, your Committee feels that there will be no lack of voluntary effort, but unless such efforts are properly co-ordinated, the best results will not ensue.

"The responsibility of the League as regards the monument itself, extends over only that area covered by the foundations of the structure, and it is thought that its cleanliness can be most effectively attended to by an officer of the Park Board, the cost of whose services should be a matter for arrangement between the Board and the League.

"On the question of the general care of the Memorial, your Committee is of the opinion that that duty will be jealously sought after by various associations and individuals, and, after mature consideration, recommends that the Annual State Congress appoint for a period of twelve months—

(a) The Warden, who shall be a citizen of the State distinguished in peace or war.

(b) The Warden's Assistants, who shall be the members of a sub-branch of the League, or of some association or organisation whose objects are primarily directed towards the cultivation of good citizenship, and of service to others.

"The Warden should make a report in writing to the Annual State Congress and interim reports, as he may deem to be necessary, to the President and Executive of the Branch.

"Funds for the maintenance of lighting and other services, and for repairs, will have to be found by the League, but therein no great difficulty is anticipated. Already there has been received from Sir Thomas Coombe a most generous offer to meet all the expense that may arise during his lifetime. Your Committee places great value upon the action of Sir Thomas Coombe, and, in recommending that it be accepted only in so far as the cost of supplying the current for flood-lighting and renewals is concerned, is influenced by the firm conviction that many of the relatives of those whose names will appear upon the tablets, would most reluctantly forego the opportunity of again rendering homage to their dead by contributing to the upkeep of the Memorial erected in their honour.

"Your Committee finally recommends that there be established a fund to endow the Memorial. That a joint appeal by the League and the State War Memorial Committee be made through the public press, and that contributions in any sums from one shilling upwards be invited. The fund to be vested in the Trustees of the League."

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"SWAN" BRAND SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having
A Xmas Present de Luxe

(By Peter Hopgood)

I.

Bert was growing fed-up with ration parties, and with duck boards, and ominous swampy gaps where duckboards had been but were no longer, and, then again, more duckboards. Once he had waited to test the two empty rum-jars, dangling delful in twin sandbags from his numb shoulders, just to see if by any chance the Q.M.S. had overlooked a fraction of an issue—but, no siree—nothing doin’—na poone: and “What the blank, blanky blank’s the use of blanky M.T.’s that just keep enough of the blanked riff to blank well make a man regretful?” sighed Bert. The outlook was indeed blank.

So our blankin’ ero sat himself down on a Top Emma dump and was duly considering whether the relief of taking off his boots and wringing out his socks would be worth the pain of pulling them on again over his swollen feet, when suddenly a big rat with green eyes scuttled past.

There was nothing so remarkable in that. Bert had seen a rat before. Honest to God he had! Indeed we might almost admit, without fear of giving away any serious military secret, that he had seen several million rats in that slumberous locality—and big ones at that.

Nor did Bert think it so very odd to hear the brute squeak shrilly when jabbed at with the butt of his bundook. However, when the animal, which had paused at a safe, yet sociable, distance to sniff superciliously at a boot with part of a still very good foot and ashrred of grey woollen sock in it, suddenly disappeared together with its immediate surroundings in a beautiful fountain of black mud, filthy smoke and swaggering smells, Bert began to think it was time to catch up with the rest of the party, which had now gained the comparative safety of the reserve trenches.

Very glad that he had not after all removed his boots, Bert proceeded to give as faithful an imitation of greased lighting as the soreness of his feet and the weight of his equipment would permit. As he ran, his mind, though numbed, outrushed him. “Tomorrow will be Xmas Day, and a double rum issue. This is Xmas Eve and a Friday, and about 13 o’clock by all the signs. If I cop out now before I get a chance to wrap meself round that rum issue, I swear I’ll come back and haunt the whole blanky Fritz army each Xmas Eve for the duration. Now do your worst, blank you!”

But the German gunner was no slouch. He did his best, not his worst, and he had the boards dead-taped. His next salvo arrived simultaneously with Bert at a bend in the track some fifty yards ahead.

The view seemed to consist mostly of Catherine wheels, and the smell rivalled the balmiest gust from No Man’s Land on a sultry afternoon. Entertaining enough, no doubt, but hardly novel to an old soldier’s pampered senses. “And,” said Bert, as he sailed away on the wings of that bold, bad smell, “I suppose I’m an old soldier now alright. This must be the fading away process. I wonder whether the Q.M.S. will dish me out a harp or a grid. Anyway, no more soldiering for me, thank God. I always did say thirteen was my lucky number.”

II.

These self congratulations were suddenly cut short by a jar (not a rum-jar unfortunately, but a jar sufficiently run to jolt Bert’s teeth up into his tin hat—at least, that’s how it felt). Evidently his journey, in whatever direction it had been, had now come to a halt.

Curiously enough, Bert was not a bit hurt, though, no doubt, his dignity was a bit ruffled. He jumped up in fine fettle, finding himself in a long passage like the gallery of a mine. The big rat with the green eyes was still in sight, scurrying away from him. After him went Bert like a long-dog, and was just in time to hear the creature puff as it turned a corner. “Blimey, I’ll be late for parade again!” “Unusual,” thought Bert. “Distinctly unusual! May be it’s parading for a cookhouse fatigue though. Anyway, what I want to know is the way out of this tunnel, so there’ll be no harm in asking whether it’s parading in France or Germany. Hi, you, chummy. Where’s this sap-head lead to?” The rat swung round, eying him maliciously. “Saphead yourself!” it snapped in a querulous squeak.

“Sounds like it’s offended,” thought Bert. “Better try butter,” thought Bert, and added, “Please Sargint Major, can you...” The rat gave a sudden leap, its whiskers quivering with fright.

“Where is ‘eo’?” it whined in a husky whisper.

“Where is ‘ooy,’ asked Bert politely.

“The C.S.M., of course,” snarled the rat, trembling down to the very end of its tail. “’E’s a ‘oly Terrier, blast ‘im, wiry ‘air! ‘An’ ‘e’s got me set, so ‘e ‘as! ‘Cos I’m a ‘R.R.A.T., a Royal-Root-At-Tome, wiv an objectionable conscience won’t forbid me to ‘arry the ‘uns, and ‘e’s a brutal Mons-Star!” The poor creature’s
overwrought nerves found relief in a storm of sobs.

"Well, hit's no use trying to change a rat in uniform into a lion and unicorn," moralised Bert as he swung back his ammunition boot for a real, rousing root, but just then, round the corner, came a strange procession, consisting of:

Boards, Duck 1
Chits (passed to you for unnecessary and maddening irritation) 1
Lorries, G.S. Pattern 1
Charges (officers, for the use of) 1

Says, O'Grady's and, indeed, several other quite ordinary military creatures, all dressed up in the necessary equipment, including gas-helmets, but seemingly having nowhere to go, because the officer in charge had forgotten his map-case. This somewhat ill-assorted party now halted, and, after some mutual recriminations, decided to return to B.H.Q. and start again. The rat volunteered to act as guide (to anywhere but the front line), so the troops set off gaily with the rat leading, and were soon hopelessly lost in an impenetrable forest of barb-wire bushes and red-tape vines.

II.

Of course the first thing was to find the true north and plot a bearing. A Hats (Brass, one), who seemed to be quite a well-informed person, called out loudly, "Men, you may smoke! Sit down all of you, and listen to me. Has anyone brought his compass?"

There was a cry of "make way!" followed by a scuffle and some unnecessary forming of fours, and eventually a Lieutenant (second) one, troops, for the use of); elbowed his way to the front, and, saluting smartly, whipped out his instrument with a click.

"What I can't understand," snapped the Brass Hat peevishly, "is why you people with compasses won't take the trouble to learn how to use them. It's quite simple."

Without more ado, this diligent officer proceeded to demonstrate the correct method of orientation by means of the G.S. compass. First he placed the instrument on the ground, went down on his knees and gazed savagely at it for several minutes. This apparently having no effect, he leapt smartly to his feet in a brisk and determined manner, and, clapping his elbows to his sides, the thumbs in line with the seams of the trousers, sprang smartly up and down upon it several times, taking care to inhale through the nose and exhale through the mouth at the proper intervals. That done, he ordered the rat to dig the compass up out of the mud and go to blazes with it. While the rat was trying to carry out this command, the Hats Brass One, who was now peering about through his monocle in search of the sun or the Pole Star, or an estamite, or some other familiar landmark or sky-sign, finally completed the demonstration to the satisfaction of all concerned by stepping suddenly backwards on to the rat, thus promptly and efficiently reducing that unpleasant equation to a negligible quantity.

After which dramatic conclusion the H.B. made some reasonable and well-seasoned remarks, and wound up by turning on the original owner with the unanswerable query, "Why haven't you had the variation corrected?" This caused the lorry to shake violently. It vainly tried to stem the rattling of its bonnet. The Hats Brass turned upon it with a frown and enquired with deadly politeness, "Tbeg your pardon, did you speak?"

"Not now," said the Lorry hastily.

At this emphatic denial the H.B. seemed distinctly relieved. Speaking firmly, but not unkindly, he said: "You should stay and remember to say Sir, when addressing a superior officer." The Lorry, who was very deaf and, as reported above, considerably rattled, replied again, and with even more conviction, "Not me, matey!" Whereupon the Hats Brass exploded with one ear-shattering report, and the unfortunate Lorry dropped its radiator in the mud. Whilst the Lorry was being re-assembled, Bert concluded it was high time he saved the situation.

Digging out the compass from under several layers of mud, rat and staff officer, and swiftly passing a bootlace through the thumb-ring, he whirled the instrument round his head a dozen times, finally releasing his hold. The compass promptly sailed through the air, and, describing a beautiful trajectory, landed on the Boards Duck One with such velocity and precision that the glass was shattered to atoms.

"Now, sir," said Bert to the flabbergasted officer, "all we have to do is to follow the direction taken by the compass, and in due time we shall arrive at the Base."

"But," demurred the officer, "On what do you ground this amazing calculation?"

"It's quite simple, sir," answered Bert, smirking modestly, "As you, no doubt, are aware, the German line is our eastern boundary. Naturally our Base, and especially Staff H.Q., will be as far in the opposite direction as the mind of man can conceive. Well, sir, you can see for yourself that your compass has gone completely west. All we have to do is to follow it."

The officer was so struck with Bert's acumen that he grasped the private's horny, but heroic hand, and sobbed with unconcealed emotion. "If I ever get out of this alive, my man, I'll recommend you for a D.C.M. — and I hope you get ten years."

After this affecting little episode, Bert can't exactly remember what happened for a time; but the next thing he heard was a voice saying, "I don't think the blighter's snuffed it after all. Let's see what a drop of rum will do?" at which he naturally groaned loudly to let them see they were on the right track for a speedy resurrection.

"Do I ear angels calling?" Bert murmured as an unmistakable gurgling and gurgling noise made itself apparent.

"You lie still, chroom, and take a sup o' this," commanded a voice. "You're blank lucky to be alive. You've been and collected a Xmas present from Jerry. E must 'ave give you the 'ole of an' arwdare store all to yourself."

"Well, so long as a Blighty ticket was included," Bert grinned, "I'm much obliged. Could you spare us another nip o' that rum, matey? And then I think I could manage a fag."

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"Don't wear those rubber soles on your boots, guv'nor," came the morose advice of the most hardened of the malcontents.

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**"SWAN" BRAND MUSTARD PICKLES—Appetizing, Piquant**
Sub-Branch Activities

DOWAK.

The regular meeting of the Sub-Branch was held at Salmon Gum on December 6th. The question of establishing a library was discussed. Many members promised to donate books. The matter was held over until a future meeting. A laudable matter was brought up by a member, and was referred to the Advisory Committee.

The Sub-Branch efforts on Poppy Day resulted in good sales, thanks to the energetic Secretary and Organiser.

It is pleasing to note that two members of this Branch, Messrs. A. J. Evans and E. S. Wicks, have been elected to the newly-formed Dundas Roads Board.

Attention was drawn to an error in the Dowak report in the November LISTENING POST. The amount of £6.8s. 8d. shown as the profit on a benefit dance should have read £16 8s. 8d.

A dance in aid of the Sub-Branch funds was held on November 30th. There was a good attendance, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

WEST SWAN.

The last monthly meeting was well attended, three prospective new members being also present. The delegates to the recent Congress rendered their report, which was received, the three delegates were thanked for their interest. The Sick Committee reported on the activities of the month, and the Committee was especially pleased at being able to report a decided improvement in the health of the members.

The report of the Poppy Day Committee disclosed the fact that the Sub-Branch's lady helpers had been able to raise a substantial sum, which will be used solely for amelioration purposes in the district.

After the business of the meeting had been disposed of, the President (Mr. Hoar) was elected in true digger fashion with wassail and song.

The Sub-Branch tendered a complimentary social evening to the ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the recent Horticultural Show and on Poppy Day. All the arrangements were made by the members, the ladies being guests in every sense of the word. About seventy guests sat down to an excellent supper. In addition to the usual toasts, that of the Women's Auxiliary and Lady Helpers was enthusiastically honoured.

The Sub-Branch-Bank, believing in being up to date in all things, held its Re-Union Dinner on Thursday, 21st November, when well over one hundred diggers met together and passed a most enjoyable evening. The President (Mr. Harry May) occupied the chair, and welcomed representatives of Bunbury, Mornington, and Cardif sub-branches. Apologies were read from the State Executive, J. H. Prowse, M.H.R., A. A. Wilson, M.L.A.; J. W. H. M'Crie, and the Donnybrook, Brunswick, and Bunbury districts.

After ample justice had been done to the dinner, which reflected great credit on the caterer, the amber liquid flowed freely about the tables, and all present joined in singing the popular ditties of the old-time League. The Chairman, in a very happy speech, welcomed all present, and expressed the hope that it would be a means of bringing returned soldiers closer together to do the work that lies before them. He stated that it was with extreme regret he had had to read the letter from the State Executive of the League announcing its inability to be represented at the function, as he considered that at a gathering of this nature, the Executive body could put in much good propaganda work on behalf of the League. In conclusion, he hoped that those present would never be "full" and their glasses never empty.

After the loyal toast and "absent comrades" had been disposed of, the President, Mr. A. E. Anderson, proposed the Local Governing Bodies, to which responses were made by the Managing Committee, and the President of the Collis Roads Board, Mr. R. McVee. Visiting Sub-Branch was very ably proposed by F. Thomas, and responded to by representatives from Bunbury, Mornington, and Cardif sub-branches.

Our old friend, President Gillett, of Bunbury, who had brought with him a good bodyguard from the South-West Port, made an excellent speech, in which he spoke very strongly of the State Executive's action in not inviting country sub-branches to meet delegates to the recent Federal Congress. At the conclusion of his speech he moved the following motion: That this gathering of returned soldiers and soldiers' being members of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers' League, deprecates the attitude of the State Executive in not extending an invitation to representatives of country sub-branches to meet the delegates socially who recently assembled in Perth in connection with the Federal Congress. This was seconded by Mr. H. May, and passed unanimously.

The toast of the Collis Sub-Branch was proposed by Dr. Smith, representing the Department of Repatriation, who gave some humourous side lights on medical inspections of diggers returning from active service, and the toast was responded to by Mr. A. Bottom, who gave those present plenty of food for thought. Collie is in the happy position of having a local paper that gives R.S.I. matters much publicity, which is only as it should be, considering the editor and associated workers of the Collie Sub-Branch. The toast of the Press was a time-honoured one, and always enthusiastically drunk. This was proposed by Mr. J. Gillett, and responded to in his inimitable way by A. E. Anderson. The last toast on the list was that of the Chairman, proposed by Mr. R. McVee, and everyone present delighted in doing honour to our popular President. Toasts were interspersed with musical and humourous items, and during the evening our immediate Past President, Mr. Arthur Watkins, was presented with the League's Certificate of Service, which had been worthily earned by him as he had guided the Sub-Branch through a critical period of its history.

At the conclusion of the evening's festivities, it was the general opinion of all present that it was one of the most successful functions ever held in Collie, and there is no doubt that when another similar evening occurs, several more tables will be required to accommodate the extra diggers, who, undoubtedly, will be there.

MUNDARING AND DISTRICTS.

There was such a roll-up of new members at the last monthly meeting that Jim Scott had to detail a fatigue party to requisition extra seats, and it will soon be necessary to hire a larger room for meeting purposes.

Great credit is due to the various sections who worked so enthusiastically throughout the district on Poppy Day. The sales were a true reflection of the efforts shown by all. Harry Walkes had a wonderful organisation at Mt. Helena; "strong posts" were stationed at all "leads in" to the district, in addition to an "attacking party" at the railway station. Secretary "Nipper" Patten organised the attack at the Mundaring end, where his efforts met with similar success.

Poppy Day was really the birthday of an enthusiastic Women's Auxiliary, who, according to
latest reports, are already putting in good work. A big treat has been arranged for all children of the district, while Father Christmas has a big job on hand for the 21st. The Sub-Branch, of course, is co-operating.

Discussion of the balance sheet, particularly in regard to Poppies and stickers aroused comment on the $3 to $5 per cent. retained by the Executive, and information was sought as to where these embolism cards are going, and at what cost. The matter will be brought up again at the New Year.

Oratory is a feature at the meetings of this Sub-Branch, Lew Cooper and Arthur Forrist being held to the fore in the favourite pastime of Demosthenes. George O’connor has been entertaining the stork again. This time his rations state has to provide for a little W.A.A.C. His many friends hope that he will retain that famous smile, even when singing “Oft in the Silly Night.”

The next meeting, the last before Christmas, will be held on the 19th, at Harry Walker’s, Mr. Helena. It is hoped that Zamia and Parkerville comrades will be able to attend.

We wish one and all the compliments of the Season, and a happy and Prosperous New Year.

SOUTH PERTH

South Perth diggers were pleased to learn that their Sub-Branch topped the list of Poppy Day sales. The honour of that achievement rested with Mr. Parquish and his willing lady assistants, to whom all thanks are due.

Several matters of interest and importance are under consideration, and novel features will be launched in the near future. These matters include the formation of a concert party to supplement the programme on the last monthly picture night. Messrs. Philip and Rutherford are anxious to hear from those who would be interested in the formation of an entertainment party.

Mr. C. F. Hart has been appointed Social Organizer, and it is hoped that he will be given wide support in the carrying-out of any schemes which are proposed. He states that he will gladly receive any suggestions which will aid him in his job.

It is expected that a series of Bridge-Rummy parties will be inaugurated soon, and it is also expected that the formation of a Ladies’ Auxiliary will be undertaken as early as possible.

The Barrie (S.P. Diggers’ Magazine) is still going strong. One of the advertisers therein has advised the Editor that he had received more than $10 worth of work as a result of his ad, in the magazine, and several other instances of benefits received from ads have been noted.

Metal and South Perth are billed to meet on the cricket field and on the debating platform. These fixtures will probably be arranged soon after the holidays. It may be mentioned that both sides are confident of victory.

Members are reminded to purchase tickets for the New Year’s night picture show from the Committee.

The South Perth diggers send the compliments of the season to all kinds of bodies, and because he has been so generous with space, the Editor of the Listening Post is wished all that is good for him by the S.P. Publicity Officer. —(Thanks. The greetings are heartily reciprocated.)

FREMANTLE

The organisers (Messrs. Beer and Allen), tried their luck at the Fremantle Town Hall, on December 7th. Knowing that the Amelioration Fund was at low ebb, Mr. Allen approached Miss Vera Stewart, of Fremantle, who kindly consented to give the Branch a grand concert in aid of the Fund. The show which was put on at short notice, was well attended, and, although no huge profit was made, the organisers hope to be able to make another next year.

On the 14th December, Mrs. Kirby, President of Women’s Auxiliary, arranged a very nice evening at the R.S.L. Rooms. Lots of children, fathers and mothers, approached the rooms with an air of expectancy, and the mystified kids were very excited on seeing a huge Xmas tree, well loaded with balloons and presents. The baby kiddies very gingerly approached Father Xmas until he satisfied them with a pop-gun, or other nerve-racking toy. Every one wanted to know “who” the Father Xmas was, and it turned out to be Arthur Kirby, husband of the President. He was reasonably dressed in a brand new outfit, and on account of his very generous proportions, he took the part admirably. The writer had a talk to Mr. Arthur, who, after dishing out presents for an hour, had to seek a little fresh air on account of the weather. Under his whiskers Father Xmas was heard to remark something about being able to keep down one pop. On December 19th, the President, Mr. Brenan, had the pleasure of conducting the first meeting in the “new Centenary Committee Rooms.” A wonderful change has been made from the old rooms, and it is now a real pleasure to go to a meeting. The large room is very tastefully furnished, and it is a real credit to the Institute Committee. The official opening will take place soon. We will further comment on it next month. Fremantle wishes all Diggers a Merry Xmas.

MAYLANDS

The final meeting of this year was held on the 12th instant, the next being Thursday, January 2nd, when the nomination of officers will take place, and on Thursday, 21st, the officers for the ensuing year will be elected.

Poppy Day delegates reported on a meeting of delegates held at the Soldiers’ Institute on December 3rd last, and it is anticipated that better arrangements and results will be attained next year.

It was gratifying to the members, and they felt proud of their lady workers, when the report was received of the splendid evening arranged by them for our comrades in Lennoxtown, and also the wonderful reception received by the party, the inmates having gone to great trouble to decorate the hall, which was greatly appreciated by our Ladies’ Auxiliary. Our ladies intend to entertain No. 11 Ward and Edward Millen Home before the 25th, and in the New Year we will donate a suitable Christmas present to the boys.

The Maylands Sub-Branch wishes the Listening Post the Compliments of the Season, and a successful year to follow.

(We appreciate the good wishes, which are reciprocated.)

DENMARK

The branch is particularly indebted to Mr. S. T. Cole, R.A., of Group 138, Denmark, for his untiring efforts on behalf of the League, particularly in getting new members and for saving $71 poppies this year. He also sold a large number last year.

Schoolmaster Bob Alderman, late secretary of the branch, is back again after a trip to England and France. At a meeting of welcome Bob gave a brief account of his travels. He mentioned that the cemeteries were wonderfully well kept, and all information regarding graves is tabulated in books kept at each cemetery. He was pleased to note the respect of the French people towards the graves. “Villes-Bret” is all right. Bob is very popular all over Denmark amongst the boys. The sub-branch wishes other sub-branches and diggers generally a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

“SWAN” BRAND SWEET MUSTARD PICKLES are worth having
Diggers!

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