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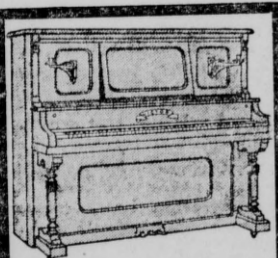
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CONCLUSION OF THE PROCEEDINGS

"I.W.W.-ISM."
After the lunch adjournment on Thursday, Mr. Godfrey moved for the suspension of the standing orders to enable Conference to consider resolution 136, which reads:—
136. That all I.W.W. members, if any, of the type that advocate destruction of property by fire or any other means, be expelled from this Association, unless they resign from the I.W.W. and sever all connection with same or their advocates.

The chairman (Mr. Campbell) asked Mr. Godfrey if he knew of any members of the Association that belonged to the I.W.W. and advocated such things.

Mr. Godfrey said he did not, but there had been a member of the council, and there was a certain amount of suspicion.

The chairman said that an appeal was now before the courts, and the matter could not be further discussed.

ADDITIONAL LEAVE.
Mr. Kenny obtained the suspension of the standing orders, and moved that in view of the fact that the business paper had hardly been touched leave be applied for to enable the delegates to sit for another day (Friday).

This resolution was carried by 37 votes to 16.

Mr. Evers asked what likelihood there would be of leave being granted.

The general secretary: None whatever. I applied for leave on behalf of the delegates, and was informed that leave would be granted without pay, providing the men for whom leave was asked could be spared; also that application should be made by the men to their immediate superiors.

Mr. Lockhard: The Chief Commissioner can override the decision of any other officer. If you ask him it will be sufficient.

The chairman (Mr. Kavanagh, relieving) upheld the view of the general secretary, and said he thought that application would have to be made locally.

Mr. Thompson: If you wish me to apply to the Chief Commissioner I'll do so.

Mr. Lockhard suggested that delegates should sit without pay if leave were granted.

Mr. Kenny would not agree to that. He said that had it not been for the delay caused by a number of stump orators they would have been through the agenda long ago.

It was resolved that the general secretary be instructed to ask the Chief Commissioner for leave for the delegates on the following day, and Mr. Thompson left the Conference for that purpose.

A proposal was made by Mr. Denford to suspend the standing orders to discuss resolutions 121 and 129.

Mr. Lockhard said that this changing of the order of business should not be tolerated any longer.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Smith thought this was the dirtiest thing he had seen at the Conference.

The motion was defeated.

ALTERATION OF RULES.
Mr. Roe (Darling Harbour) moved that all words after "members" in object (b) be deleted.

The paragraph reads as follows:—
(b) To secure to every member the full results of his or her industry by a consistent and complete industrial organisation, by the industrial and economic education of members, and by every legitimate means.

Mr. Andrews (Darling Harbour) seconded the resolution, stating that the Association should adopt a more militant attitude.

Mr. N. Smith said that he was opposed to this absolutely, and hoped that Conference would not delete the last five words. No reasonable objection could be taken to them, and if Conference deleted them, they would be regarded as a lot of unreasonable men. If they were going to adopt a lot of wild, fanatical, revolutionary ideas it would mean disintegration.

Mr. Denford said that he supported the resolution because he was a reasonable person. The deletion of the words "and by every legitimate means" would prevent them from breaking the rules.

Mr. Smith: Why do you want them out?

Mr. Denford said they were unnecessary. What was regarded as legitimate to-day was against the interests of the working class. No legal institution stood behind the workers when they were fighting for justice; they were always against the workers. Fancy an one contending that it was quite legitimate that the wives and children of the workers should starve. He believed the rules of any organisation should be altered if the members thought it necessary to alter them. Under present conditions it was legitimate to flog the workers for holding a stop-work meeting.

Mr. Armstrong spoke against the resolution. Five years ago the Association lost its registration, and the words complained of were put in by the Registrar. If they carried this proposal they would undo all the efforts to save the Association from being wrecked.

Mr. Roe said the actions of his branch were in the direction of extending the scope of its members and making them class-conscious. To carry this resolution meant that they would get new members, not that they would lose any.

The resolution was defeated.

Mr. Andrew (Darling Harbour) moved resolution 13. "That object (d) be entirely deleted."

Object (d) reads:
(d) To promote and foster a friendly feeling between members and their employers.

This object, said Mr. Andrew, was servile in spirit, and it was unnecessary. Trades unions came into existence because of the refusal of employers to redress the wrongs of the workers, and the struggle between the two interests—those of the employers on the one side and the employees on the other—was still in progress. It was impossible in such circumstances that friendly feelings should exist between them. It did not mean that they were going to wage war on the employers as individuals, but it meant that there could be no peace until the workers as a

whole received the full product of their industry.

Mr. Hall (Darling Harbour) supporting the resolution, said that it was beyond his comprehension how any man that had to "take his coat off" could entertain friendly feelings towards the employers.

Mr. Long opposed the motion. He said it was very amusing to hear some of the remarks made. His experience taught him "that many of those that talked like the previous speakers—men that liked to be called militant unionists—were the first to "smooze" to the men with braids on.

The rule or object did not mean that they allowed the employer to tread on their necks, but that they were to do their bit, and thus prevent the employer from having to complain of them. He found that the man that rose from the ranks and became a "boss" was the worst of the lot. The discussion of such proposals as those put forward by Darling Harbour was a lot of tommy rot. If they did their work as they ought to do they needn't care a tinker's damn.

Mr. Andrew said that he was always ready to do his bit.

A delegate: And a small bit at that.

Mr. Andrew (continuing) said that he, personally, had no recollection of having done any "smoozing," and he didn't know who Mr. Long was referring to. He was not supporting that policy. What he contended was that, as a whole, the interests of employer and employee were antithetical, and that in consequence their relationship could not be friendly.

The resolution was defeated.

Mr. Roe, on behalf of his branch, withdrew resolutions 15 and 16 dealing with the objects of the Association, and a request by Mr. Denford for permission to bring them forward was defeated.

MEMBERSHIP.
Rule 4 reads as follows:—"Any person employed in, on or about any railway or tramway, or employed in railway or tramway work in workshops or elsewhere, shall be eligible for admission as a member of the Association."

Mr. Denford moved to add the words "or any person employed by the Association." He said that such an addition would cover cases like that of Buckley and others. The position was that they wanted railway clerks to come into the Association, and yet their own clerks at Head Office could not come in. He hoped this proposal would be agreed to.

Mr. Lockhard seconded the resolution, which was carried on the voices.

Mr. Smith secured the suspension of the standing orders for the election of a returning officer and scrutineers to conduct the election of general secretary, assistant secretary and organisers.

Mr. E. D. Campbell was elected to act as returning officer, and Messrs. O'Dell and Long as scrutineers.

At this juncture the general secretary stated that he had been in communication with the Chief Commissioner's office, and had been informed that the request for another day's leave would receive sympathetic consideration, but that the names of the delegates wishing for leave must be submitted, with particulars of their grade, etc.; leave would probably be granted to such men as could be spared, but in other cases leave could not be given.

A delegate said that some of those at the Conference had come many miles, and had been debarred from bringing forward their business.

The general secretary was asked to obtain further particulars from the department with respect to leave.

On the motion of Mr. Davies, it was decided to consider business sent in by country branches. At a number of conferences, Mr. Davies said, country members had not been allowed to bring forward their business, and he thought that the balance of the time available should be given to them.

DISTRICT SECRETARIES.
21. That district secretary be appointed, head office to pay half of expenses incurred by district secretary, the other half be incurred by branches in the various districts.

Mr. Armstrong moved this resolution. His idea was to divide the State into sections and appoint a district secretary for each section. The appointments could be made by the sections and ratified by the executive, and the executive could grant a subsidy to each section sufficient to pay the salary of the district secretary. If the State were covered in this manner there would be no need to wipe names off the books, because the members could be kept track of. He noticed there was an executive recommendation (resolution 54), but he desired to organise all the forces of the service.

Mr. Rogers seconded the resolution. It would give them an opportunity to organise the men that got scattered about and lost, as far as the Association was concerned, and would render the carrying out of the recommendation embodied in resolution 54 unnecessary.

Mr. Smith said that he was out for the appointment of two organisers. He was satisfied that if they wanted results they would have to pay for them. If they introduced the system suggested in the resolution the Association would soon be in a serious condition. If they were going to appoint organisers what would be the good of these district secretaries? One of the organisers could confine himself to the country and the other to the city. By creating the positions suggested by Mr. Armstrong they would be setting up vested interests, and there were many gentlemen that would be willing to snap at the positions.

Mr. Denford favoured the appointment of the two organisers. Their country branches had about £300, and could carry the expense of the country organiser. This was a fair and reasonable proposition. The metropolitan branches were willing to pay into Head Office. The country branches should look at this matter in the proper light, for the country organiser would do good work. He would bring members into the various branches, and would increase their balances in hand. He did not like the idea of district secretaries, and thought organisers far preferable.

Mr. Warrington (Goulburn) said that according to the statement of accounts, the country branches had £339/17/-, but as a matter of fact they might not have £50 at the present time.

Mr. McDermott: Who does this money belong to?

The chairman: To the Association.

Mr. Green: Nothing has been mentioned about expenses.

Mr. Denford: We have 4000 mem-

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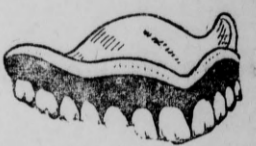
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bers in the country. At a penny a week each it would mean £10, and a halfpenny would mean £5.

Mr. Little said that he was not married to either of these proposals. He wanted to see the best, whichever was the best, scheme accepted. He didn't think the country branches could pay for one organiser. His branch was one of the best they had, and how was it going to do it? It couldn't do it. They could only just meet expenses and send their quota to Head Office. The country branches might, perhaps, pay half the expenses.

Mr. Davies: How is a delegate going to vote who doesn't believe in either Mr. Armstrong's motion or Mr. Denford's amendment?

The chairman: I don't know. Let him sit on the rail.

The resolution, also amendment, were lost on the voices.

SHOULD THE GENERAL SECRETARY BE A SERVICE MAN?
Mr. Franks said it was thought by members of his branch that there were men with sufficient brains and intelligence in the Association to fill this position. Rule 60 stated that:—"In the event of the general secretaryship becoming vacant, the executive shall invite nominations from the branches of members willing to fill the position, and may also advertise in the daily papers for other persons willing to undertake the same. Such nominations shall be referred to branches for election by ballot of financial members. The candidate receiving the highest number of aggregate votes shall be deemed to have been elected to the position."

They wanted to delete that portion referring to advertising in the daily papers.

Mr. Smithers seconded the motion. If a man from outside were appointed it took him a long time to become acquainted with the many phases of the service, and a person should therefore be well acquainted with the working of a service union.

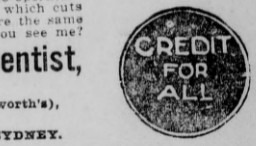
Mr. London opposed the motion. The position required the most capable man they could get. They had to remember that there were few men in the service, and fewer in the Association, who, even if capable, would be prepared to sacrifice their chances to take a position that was not in any way permanent.

Mr. Clyne supported the motion, because any man they employed would be a member of the Association. It took a couple of years to train a man for this position.

Mr. Lockard hoped it would be turned down. The scope should be made as wide as possible. They were asking a man to resign his position in the service, and all the guarantee they could give him was three years. A man had to be more than a pick and shovel man to undertake the work.

A delegate: Not necessarily.

Mr. Kearney was in favour of the resolution. He would suggest an addendum. "That the position be



CREDIT FOR ALL

ARRAERS.
Mr. A. Coleman moved:
43. That all members taking clearance from one branch to another branch to have all arrears paid up before a clearance will be given. Speaking in support, he said that a man might leave one branch for another while in arrears, and then pay the arrears to the branch to which he was transferred. He thought that

(Continued on Page 4).

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EVIDENCE BEFORE No. 1 BOARD.

(Concluded.)

DUCKET MAYBERRY, storeman, Goulburn, 10/ per day, 33 years' service, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that he had one man under him classified as a labourer, who did the issuing, packing and stacking of goods, and received 9/3 per day; witness had £14,000 worth of goods under his control; these comprised general ironmongery, oils, paints, spare parts, and a miscellaneous assortment of stores; the keys were never out of his possession while he was on duty. He was responsible for the issue of all stores, and had to certify as to the correctness of stores received, both as to quality and quantity. There were 400 stock cards; these had to be written up daily; he did not keep a maximum and minimum stock, but used his own discretion in the matter of requirements; he was under the supervision of the store clerk, who, however, did not interfere with his actual work. He submitted monthly reports. Extra assistance was afforded him to unload and stack stores; he did very little issuing himself; his man, who was a labourer, did all this.

The chairman, to Mr. Thompson: Under what head do you class this man?

Mr. Thompson: Head storeman.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall, witness said that he was not classified as head storeman, although he was doing head storeman's work; there was a vacancy for a head storeman; he certainly had to take directions from the store clerk; his time was fully occupied otherwise. He could not receive goods in bad order. The inspectors would issue quantities, but he had to use some discretion and make enquiries as to the probability of the stores being required for jobs he knew were going out.

To the Chairman: He kept no books, except rough ones. Witness here described at some length the method of ordering, etc. He was paid as a third-class storeman; first-class storemen received 11/ per day. Apart from the fact that he was not getting enough money, witness was satisfied with his conditions.

ALEX. McCONNELL, watchman, signals department, Sydney yard, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that he had three and a half years' service as watchman, and was receiving £3/2 per week, or 10/4 per shift; there were sixteen stations, and that number of toll-take clocks. He had to attend to two boilers, keeping up a minimum of 20 lbs. and a maximum of 25 lbs. steam. He worked from Monday night until the following Friday week, when he was relieved by fireman Jarvis. He had some knowledge of boilers, having been instructed by the Department. There was often trouble with strangers on the hill over the Redfern bridge; two people built a small humpy there, and this caused trouble.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: He had to take his meals on the job; often he had difficulty in finding an opportunity for meals. He carried the keys with him.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thompson: He was sworn in as a special constable, and carried a Colt's loaded revolver. On Monday he started at 6 p.m. and worked until 6 a.m. on Tuesday.

PERCY McDONALD, bridge laborer, 9/3 per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that his home station was Sydney; occasionally he would be sent as far abroad as Hornsby and Liverpool in the metropolitan area; he was booked off to start at 7.30 to Hornsby or Liverpool, travelling thereto in his own time and returning in his own time. He was working under ganger Ross. He had to renew timbers and girders in bridges; he used a number of tools, including a ball-nose auger; he would have to erect scaffolding with the gang for bridge work; he had a knowledge of knots, having been to sea for some years. He often had splicing work to do, and derricks had to be cut off clear of the running lines. Most of his work was adzing, boring and using a mallet and chisel; some of the timbers were heavy, consisting of 12 x 12 ironbark. He had a considerable amount of concrete work on the bridge abutments; this included the mixing of concrete by hand, wetting and boring. He would have to dig out the foundations for the abutments of bridges and put in piles; he would lift the bridge up with a jack and place the pile in position. The man under whom he was working was classified as a rough carpenter, and received 9/3 per day and 1/- charge money. He often had to camp out, and received only 1/- per night. This was often insufficient to buy a pound of steak. It certainly was so at Rylstone, Mudgee and some other places, where his duties had taken him. In travelling, say, to Mudgee, he would be allowed eight hours' travelling time. Often, though, it took much longer to reach the destination.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: He had worked between Sydney and Parramatta, had piled out the bridge

at Clyde, and had done re-sleeping on steel bridges; most of his work was outside the metropolitan area. At present there were only two men and a ganger in the gang. He certainly did not do much concrete work. He lived at Canterbury. The extreme suburban limit, he thought, was Liverpool. He suggested that there should be a five mile radius, and after going out that five miles travelling time should be allowed.

FRED SYDNEY CALLOWAY, timber inspector, at 13/- per day, Per. Way Branch, Sydney, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that he had nineteen years' service, and had been a timber inspector eleven years; he entered the Service as a laborer, joining at the time of depression. He was a coachmaker by trade. He inspected timber for all divisions. All orders passed through his hands; he was responsible for the passing of timber and the rejection of unsuitable timber. He had one assistant under him. He worked under the supervision of Inspector Leck; he kept order books and other books showing details of timber sent out. The value of the timber was about £8,000 per month. He worked from 7.30 till 5, except Saturday, when he worked 4 hours and a quarter. When the tramway timber examiners' wages were raised to 12/- per day witness received an increase to 13/- per day.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: The contractors were dissatisfied with his decision he suggested they should call the Engineer-in-Chief. This had never been done. He accepted his instructions from Inspector Leck and the Comptroller of Stores.

To the Chairman: He had specifications of timber contracts. Timber was not allowed at the yards until he arrived. Most of his work was in the yard, from one to the other, sometimes attending to two or three in the day. Also, he inspected door-cases and fancy timbers. He often rejected girders and square timbers; sometimes there were wrangles, but his decision had never been appealed against.

CHARLES WILKIN, consulting engineer, in private practice, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that he was interlocking engineer from 1881 to 1911; knew the work of signal men and their assistants. These men were specially selected, and it was requisite that they should be of absolutely steady and sober habits. They were distributed over all sections of the railway and tramway, and were responsible for the care and efficient upkeep of signal apparatus. The men had no workshops and no foreman; they were left to their own devices; they had to live in all parts of the State and in all climates, and assumed much responsibility. Their skill was of a totally different nature to that required of men in the shop. The men in the shop were able to do a higher and better class of fitting. Signal section men would not need to be highly trained fitters. They had to light fires in the open and do jobs as required. The apparatus, for some reason or other, was not always ready for fitting when sent out from the shops; they were made as accurately as possible to measurements, but when on the job parts might not fit, but would have to be made fit by the signal section men or erectors. They would have to rake up their own fires and fix the apparatus together somehow. On them rested the responsibility for the safe working of the traffic. Witness was of opinion that they should get rates equal to engineers' fitters in the workshops. Casualties might be twenty per week, less or more.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: Witness was speaking of his own time as interlocking engineer. The demands were greater now than then, as the system was more elaborate and up-to-date, and they required more competent men. Men on country sections could not obtain material when required as quickly as men in town. Signal men were supervised by district inspectors, but men in the country were placed on their own resources. Spare parts were got at Sydney; a great amount of gear could be used again if the men had sufficient skill. In the case of a pair of points being run through—a common occurrence—a signal section man would try to rake up old gear and make it

ast till it could be fixed properly with new material. Additional skill was required to make temporary repairs, traffic must be kept going at all risks. Taking a fair average a large part of the work of sectionmen would be repairs. When he was a signal engineer he knew every man on the job; he was out and about amongst them. All gear was fitted together in the shop, but he never had a job where the whole thing would go together; it would always require a lot of fitting and adjusting. A slight variation of condition or heat would make all the difference. He had seen sectionmen exhausted after working long hours to get the traffic going, but this was a rare occurrence; it generally happened after an accident. He was convinced that signalmen should be paid the same rates as ordinary fitters, but not as much as highly skilled fitters. Sectionmen had skill and responsibility. Responsibility could not be measured by money. It was impossible for him to say how much a man's worth would be represented by skill and how much by responsibility; possibly he would be inclined to rate the work of a sectionman higher through his experience. He was of opinion that if an engineer's fitter received 12/- per day, though he did not know what the actual rate was, a sectionman should receive the same rate.

HARRY MAVIS, organiser, Railway Workers' Section, A.W.U., examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that he had worked on the railways; he had held every position from horse driver to special inspector; he knew the work thoroughly. The work of extra gangs was the same in the service of the Chief Commissioner as in construction gangs, the same in the tramways. It was precisely the same work; he worked at it and knew.

Witness was then examined by Mr. Thompson in detail as to varying degrees of skill required in various classes of workers under Clause 14 (a) of the claims. Portion of the evidence was objected to by Mr. Brettall, but the chairman ruled that the witness could be asked. Witness stated that pressmen, hoelmen, jackmen, hakers and spikers had a higher skill than laborers. Spiking was generally done by the ganger.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: He had seen levermen at work at Botany that morning. This was on the tramway. Jacks were not always used; he saw them at Nowra on railway work. Levers were also used; extra gangs had sometimes work to do which fitters gangs did not. There was no difference in the actual work. He knew no work that fitters gangs did that construction gangs would not have to do.

To the Chairman: Maintenance gangs, as compared with extra gangs, did not lose so much time through wet weather. This, though, was due to the fact that it was necessary to work through in wet weather to complete the job so that the traffic could run, whereas construction men could leave the job for a time and take it up when the wet weather had cleared. Possibly there would be a little more time lost on construction work than on maintenance work. When returning after wet weather the whole of the gang would resume work. Working on muck roads would have a tendency to create a greater loss of time.

To Mr. Hogan: Witness answered a number of questions relative to working on muck roads; he knew a gang at Auburn engaged in shifting a large bank. This was muck work.

JOSEPH FORDE, per. way ganger, Inverell, 10/6 per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified he had two men under him. The length was ten miles long, including yards and sidings; he did not examine the length on Sundays except when a train was running or when the water had been wet; it was a muck road. Prior to the issue of the interim award he and his gang received a climatic allowance of 6d. per day; the position after the award was that he received 6d. per day increased pay, and 6d. reduction of climatic allowance, so that he is no better off.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: The work was much the same now as at the time of the last award. There were four gangs of twelve men in all between Inverell and Kooloona; these comprised Forde's gang, Hardie's, Battersby's and Scott's; the men had in applications for removal to lengths where they would receive a climatic allowance. The witness had worked in Narrabri, Newcastle and Balatta; he had found the heat at 98 in the shade more oppressive at Inverell than at the places mentioned.

CHARLES B. MELVARNE, per. way ganger, Kiama, 10/6 per day, in reply to Mr. Thompson, stated he had four men in the gang on his length, which was 6 1/2 miles in length, and there were five yards, totalling altogether, with yards and lengths, nearly ten miles; he could not examine the length in two hours; it took him at least three hours. He had worked at Glen Innes; the time allowed him at that length was insufficient.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: Some sidings did not need examining on Sundays, but he would have to examine on the main line all the points; his inspection of the lengths was done on a tricycle; the length

was now in good order. When he was on the Glen Innes line it usually took him two hours and a half properly to examine the length.

To the Chairman: When examining the length he would fix any bolts that were loose, but anything that would stand over until the following day would be allowed to stand over; he had had to examine the road on Sundays; this, however, would be on rare occasions only.

GEORGE CARRUTHERS, Lux Light attendant, Werris Creek, 9/3 per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, stated that he was previously a fitter's mate receiving 8/6 per day; he was no increase in wages when he took on the work of a Lux light attendant; he worked from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. daily with a break; then he started at 3 and worked until 7; he worked every alternate Sunday; he was paid at the rate of time and a quarter for Sunday work; he was a relieving man for Sundays; he had to attend to twelve lengths, do soldering repairs, fit mantles to the lamps, go through the gas fittings, etc., at the Werris Creek Station; he had been receiving 9/3 per day since the Chief Commissioner gave instructions for the minimum rate to be paid; he had to cut glass and fit the same into lamps when required, attend to the vaporiser and the burner burner.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: He would repair cylinders as well as lamps; he ordered his material from Newcastle.

DONALD BURNS, light attendant, Harden, 9/3 per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that he had nine years' service; he joined as a fitter; he had been five years in his present position; he received 8/6 per day when first put on the light; his hours were 11 a.m. till 8 p.m., with one break for a meal in summer time; in the winter from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; he worked these hours continuously, Sundays and holidays; he was paid time and a half for Sunday; there were ten Rex lamps in the yard and 100 air gas lamps; he had to attend to, and keep in order, four air gas machines, to keep by a proper supply of petrol; there was another man on the night shift; he (witness) had to cut glass to fit the lamps, and do general repairs; he ordered his material from Goulburn; much of the work was of a mechanical nature.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: He would have to occasionally mend the oil tubes by trimming with a file; the two ends were then inserted one into the other and soldered; he had picked up this work by experience; so had designed a lamp which was made at Goulburn and highly recommended.

To the Chairman: He was head-keeper at Harden at 8/6 per day when he took up the lighting.

DAVID ROBERTS, linesman's ganger, Newcastle, 11/- per day, in reply to questions by Mr. Thompson, stated that his section included Newcastle, Gosford, Newcastle to Murrumbidgee, West Maitland to Wauchope, and including Bullock Island, and inspections to the Red Head line and J. and A. Brown's Hexham to Mimi; he had six or seven years' service; at present he had three men under him; his gang varied in number from seven to eight; two of his men were called linesmen, and one laborer; they were all on the same rate of pay, 9/3 per day; occasionally he had to go off his own division on to another division; he had to make out estimates of material required and give prices of labor.

Witness produced instructions from Inspector Dews directing him to give the amount of labor required for the construction of specified telephone lines. This was put in by Mr. Thompson as an exhibit.

His work comprised the erection and maintenance of telephone and telegraph lines, Morse lines, block lines, and staff lines; some of the tools he used comprised drills, explosives (for blasting rough country, where hills could not be dug out with pick and shovel), vices and saws, adzes, poles and ladders, and stirrups for climbing poles. He had to make a periodical inspection of all poles and treat them with anti-bale for the extermination of white ants; he worked eight hours and a quarter daily, except Saturdays, when he worked four hours and a quarter; he was paid at the rate of time and a half for Sundays; he was called out at all hours and times in the case of block failures; heavy storms sometimes caused failures, and he had to get the apparatus in going order again. On last Christmas Day he worked all day. The men under him used all the tools he did. The poles ranged in length from 35ft. to 55ft.; they were dressed on the ground, and hoisted with spike sticks; there was a certain amount of danger in the work; he had received shocks at Newcastle and Bullock Island in the power house; there were high tension lines which were dangerous. Himself and the gang often worked in wet places digging post holes. Prior to joining the railway he had worked as a linesman in the postal department; the work there was the same as the work he was now doing. His men would fix the cross arms to the poles; he would have to tar the bolts of the poles to keep out the moisture; the expenses allowed him while

away from home were insufficient; between Newcastle and Wauchope meals and beds cost 2/-; he had made application to the Department for actual out-of-pocket expenses when away, but had been refused. Some of the poles had to be set with concrete; this applied to junctional and terminal poles; he and his gang would have to do all the work of concreting.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brettall: He had always made out estimates, giving quantities of material and price of labor; he was not very often near electricity.

To the Chairman: He would use about a bag of cement per pole; he did not have a tent to himself, he slept with one or other of the men; they were not camped for long in one place; sometimes food would be sent for them from home, but it often arrived in condition unfit to eat.

JAMES BOY, motor lorry driver, Signal branch, Sydney, 11/9 per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, testified that he had had about 15 months' service; he had joined the service as a laborer, but had driven a motor lorry outside the service; the maximum load was 3 tons and a half; he went anywhere in and about the city as directed; he had a man to help him who was graded as a laborer.

ALBERT ERNEST MARTIN, point cleaner, signal branch, Sydney, in reply to Mr. Thompson, testified that he had 227 pairs of points to clean; he worked from half past seven to five daily, except Saturday, when he worked four hours and a quarter; his work was in the running road, which was highly dangerous; he had to carry motors over to the shops whenever directed by the electrician; he had to dig up ground, sometimes as much as 2ft.

To the Chairman: He worked full time; there was only one other point cleaner that he knew of.

To Mr. Hogan: He had to work in wet weather; he made out his own time sheet.

WILLIAM HOFFMAN, asphalt, per. way department, Sydney, 9/3 per day, in reply to Mr. Thompson, said that he had five years' service; he joined in 1912 as a laborer, awaiting a vacancy as an asphalt; at first he received 1/- per day charge money for two men under him; about two years ago this charge money was discontinued; his work consisted of all classes of asphalt, formation of platforms, roads and bridges, the roofing of subways; he used val de travers; this was a ready-made asphalt which had to be heated before being used; his work was very hard on boots; he wore out four or five pairs per year; he did not wear dungarees, but his men did; he had worked as an asphalt for the Petersham Council; the actual composition of the asphalt was the same at Petersham as at the railway; he was in charge of two men; he received nothing extra for it; he had to go all over the metropolitan area when directed; he received time and a quarter for overtime; the work was dirty work; he knew the work of a tarpaper; it required a good eye to do the work properly, and a man had to have a knowledge of tar.

To the Chairman: They prepared the tar and boiled it on the job; there were two other gangs, nine men in all, in the metropolitan area; he directed his men, and his superior would call on him for an explanation if his work was not satisfactory.

To Mr. Hogan: He lost time through wet weather, having to knock off when it rained.

THOMAS BRYANT, ganger, and cleaner up, macadamised road repairing gang, Darling Harbor, examined by Mr. Thompson, stated that he had 14 men in the gang, nine men in his own gang, and five men working for carting contractors whom he had to look after; previous to taking up his present position he had been a ganger in the Metropolitan Division; he had to keep the time of his men and attend to all departmental correspondence; in repairing roads he had used about 4,000 tons of metal last year. Witness took his orders from Inspector Burns; he had to clean up the garbage and consign it; this was very objectionable work; most of his men had been fitters; there was a number of hydraulic pits and weigh-bridges that had to be cleaned out and looked after.

THOMAS THOMAS, watchman, Bathurst, examined by Mr. Thompson, stated he was classed as a plumber's assistant, and watched the works on every alternate Sunday; he received 9/3 per day for his watching work; he was on duty from 6.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.; there was another man, who took turn about with him in the Sunday watching. There was also a night watchman who did night duty.

To Mr. Brettall: He watched the per. way yard, and occasionally went over the Railway Station to see that the buildings were all right; there were tell-tale clocks but he did not use these in the daytime, the night watchman used them.

THOMAS BYRNE, pressman, Goulburn, 9/8 per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, stated he had five years'

service; he joined the service as a laborer; he set down switches, did curling work, helped on the press, worked out the measurements and plans, also did the work for diamond crossings; he had five men under him and he received 9/3 per day.

To Mr. Brettall: There were nine laborers in the Goulburn yard, about a quarter of his time was occupied in interlocking work; if times were good, most of his time would be with the press.

MATTHEW DOUGLAS, drainer, per. way department, Sydney, 9/6 per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, stated he had eleven years' service; six years being as drainer; there were two other drainers in Sydney; he laid earthenware pipes and did draining work; he had six men under him; he did trenching and concreting work, timbering, and any work that was required to be done; he worked to a plan, and had his work supervised by the Water and Sewerage Board. A plan would be given to him and he would have to work to it.

To Mr. Brettall: Jobs were not pegged out; he had to work out where the brick pits were to be placed, and generally to supervise. The bricklayers built according to where the plan showed the work was required; he was in complete charge of the job and if it were not satisfactory, he would be called on to explain. He had built 30 pits in twelve months; the bricklayers did not look at the plan; he would direct them how he wished the work to be done and see the foreman; he was sent all over the division. At Wellington he had eight local men under him; there was no one there to represent the department; if called on to do a job in a suburban district he would be allowed travelling time to the job only, and if the job were at Hornsby or Waterfall, he would, after the first day, have to travel to and from the job in his own time, starting at 7.30 a.m. and knocking off at 5 p.m.

THOMAS L. BURROW, bricklayers' laborer, per. way, Sydney, examined by Mr. Thompson, stated that he worked under foreman Prior; he had five years' experience; he joined as a laborer; he had experience as a builder's laborer outside of the service; in building station buildings there would be often 20ft. or more from the ground.

To Mr. Brettall: He would not be allowed to camp out at Hornsby or Liverpool; he would have to travel in his own time; he was allowed 18 per night outside suburban limits.

WM. DONOVAN, first-class outside storeman, Metropolitan Division, 11s per day, examined by Mr. Thompson, stated that he had 26 years' service; he was eight years in his present position; there was one outside storeman in each division; he kept stock of all rail sleepers and all per. way materials, and kept a number of books. Witness proceeded to detail his duties at great length and was cross-examined by Mr. Brettall.

To the chairman: He sent sleepers and rails to other divisions, but received very few from other divisions.

HUGH STEWART, furnaceman, Goulburn, 10/8 per day. Mr. Thompson was proceeding to examine the witness, when a question arose as to the jurisdiction of the Board as to furnacemen. Mr. Brettall contended that as they were already covered by No. 10 Board, they should be included within the scope of that Board. Mr. Thompson contended that they were not provided for, under No. 10 Board, and therefore, under No. 10 Board as far as per. way and signals were concerned, and under No. 2 Board for the loco.

The chairman held that for the present the matter must remain in abeyance; the witness then retired.

TIMOTHY McAULIFFE, yard ganger, Lidcombe, 9/6 per day, when examined by Mr. Thompson testified that he had 33 years' service; he had an average of twelve men under him; he had been in charge of works for 25 years and ten years yard ganger; he worked in the shop until 17 years ago; he built bridges; his present duties included supervision, there was one tarpaper at Lidcombe.

To Mr. Brettall: A tarpaper would average about three days per week tarpaving.

To Mr. Hogan: He received 18 per day extra.

Mr. Thompson put in correspondence relating to gangers, granting them sixpence per day over and above fitters; also granting fitters and gangers working in tunnels sixpence per day extra while so engaged. Correspondence was also put in giving the price of waterproof overcoats and leggings; he also asked that the department rules and regulations and the Chief Commissioners' Annual Report which were put in previous cases, be received in evidence.

Subject to the case of the Tramway Signal Sectionmen, Mr. Thompson closed his case.

The chairman then asked Mr. Brettall when he would be prepared to go on with this case, and asked how long he would take. Mr. Brettall stated the evidence he would call would occupy about one day only, but that he would require reasonable time in which to prepare the evidence. The Board then adjourned sine die.

The "All Grades" executive at its last meeting made provision for the carrying on of the case in the absence of the general secretary.

RAILWAYMEN AS INDUSTRIALISTS

(Brisbane "Standard," Feb. 23.)

Like the teachers and other branches of the public service workers, railwaymen have to contend against the tyrised view that when a toiler is employed "in the Gov." he has to shed every vestige of civil and industrial rights. For many years it was argued that employees of the Government should not vote for the election of members of Parliament. And as for a "civil servant" or other public employee taking part in political discussions or controversies—horror of horrors! The foundations of the British Empire were in peril! Actually in one Australian State until a few years ago the public service was differentiated sharply from all other employment and had special representation in Parliament.

The broader, saner view that has received full recognition with the advent of the Labor party is that the worker on behalf of the State is no different, regarded as an industrial, political, or social animal, than the man or woman in private employment. State toilers should not be denied any political rights enjoyed by other people. Industrially they may expect to be slightly favored, for the reason that whilst the capitalist system lasts the Government should set an example to individual employers. But if Torydom had its way, anything approaching industrial communism, with equality of economic and political rights, would be instantaneously blighted.

The trend of politics in Australia is sharply in the direction of rescuing the State worker from the rigidity and dumbness of red-tape and making him a citizen among citizens. Every time a Labor Government is returned to administrative power this present-day Australian view is accentuated. In this year's Queensland Railway Union Conference it is to be noted many indications of a rapidly changing position. The railwayman is becoming more conscious of his membership of the working class, and therefore more militant in his moves for stronger and more effectual organization.

It is true that in certain instances, such as the utterances and actions of some sectional officials like those associated, extraordinarily enough, with the Engroemen, Framen, and Cleaners' Association, there is evidence of lingering conservatism. But a few such swallows do not make the railway summer. Such individuals are relics of the time when it was thought that Queensland was doomed to an everlasting Tory regime. They will disappear. The discussions and acts of the present Conference are proof of that pleasing fact.

The reports presented to the conference urged the importance of keeping the spirit of working class unity strong among railwaymen. In all branches of the public service that has been the chief source of industrial weakness. Any of the workers in any calling or trade, if divided in front of the enemy, are sure to suffer for their divisions in bad conditions and low wages. In the public service, too, in some degree, workers must be protected by watchful organizations.

On a Labor Government, whilst the system of working or producing for profit is the general law of industry, there is the onus of running the State departments with some eye to "economy" or care as to expenditure and the results achieved. It is for five unions in the service to see that the public pay fair value for what they receive.

The coming of Labor administration at least admits the principle of unionism in the State service as elsewhere, an essential thing that could not be said of previous administrations. With the way open to a new era in public service unionism, the working-class generally will expect railwaymen to advance under unionism to the fullest stage of industrialism. Since the Labor Government came into power there have been many complaints in the press from railwaymen on their grievances, complaints, many of them, that were regarded as hopeless of rectification under the previous Governments.

Sectional unionism under a Tory Government meant inviting defeat if the demands were forced to a contest. The near future should see the elimination of sectionalism in railway unionism, and the views and resolutions of the conference in this regard give promise of the railway service becoming industrialised throughout in the next few years.

The "All Grades" Executive requests that all members who subscribed for shares in the Labor Daily and can produce their receipts, communicate with Head Office at once, so that their names may be placed on record.

QUEENSLAND RAILWAY UNION

PROPOSED OFFICIAL ORGAN.

At the sixth annual conference of the Q.R.U. held last week, consideration was first given to the following proposals:—By Bundaberg,—"That a copy of the 'Worker' be provided each member if suitable arrangements can be made with the 'Worker' proprietor"; by Emerald,—"That conference consider the question of printing a Q.R.U. paper"; by Ipswich,—"That conference discuss the advisability of purchasing the 'Queensland Leaders' as the official newspaper."

Mr. Timson (Townsville) urged the need of establishing a recognised system of keeping the members of the Q.R.U. thoroughly in touch with the working of their union and what was being done by council, committees, and branches. He understood that it only required sufficient financial support to establish branches of 'The Daily Standard' at Rockhampton and Townsville. The weekly paper did not meet the case when elections and other matters of urgency were going on. He would suggest striking a levy of, say, 10s per member, with the option of securing 10s worth of advertisements.

Mr. Pigott (Ipswich) thought some valuation might be made of the "Leader" property. He thought it would be better to start a company, limiting the shares to £1 each for each member.

Mr. Cooper agreed that the only means of making a paper pay was by medium of its advertisements. With a membership of 7000 they should be able to command plenty of advertisements, especially from the business men who catered for the people throughout the State, and for railwaymen in particular. It meant at least 21,000 readers, and that was what concerned the advertiser most. He (Mr. Cooper) believed the union was sufficiently strong to start a newspaper, and suggested it be a completely new start, not with some going concern which probably had things to live down. Under present conditions the price of paper, machinery, etc., and the possibility of no supplies being available, an immediate start was out of the question, but they should make all possible preparations.

Mr. Elms (Emerald) urged that the time was ripe for supplying all members with an official Q.R.U. organ.

Mr. Easterabb (Gympie), recognised the necessity of placing a paper in the hands of the members, but did not approve of taking on a second-hand proposition. He emphasised the need of supplying members with reliable information of the business transacted by the council.

Mr. Easterabb moved, and Mr. O'Gorman (Ipswich) seconded, "That the conference devise ways and means of having a fortnightly paper. The amendment was negatived."

Mr. Weir (Maryborough) moved, and Mr. Hancock (Signalers), seconded, "That a printing committee be appointed from council to consider ways and means of publishing a paper in the interests of the Q.R.U., the said committee to be selected by conference, and submit report to council."

This amendment was carried, and the following committee was appointed: Messrs. Moroney, Beatson, and Easterabb.

Mr. Timson's motion, "That instructions be issued to branches through their delegates, to appoint printing committees, to ascertain the support likely to be accorded an official Q.R.U. owned newspaper; such information to be supplied the council not later than April 15," was carried.

"SCALING THE RATTLER."

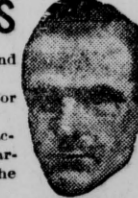
Says the "Werris Creek Chronicle": Two young "nippers," aged 12 and 13, were discovered in a truck containing a motor wagon, en route from Moree to Sydney, and standing in the south yards during Tuesday morning, and after being ejected, started to spend a little time in town. Thanks to the telephonic communication between railway and police station, they were led to the latter place, where they were treated to a substantial feed, and sundry facts elicited. They had travelled all the way from Moree in a goods-train; had neither food nor even money (except a solitary penny between the two of them). Sgt. Fayle got into communication with the Moree police; and their parents intervened, with the result that one parent came along by the north-west train on Wednesday night and took charge of the youngsters, returning with them by the next mail. "Why boys leave home," should form the subject of another investigation by the police.

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TURF NOTES.

A pony meeting will be held at Wollongong on Friday next.

The 14.0 pony Rose Flavor died of lockjaw last week.

Owing to a very heavy fog galleons could not be timed at Victoria Park on Tuesday morning.

The two-year-old Tharooma was injured rather badly whilst travelling in a horse box to Menangle Park.

Royal Diana was sold at auction on Monday for 29 guineas, while Moollid was "knocked down" at 29 guineas.

Entries close on Monday next for the minor events of the A.J.C. Autumn Carnival.

Winners at Baulkham on Saturday were: Arklow, Smeat, Mellia, Parry, and Lady Prudie.

The N.S.W. Trotting Club will hold a benefit meeting in aid of the Balm and District Hospital on the 17th inst.

Whilst running in the Novice Handicap at Grafton on Saturday Legal fell, and, breaking a leg, had to be destroyed.

The Newmarket Handicap winner Poleratas is to be reserved for the A.J.C. Autumn Carnival. He is in the Doncaster Handicap.

At the Newcastle Show on Saturday Golden Robin, who is well known to Sydney trotting men, put up 2.12 for a mile, and established a record.

The Victoria Park trained prae Challenge Cross was all out to beat Mistyform in the Orange Cup on Saturday. Diamond Blue, a maiden performer, ran third.

Hem appeared to be sore when doing her preliminary at Warwick Farm on Saturday, but she managed to commence smartly and record an easy win.

Rue Victoria on his showing in the Warwick Handicap would be a certainty in a marathon race. However, he could have been ridden with better judgment.

The Hawkesbury Club will decide a race meeting on Saturday the 31st inst. There are five events on the programme, and the Autumn Handicap carries a prize of 300 sovs.

Princess Path has been withdrawn from her races so many times lately that it appears as if her owner is waiting for a scoop. She is in the Nursery Handicap to-day at Canterbury, and is weighted at 9st.

At the Clarence River Jockey Club's meeting on Saturday the following were returned winners: Solver, Hampton Court, Cavan Boy, Noble Nell, and Olga Petrova. Cavan Bay, who won the "big" race, raced in Sydney some time ago.

At the South Broken Hill races on Saturday the stewards held an inquiry into the running of Royal Opera in the Flying Handicap, and decided to disqualify the horse, and award the race to the rider, J. J. Dunlop, and trained (J. Bell) for six months. The rider, Dunlop, was also outed for a similar period.

BAKER'S STADIUM. Personal Director, Reg. L. Baker (SATURDAY), MARCH 10, at 8.45 p.m.

EDWARDS (Llew) v (Herb) McCOY First Fly-out, 7.15. The Honorable Mr. JIMMIE T. B. PATY CONLEY v BREK SMITH. Doors open 7.30. PRICES: 10 (Res.), 5/-, 2/- and 2/- p.m.—The Famous "Pop" and Tournament.

ASSOCIATED RACING CLUBS PONY RACES. NEXT MEETINGS. Ascot, Sat., March 10 Victoria Park, Wed., Mar. 14

J. UNDERHILL, Sec., Belmont Building, 16 Castlereagh-street. Phone: 2082.

Canterbury Park Races NEXT SATURDAY, MAR. 10th First Race 1.55 p.m. Last Race, 4.45 p.m. Trains as Advertised. W. L. DAVIS, Secretary.

W. POPE, Turf Commissioner, Doncaster and Sydney Cup: Double Straight Out, 1, 2, 3. SUFFICIENT ADDRESS: W. POPE, Sydney

CANTERBURY.

The Australian Trotting Club is out with another £1000 race, to be decided at Victoria Park on April 12th.

Backers of Glru were unlucky in not collecting their bets at Warwick Farm on Saturday. The Antonec horse was a starter in the Liverpool Mile, and after being badly away was interfered with at the home turn, and then missed a place only by a neck.

Poleratas was at 6 to 1 in Sydney when the acceptance for the Newmarket Handicap appeared, but in Melbourne on the day of the race his price was 14 to 1, although early in the afternoon he was backed at 7 to 1.

Gurrangan was given a run in the Pace Welter at Warwick Farm on Saturday, and finished fifth. He is in the two-year-old event at Canterbury to-day with 7.4, and on Warwick showing should be a hard nut to crack.

Delara looked as "hot as mustard" at Menangle Park on Monday, but the Victoria Park trained prae was a genuine trier. Lightfoot, who rode the horse, met with an accident the morning of the race, and could only manage to sit on the horse. He should not have been allowed to ride.

Loloma, who is entered in the Nursery Handicap at Canterbury to-day, and weighted at 6.12, finished very fast in a youngsters' race over five furlongs at this course last month. In that race she carried 12st, and was just behind the placed horses.

The White walf did not lose her position as top weight in suburban maiden races for long, and the little an is again leading off in the handicaps in the Maiden at Canterbury this afternoon. The weight adjusters apparently overrate the imported mare, or else the conditions now racing are of the "bus crack" order.

Fred Hood, who has been doing remarkably well of late, had two mounts at Menangle Park on Monday, and scored each "up." Hood is perhaps the smartest boy at the game at "hopping" out, at the start, and in many races wins the prize in the first furlong. His brother Arthur, who is now at the front, was also good at beating the barrier, but the best jockey at the next yet seen in Sydney was without doubt Arthur Norris, who may shortly be seen in the saddle at A.R.C. meetings.

Old farmer, to soldier son, just returned from the front: "Well, Garge, what be these tanks like that there's so much talk about?" Son: "Why, they're big wabbling thingamobos full o' what-you-may-call-'ems, and they blaze away like billyo!" Old Farmer: "AY, I heard they was wonderful things, but I never could get any details afore!"

A lawyer was defending a man accused of housebreaking, and said to the Court: "Your worship, I submit that my client did not break into the house at all. He found the parlor window open, and merely inserted his right arm and removed a few trifling articles. Now, my client's right arm is not himself, and I fall to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offence committed by one only of his limbs." "That argument," said his Worship, "is very well put. Following it logically, I sentence the defendant's arm to six months' imprisonment. Dayou accompany it or not, as he chooses." The defendant smiled, and with his lawyer's assistance unscrewed his work arm, and leaving the dock, walked out.

A prisoner at the sessions had been duly convicted of theft, when it was seen on proving "previous convictions" that he was actually in prison at the time the theft was committed. "Why didn't you say so?" asked the judge of the prisoner, angrily. "Your Lordship, I was afraid of prejudicing the jury against me!"

ANTICIPATIONS. CANTERBURY. MAIDEN HANDICAP. COURT FAVORITE or POSADONIA. NURSERY HANDICAP. LOLOMA or LEUCOSIA. FLYING HANDICAP. QUINN'S POST or GILU. STEWARDS' MILE. KOPOAST or PINK AND BLUE. CANTERBURY HANDICAP. NARIVO or RUE VICTORIA. PARK STAKES. QUIRINDI or YOUNG THESPIAN.

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BOXING.

(By "Left Hook.") HEAVYWEIGHT BATTLE. COLIN BELL v. JIM TRACEY.

BELL WINS IN 10th ROUND. The long deferred match between the above boxers took place on Saturday last, and although the contest only went half the distance the spectators got full value for their money.

Tracey's methods compared very favorably with those he usually displays. As a general rule Jim is content to make full use of his reach, and to depend entirely on science to beat his opponents on points. On this occasion, although never rash, Tracey went in to fight, and, although he was well beaten, he gave such a good display that fans will be anxious to see him in action again.

Colin Bell, too, was at the top of his form, and boxed tight and hit harder than he did even against O'Donnell. Tracey used his left well and on occasions, put across heavy rights some of which momentarily had Bell guessing, but Colin punished the body heavily, and put some terrific punches to the head. In the ninth round Colin smashed a heavy left uppercut to the jaw which dropped Tracey like a log, but he rose at eight, and, although obviously dazed, he doggedly battled on to the end of the round. In the tenth Tracey was again sent to the boards, and, although he was up again at nine, he was so dazed that Referee Arthur Scott very wisely stopped the contest. The weights were, Bell 13st. 10lbs, Tracey 12st. 11lbs.

In the first prelim. Billy Woods outpointed Jimmy Miller. It was a very close thing and considering it was only Miller's second battle, he performed exceptionally well. The second prelim, was a hard hitting affair in which Billy Ross knocked out Al Cullen in the sixth round.

On Monday night Bob Williams met Art Reardon. In the first three rounds Williams fought well and about shared the points, but in the fourth round Reardon got home quite a dozen heavy right hand punches, the last of which put Williams down and out. The second six-rounder was between Ned Rose and Bill Tingle. Both boys boxed well, but Rose was just a bit too good and won on points.

The main bout between George O'Malley and Fred Fitzsimmons of Newcastle was stopped after the 18th round. Up to that point it had been an interesting contest, with O'Malley having rather the better of matters. It transpired that Fitzsimmons had broken a bone in his right forearm in the second round, and it says much for his grit that he managed to stay there as long as he did.

Jack Cole, the ex-amateur Railway and Tramway boxer, is again going to don the gloves. He meets Tim Land on the 26th inst.

At Melbourne Jim Taylor knocked out Kid Raymond in the sixth round. The contest was advertised as being for the flyweight championship of Australia.

Tom O'Malley continued his victorious career by knocking out Jack King in the second round of their contest at Brisbane.

"Before we were married, Henry," said the young wife, reproachfully, "you always gave me the most beautiful Christmas presents. Dayou remember?" "Sure," said Henry, cheerfully; "but, my dear, did you ever hear of a fisherman trying to catch a fish after he had caught it?"

"The train struck the man, did it not?" asked the lawyer of the engineer at the trial. "It did, sir," said the engineer. "Was the man on the track, sir?" thundered the lawyer. "On the track?" asked the engineer. "Of course he was. No engineer worthy of his job would run his train into the woods after a man, sir."

He was a young subaltern. One evening the Sister had just finished making him comfortable for the night, and, before going off duty asked, "Is there anything I can do for you before I leave?" Dear little Two Stars replied, "Well, yes! I should like very much to be kissed good night." Sister rustled to the door. "Just wait till I call the orderly," she said, "he does all the rough work here."

GAMBLING IN THE TRENCHES.

It would be rather interesting to trace the origin of the soldiers' game of "house," which has such a vogue among our men in France, both at the base and "up the line."

"House" makes no pretension to be other than a game of pure chance, and, as such it is recognised by the authorities, who, while rigorously suppressing all other forms of gambling, allow this outlet to the sporting proclivities of the Tommy who wishes to have a "flutter." To set up a "house" of this nature does not require an elaborate outfit. A quantity of printed cards are procured, on each of which appear 15 numbers between 1 and 90, no two cards bearing the same combination of figures. A bag of counters numbered up to 90 is all that is necessary to complete the equipment. The proprietor of the "house" proceeds to sell his cards to any number of men up to 20 or 29 who wish to have a share in the "house." The price charged is usually three pence. Having disposed of his cards the banker, or "house proprietor," sits down and proceeds to fish out counters from his little bag, calling out the number on each as he draws it. If the number called appears on any card, the owner strokes it out, the game being won by the man whose card is first cleared of its numbers in this way. The winner receives the stakes, minus a certain percentage, which goes to the proprietor of the "house."

Vamp—See that tall, nervous chap in the blue suit who is always glancing over here? He's got all kinds of money on me last night.

Ire—He did! And he told me he lost it at poker. He's my husband.

"What would your mother say if she saw you doing that, little boy?" "How's any man going to tell in advance what a woman's going to say?"

"Again, there are any number of Australian soldiers who would, no doubt, welcome the opportunity of marrying their sweethearts and making sure that no rivals estrange their affections.

The majority of the Australians on active service are bachelors, and, of course, it would be extremely hard lines on the pretty Australian lasses if they found that the affections of their sweethearts were being diverted by the very attractive English girls, and the Australian Tommy is more romantic and sentimental than most people suspect.

"Distance may lend enchantment to the view, but in the case of the Anzacs distance very often means all the difference between an English and an Australian bride. Besides, how hard to resist falling in love with the charming and sympathetic nurse who tends you back to health."

We are going to enrich our slang with some choice expressions from Australia and Canada, now that we have so many of their officers and men in our midst (says a London Journal). Do you know what a "wowsur" is, for example? Neither did I till an Australian applied it to a man we both knew. Then I grasped its subtle significance, and I like it. A "wowsur" is a kill-joy, a gloomy, snarly person with irritable tendencies.

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He (during a number)—I don't care much for this solo. She—Solo! Can't you see that there are two ladies singing? He—Yes, but one hasn't any voice.

TEMPERANCE DRINKS IN HOTELS. IMPORTANT JUDICIAL FINDING. A decision of considerable importance to the effect that the sale of non-intoxicating drinks in a hotel on a Sunday is not an offence against the Police Offences Act, was delivered in the Practice Court, Melbourne, by Mr. Justice Hood on Wednesday. At the City Court Francis Optiz licensee of the Opera House Hotel, was fined £1, with costs, on an information charging him with having sold non-intoxicating liquors in his licensed premises on a Sunday, and the matter came before Mr. Justice Hood early in the month on an application to make absolute an order to review the decision. The order nisi to review was made absolute, the decision of the magistrate was set aside, and the case against Optiz was dismissed, with £2/2/ costs.

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ARTHUR RICKARD & CO. Ltd., Farmlet Specialists - - 84b PITT STREET

Advertising for a Housekeeper

Henry Skinner, of Footscray—a salubrious seaside suburb of Melbourne—seems to be a casual sort of person. On Tuesday of last week he advertised for a housekeeper, and duly engaged a lady for the post. On the following Saturday he gave the supervisor of his domestic affairs £8 to pay a tailor's bill and buy household necessities. When Mr. Skinner returned home the same afternoon the housekeeper was missing, and an agonising message tacked to the wall said: "Gone on a holiday; be back on Friday." Realising that he was the skinned rather than the skinner, Henry, the deserted one, went to the police court and asked for a warrant for the woman's arrest. When asked why he had trusted a stranger with so much money Skinner coyly answered that on the first day he met her they "became engaged." He did not know her name; he had written to so many women. No warrant was issued, and Skinner went home to prepare an advertisement for another housekeeper.

Some of the wealthy classes of Sydney are reduced to terrible straits in finding money to put into the war loan. Camisoles, we read, are being made with foundations of tissue paper, and the scrap bag is being overhauled for dainty bits of lace and silk to be made into theatre bags and sachets for powder puffs. This sort of slush is ladled out in "Society News" by the bucketful, and with all the seriousness of a moral dissertation on the war. Yet there are ignorant scoffers who say that there is no sense of humor amongst women.

Speaking to a meeting of female stenographers and typists, a lady physical culturist advised girls to "avoid worry," which, she said, "undermined the nervous system and spoiled the appearance, bringing premature wrinkles and grey hairs." There was much giggling amongst the audience at this. Where is the key thumper who worries about anything except the time of departure of the next Manly boat? The typist who worries about her work is much too plain for her job.

"What would your mother say if she saw you doing that, little boy?" "How's any man going to tell in advance what a woman's going to say?"

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The majority of the Australians on active service are bachelors, and, of course, it would be extremely hard lines on the pretty Australian lasses if they found that the affections of their sweethearts were being diverted by the very attractive English girls, and the Australian Tommy is more romantic and sentimental than most people suspect.

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Dentist Charles I. Harris £50 to 1/- Offers to 1/- that, with his PAINLESS METHOD, he can extract any tooth without pain. His rooms are open every night till 9, and his address is ST. JAMES' CHAMBERS, KING STREET, opposite Queen's Statue, where he has been for the past 26 years.

MARRIAGE BY PROXY. TOTE MONEY GONE FOR EVER

When it was announced in London that a bill had been introduced in the Australian House of Representatives to legalise marriage by proxy among Australians on active service, the troops in England were said to be puzzled to understand the meaning of this legislative move. According to the "Weekly Despatch," they declared that they would rather not marry at all than by proxy. "When I marry I am taking the girl to the altar my self," remarked one mischievous-eyed Anzac. "I am not troubling any pal to act in my place."

An Australian staff officer who belongs to the original Expeditionary Army, remarked that he had never had any demand from his men for marriage by proxy, but there was not the slightest doubt as to the meaning of the proposed legislation. "It is," he says, "to get Australians to marry Australian girls."

"When an Australian comes over to England he may be tempted to forget the sweetheart he has left behind him, and marry an English girl. That is all very well from his point of view, but it is jolly hard on the lass waiting for him in Australia and worrying her heart out whether he will be killed or not.

"There have been so many cases of Australians marrying English girls and disappointing their own sweethearts that I suppose the Australian girls in self-defence have been making representations to the Commonwealth Government.

"On the other hand, one of our boys, badly wounded and with an even chance of dying or recovering, may feel he would like to marry his sweetheart and secure to her the pension to which the widow of an Australian soldier is entitled. Thousands of miles away, his only chance of achieving his desire is to marry her by proxy.

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WITTY TOASTS.

"Woman, the fairest work in all creation. The edition is large, and no man should be without a copy."

This is fairly seconded by a youth, who, giving his distant sweetheart, said: "Delectable dear, so sweet that honey would blush in her presence and treacle stand appalled."

Further, in regard to the fair sex, we have: "Woman, she needs no eulogy; she speaks for herself." "Woman, the bitter half of man."

In regard to matrimony, some bachelor once gave: "Marriage, the gate through which the happy lover leaves his enchanted ground and returns to earth."

At a supper given to a writer of comedies, a wag said: "The writer's very good health. May he live to be as old as his jokes."

From a lay critic: "The Bench and the Bar. If it were not for the Bar there would be little use for the Bench."

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The Nourishment Your Nerves Need SOMETHING NEW NOTHING BETTER HEAN'S TONIC NERVE NUTS THE MODERN HOME REMEDY FOR HEADACHES DEPRESSION BACKACHE BIZZINESS INSOMNIA BRAINFAG DYSPEPSIA NEURALGIA LASSITUDE and other Neurasthenic Conditions. EXPERIENCE OF MISS KEMP THE WORLD'S GREATEST HORSEWOMAN WAS AFRAID OF HER OWN SHADOW NOW DELIGHTS IN RIDING EQUINE OUTLAWS

A Little Land and a Better Living A great and far-reaching movement is attracting the attention of wage-earners—the remarkable development of our outer suburbs. The Acre and the Half-acre to-day, within easy reach of the office, the store, and the factory, is making it possible for you to live in and enjoy the advantages of a country home, to become a land owner, a producer away from the noise and bustle of the city streets. A DELIGHTFUL SUBURBAN HOME AREA, where the rent money can be turned to the purchase of your own Land, and the living expenses met by the products raised in the garden, the stock pens or poultry yards, while you STILL KEEP YOUR EMPLOYMENT in the city. Think of this, and inspect some of the following:— Wentworthville.—A delightful suburb. Blacktown.—Pleasant. Farmlets, 2 acres upwards, at £30/10/- per acre. Bungalow Farms, 11 to 13 to 31 acres. From 45/- per acre. 21 acres, from £16/10/- per acre. Lytton.—Quarter-acre blocks, 112 to each. Dirt cheap. Wentworthville.—The Beautiful Dorothy Mount overlooks the town. On the banks are large Home Sites and Fertile Farmlets, the latter at from 47/- per acre. Tongah.—45 minutes' run from Central Station. Fertile soil, beautiful surroundings. Blocks of 1 to 5 acres. From 47/10/- per acre. Enniswood.—Farm, 21 acres, 140 to each. Dirt cheap. Enniswood.—Cecil Park, 6 miles out, 5 acres. From 147/10/- per acre. 11 acres, £2. Granville.—Granville Downs Estate. Riverston (on Windsor Line)—About 15 minutes' walk from City, or Granville Station, on the Duck River. Fertile blocks, from 14/- per acre. Best possible for poultry. TERMS: £1 down, 10/- monthly for every £25 of purchase value. ARTHUR RICKARD & CO. Ltd., Farmlet Specialists - - 84b PITT STREET

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EDITORIAL MATTER.

It must be distinctly understood that "The Co-operator," Ltd., is alone responsible for all editorial matter appearing in this issue.

ARTICLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

Space will be given for contributions and articles dealing with any helpful subject. We will do our best to authenticate all facts sent in, and where we cannot do so, will place matter in an open column where we will not be responsible for the opinions expressed.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Whilst all our business in connection with free services to our readers will be conducted in good faith, and the best service and advice given, it must be understood that all such service is of a friendly nature, and without legal responsibility.

AGENTS WANTED.

We want agents at all depots, workshops and country centres, who will be paid for their services. Printed and Published by A. A. Catts, for "The Co-operator," Ltd., 431a Kent Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1917.

RINGING THE CHANGES.

There can be no gainsaying the fact that the proceedings at the recent conference of the Amalgamated Association were subjected to an influence that no similar annual general meeting has felt to the same extent. Few folks with democratic tendencies will object to the recognition of the rights of minorities, but when a minority takes the majority by the ears and dominates the whole proceedings, it is time to ask the meaning of it, and to question the methods employed. At first sight it seems ridiculous to imagine that a body of some seventy odd members could be induced to submit to the demands of a garrulous and insistent minority, but the phenomenon is not an uncommon one. We have seen the President of the United States complaining of what he calls "a little group of wilful men representing no opinion but their own," rendering the great Government of the nation helpless and contemptible, and what is possible in the deliberations of a national legislative chamber such as the American Senate, is possible in a meeting of Amalgamated Association delegates, though the issues at stake in the one are not so important or far-reaching as they are in the other. The members of the Association scattered over the State have had to pay a round £150 in delegates' fees and other expenses connected with the conference, and they have the right to expect that their representatives shall have full and complete control of the proceedings, and to be provided with ample opportunities to make the wishes and desires of their constituents known. In the case under review three days of valuable time was frittered away by a section of the conference, numbering, all told, about a third of the total number of delegates that were present. Country delegates were swamped by a torrent of irrelevant verbosity, and were unable to bring forward their own business, and discuss it in a sober, practical manner; they were swept off their feet, as it were, or shunted down side-tracks that led but to dead ends, and many of them were compelled to return home feeling that their time and the good money of the Association had been wasted in a fruitless endeavour. The minority referred to apparently made an organised effort to capture the conference and bend it to its liking; caucus meetings were held in the Queen's Hall after the closing of the sessions, and at these meetings plans were discussed, having this object in view. The "Co-operator" was not invited to attend these caucus meetings, neither were the delegates from the majority of the country branches, who knew nothing of the conspiracy. We are given to understand, however, that these precious democrats, who are whines on free discussion when they are permitted to do all the talking, arranged their programme very cleverly, and succeeded in securing some of their main objects, though not all of them. As already stated, a majority of the delegates were entirely ignorant of the eddies and under currents that were at work to stifle debate, to prolong it when thought necessary, to side-track real business, and to generally guide the deliberations and force the decisions of conference. We take it that the annual general meeting is intended to afford an opportunity to every branch of the Association to be heard through its approved representatives, and that the proceedings should be open and above-board, and absolutely free from any suspicion of gerrymandering, underground engineering, or secret caucus influences. The men that make up the rank and file of the organisation, who work from year to year in the country districts, have no means of knowing what influences are at work in the city, and they have little knowledge of the aims and tactics of the small, but persistent, section that is never content unless it can foist its half-digested and intolerant ideas concerning economics and politics upon everybody else. These country branches should have an assurance that they will not be made the catspaws of a secret caucus; that they can formulate resolutions with a reasonable hope of having them properly discussed, and that their delegates will not be subjected to the thimble-rigging tactics of a turbulent minority. It is time that the kind of thing we are now condemning should be scotched, for if some steps are not taken to prevent its repetition in the future, there is a danger that the Association will be captured by the impossibilists, and landed high on the rocks of disintegration. A peculiar feature of the matter is this, that members of both the past and present executive participated in these secret deliberations, and it is inconceivable to think that some of them, being reasonable, fair-minded men, should consciously allow themselves to be a party to such questionable tactics.

THE ELECTIONS.

The Federal elections probably will take place in May. The State campaign is already in full swing. As regards the Federal position it is apparent that the Government, finding that its efforts to monkey with the Senate were not as successful as it was thought they would be, and realising the futility of attempting to carry on with its leaders away in Europe, resolved as a last resort to appeal to the constituencies. There should not be any doubt about the result of that appeal if the rank and file of Labor electors throughout the Commonwealth are true to their principles and if the men on active service are provided with proper voting facilities. Australian is about as tired of Mr. Hughes as it is possible for it to be tired of anything and will hail the opportunity to say so. Really one is led to conclude that a good, old-fashioned boodle administration with Bigjohn at the head of it would be preferable to the present agglomeration of Labour scabs, Liberal leeches and reactionary Tories. Electors would be well-advised to insist upon the recognition of the demarcation line. On the one side there is a party of the people, the Labour party, representatives of which are embodied in the Labour platform; on the other side there is the direct antithesis of these aspirations and ideals. There should be no thought of compromise. It is a simple question of "Choose ye whom ye will serve!" No Labour man or woman will need to hesitate. The same test may be applied to the State election. On the one side we have the Holman-Wade combination, which includes the Labour renegades who deserted their posts as leaders of the people's party in October last; and on the other side the Labour party, which stands for everything that the intelligent worker desires. No issue could be more simple. The only danger is that the dense fumes of the poison gases of misrepresentation poured out liberally by the daily press and by the Government candidates may serve to dope the unwary and to deceive the unsophisticated. If each Labour man and woman will endeavour to dissipate misapprehension and to spread

PERSONAL.

Miss Hamilton, of Head Office, left by the Canberra for Queensland on Saturday week. Miss Hamilton is spending her holidays with friends at Gayandah, in the Wide Bay district.

Fitter Thomas Grant, whilst working on the footplate of an engine, slipped and had the misfortune to injure his leg, necessitating laying aside for a few days. We are pleased to say he is now progressing favorably.

A send-off and presentation was given to Mr. Mars, S.S. Inspector, Narrandera, on the 12th inst., some 55 employees of all departments being present. The toast of the departing guest being given and duly responded to by representatives of all departments, Mr. Wall presented Mr. Mars on behalf of the employees, with a gold chain, and set of silver forks and spoons to Mrs. Mars in token of their esteemed worth while in Narrandera.

Mr. Mars, after thanking the donors, responded in eulogistic terms. The tables were beautifully decorated with flowers, etc., and after spending a most enjoyable evening, the meeting closed by singing "Auld Lang Syne," and "God Save the King."

After being for three years without a rest the general secretary (Mr. Claude Thompson) has gone on holidays. He is considerably run down owing to the strenuous nature of the Wages Board work that has had to be carried out during the past few months. During his absence the Association affairs will be in the hands of Mr. R. Corish, who has been appointed acting general secretary.

VINDICATION.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

REPLIES TO ATTACKS.

SOME CHARGES REFUTED.

The general secretary writes: "My friends have informed me that during my absence at No. 1 Board on Friday last, some delegates made another cowardly attempt to assail my character. It appears that on this occasion Mr. Evers was the chief assailant and as I was not present to defend myself, he was able to lash out at will, without fear of contradiction. Briefly put, Mr. Evers' statements are contrary to facts. At least one of the documents read to the meeting was not either written, authorized, or sent out by me. Months ago Mr. Evers expressed himself as satisfied on the matter. He could have brought his charges before the Conference during its four days of sitting, but it seems that he preferred to wait until I had to be absent on Wages Board business—the business of the Association—and then proceed to inflame the minds of his hearers with ex-parte statements. Mr. Evers has always been a great stickler for a "fair deal" when any of his associates have been on the carpet, yet it seems that he is not prepared to accord to others the same treatment that he expects for himself.

What a howl would go up from Mr. Evers and his friends if the department charged them with offences and made investigations in their absence. There would be loud cries of "victimisation" and probably another Darling Harbour strike.

Our members will notice that none of my few enemies are men enough to attack me when I am present; they always wait until I am away.

The whole business looks as if it was readied up with the object of giving certain people an opportunity to vent their spleen against me, and at the same time, to "knife" me when I seek re-election as general secretary. In any case, Friday's gathering was not a properly constituted conference. Conference really closed on Thursday night.

I cannot go into the matter as fully as I should like to do until such time as I see the complete report in the "Co-operator," but in the meanwhile, I would ask members not to place too much confidence in the mean statements made in my absence.

In the light there should be little doubt about the result. The issue, from the Labour viewpoint may be pinned down to this, that those that are not for us are against us. What more need be said?

Two ex-members of the tramway service are fighting the battle in the cause of democracy, namely Tom Bourke, at Enmore, and Frank Bourke, at Newtown. Both candidates are anti-conscientiousists and they distinguished themselves by their ability and energy during the October campaign. Both candidates are well-known in the Labour movement in which they have taken a prominent part for many years past. Both were victims of tram strike that took place some years ago. Railway and tramway men residing in either Newtown or Enmore should leave no stone unturned to secure their return.

DARLING HARBOUR SMOKE SOCIAL.

A SUCCESSFUL FUNCTION.

On Saturday night week the members of the Darling Harbour branch of the Amalgamated Association held their annual smoke social at the Trades Hall.

Mr. Roe, branch chairman, presided and there were present at the table with him Messrs. E. D. Campbell, Evers, McDonald, Denford, Toole, Pinkstone, and Heaslop. Altogether there was an attendance of about 400 and the proceedings went with a snap.

Mr. Heaslop proposed the toast of the Association. He said they had had a very strenuous week and whether they had succeeded in improving matters remained to be seen. He coupled the toast with the name of Mr. E. D. Campbell, their late President.

Mr. Campbell in responding said he was proud of the Darling Harbour branch, and of its solidarity and he hoped its example would be followed by the whole of the organization. The question of industrial unionism as preached and practised by the Amalgamated was becoming more and more acceptable. It was ten years since he became connected with the government of the Association and they had passed through some strenuous times since. He had at home a photograph of the members of the Conference of 1905 or 1906 on which occasion there were present twenty-eight delegates. Since that time the number of branches had gone out of existence and some had gone back to sectionalism again. The majority however, saw more clearly than ever the need for closer unity, for one union within the industry. (Hear, hear.) He hoped that they would go on preaching that doctrine, but they wanted to do more than believe it, they should act it. They should act towards others as they would have them act towards themselves, and then they would have no need to fear anyone. The organisation was great enough and grand enough to embrace every branch of the service. He thought they should go on in the way they had started and continue to work for service unity until they realised their object, the amalgamation of the whole of the service interests. To do that each member would have to make himself an apostle of amalgamation and a disciple of industrial unionism. If each of them secured one new member they would double their number in two years and have the whole service under one banner in a very short time. He was sorry to have to sever his active connection with the executive government of the Association. During the last twelve months he had had more than a strenuous time. If the old Appeals Board had remained he would not have been able to stand it. They had dealt with 620 cases and he thought they would understand the difficulties he had to contend against. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion he wished to thank them for the respect they had always shown to him. Despite faults and failings the Darling Harbour branch had supported him right to the end. He wished them success as individual members of the Association and success as a live militant branch. Although he was retiring from active work in the Association, he was not leaving it. He would continue to be a member. They should be concluded, be members of the union, not for the good they could get out of it, but for the good they could put in it. (Cheers.)

Mr. Denford proposed the toast of the branch, which he said, had always been known as the most militant in the service. He complimented the branch upon getting two of its members on the Executive, which was evidence of the confidence that the organisation, as a whole, had in the branch and as well as in the members elected.

Mr. Evers responded on behalf of the branch. He said he was proud of the position held by the branch in the industrial world and in the Association. Mr. Roe had been elected to the Executive unopposed and he himself was elected to the position of treasurer by the largest vote recorded at the Conference. These two objects must be highly satisfactory to members of the branch for it showed that they had the confidence of the members of the organisation.

Mr. Kearney proposed "the day we celebrate" and said he also was proud of the position held by the branch. Continuing he went on to speak of the victories of the past, and said that we of to-day should not forget the struggles and hardships of those who in the early days bore the brunt of the Labour battle. He was pleased to see represented at the gathering every branch of the service.

Mr. Stead proposed the toast of the performers and donors, the latter including Messrs. Tooth, Toohy, Hoffnung and Co., Wright Heaton, Holland, Lisdeman, Prescott, Arnott, Foley Bros., and Coastal Farmers' Association, and commented upon their generosity, which was responded to by the representative of Messrs. Hoffnung and Co.

A vote of thanks was also carried to the "Co-operator" press representative present.

Mr. R. Downe and Mr. Stead, president and secretary, respectively of the Social Committee, together with the other members responsible for

"REMEMBERING A BLIND COMRADE"

MR. J. C. BENECKE'S CHRISTMAS BOX, 1916.

Wordsworth has written that "deposited on the silent shore of memory are large and precious thoughts that shall not die."

It is in keeping with this beautiful passage that the comrades of Mr. J. C. Benecke and many others who knew him not, remember him at Christmas time for some years past, and have not failed to send their slightest comrade a substantial cheque to put in his Santa Claus stocking. This year the promoters, Mr. "Jack" Pimm and others, have made a record, and lists prove how very worthily their request was responded to in the metropolitan district, and in several instances amounts have been received from the "out-back" districts. To Mr. Pimm fell the burden of the organising work this year. The sum of £23/13/ was realised, and it must have been a valued token of the esteem Mr. Benecke still holds in the memory of his comrades to be the recipient of it. Its monetary value was respectable, but how great must have been the joy of the blind man that he was not forgotten during this somewhat disturbed season of peace and goodwill to all men.

In acknowledging receipt of the most appropriate Christmas gift he asks all concerned to accept his heartfelt and grateful thanks. The details of subscriptions are given hereunder:—Mr. W. Hall, S.M., Newtown, £2/6/4; Mr. E. Reardon, Supt. of Lines, Sydney, £1/12/; Mr. P. Byrnes, S.M., Kogarah, £1/7/; Mr. L. Carton, N.O., Central Station, £1/4/6; Mr. S. Stainton, inspector car cleaning, Sydney, £1/4/; Mr. C. Little, coaching stock inspector, Sydney, £1/1/; Mr. H. Marr, relief officer, Rockdale, £1; Mr. F. Bell, signaller, Petersham, 16/; Mr. G. Abbott, relief officer, St. Peters, 15/6; Mr. J. Tufty, signaller, Wellstreet, 14/6; Mr. J. Hill, relief officer, Lewisham, 13/; Mr. L. Webb, car conductor, Sydney, 12/; Mr. G. Mars, night officer, Artarmon, 12/; Mr. A. Deans, signaller, station box, 11/; Mr. A. W. Noakes, signaller, Illawarra Junction, 11/; Mr. A. Carr, relief officer, Thornleigh, 11/; Mr. C. Miller, signaller, Clyde Junction, 10/; Mr. W. C. Clissold, guard, traffic clerk, 10/; Mr. J. E. Snelling, signaller, Granville, 10/; Mr. R. Pollard, yard master, Sydney, 10/; Mr. J. Downey, signaller, Homebush, 9/6; Mr. J. Wellman, signaller, tunnel box, 9/; Mr. J. Greig, signaller, Eveleigh Loco. Junction, 8/; Mr. S. Dennis, assistant yard master, Alexandria, 7/6; Mr. J. J. Collins, assistant secretary, Ambulance Corps, 7/; Mr. T. Bonamy, ticket inspector, Sydney, 7/; Mr. G. Rose, night officer, Kareela, 6/; Mr. T. Amos, signaller, Sydneyham, 5/6; Mr. T. Hagan, signaller, Erskineville, 5/; Mr. F. Hourne, station master, Granville, 5/; Mr. E. King, night officer, Linden, 5/; Mr. J. Fay, car conductor, Sydney, 5/; Mr. F. Scanes, station master, Lynchhurst, 5/; Mr. J. Schofield, signaller, Strathfield, 4/; Mr. C. Mumford, signaller, Parramatta, 3/6; Mr. J. Pimm, booking clerk, Summer Hill, 3/; Mr. J. Luby, night officer, Coal Cliff, 3/; Mr. G. Scully, traffic inspector, Hamilton, 2/6; Mr. E. H. Carpenter, car conductor, Sydney, 2/6; Mr. A. King, signaller, Hurstville, 2/6; Mr. E. W. Caldwell, Largs Bay, South Australia, 2/6; Mr. W. J. Robinson, car conductor, Sydney, 2/6; signalman, Ultimo box, 2/; Mr. A. E. Carson, signaller, Flemington, 2/; Mr. J. Marvin, signaller, Ashfield, 2/; Mr. R. Hall, night officer, Valley Heights, 2/; Mr. W. A. Cuneo, station master, McDonaldtown, 1/2; Mr. A. Cuneo, station master, Lidcombe, 1/; total, £23/13/.

"The new Win the War Government," said the Queensland Premier on his return from Melbourne last week, "is making good progress in the direction of getting the people to wake up to their methods of winning the war. First they squabbled over the spoils of office, and after a month's wrangling, decided that six Cookites and five Hughesites would be most feared by the Kaiser. They secretly obeyed the behests of the beef barons, evidently thinking that the Kaiser dreads the Dear Meat party. They propose to reduce the wealth tax and to dodge the verdict of the people by postponing the elections. Doubtless the Kaiser will be in most eternal fear of the party that can do such things and still live."

The arrangements of the function deserve special congratulations upon the success of their efforts. At intervals during the evening songs were given by Messrs. J. Bray, Pinkstone, G. Burns, J. Williams, — McClure, W. Curran, — Casey, H. Kirkland, — Blundell and F. Gregory, all of whom were recalled.

The Amalgamated Railway and Tramway Service Association

Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference

(Continued from page 1.)

The president (Mr. Campbell) said that this closed his career as president of the Association. He thanked members, particularly those present at the Conference, for their forbearance. He had often felt more fit than he did to conduct the duties of chairman. In closing his active connection with the Association, he wished delegates to take back to their branches his thanks for the loyalty and co-operation of the individual members, and for the confidence they had time and again expressed in him. Though retiring from active participation in the work of the organisation he would be prepared to give the incoming executive his support. His duties carried him into the country, and wherever he went he would not miss an opportunity to forward the interests of the Association.

Mr. Kavanagh (president) briefly returned thanks, and said that Mr. Campbell leaves a record that any man might well be proud of. A vote of thanks was awarded to the returning officer.

WORKING WITH NON-UNIONISTS. Mr. Denford moved: 59. That we refuse to work with any employee after he has drawn his first full fortnight's pay in those branches of the railway where the Amalgamated alone caters—such as the fitters, fuelmen, labourers, etc., unless he becomes a member of the union.

The motion, amended to read one month instead of a fortnight, was carried.

NO ULTIMATUM. 60. That an ultimatum be delivered to the Railway Commissioners demanding an all-round increase equivalent to the rise in the cost of living as laid down by the State Statistician before the war and now; that we be granted a 44 hour week, that all overtime be paid at the rate of time and half, and that all time worked between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. be paid for at time and half rates. This resolution was defeated on the voices.

THE VISION TEST. 61. That drivers who fall in the vision test be offered the positions of chargemen now filled by young engineers who have good vision for the safe working of trains, and who have little or no experience on the road. This resolution was carried.

REPAIRS TO ENGINES. 62. That the neglect of repairs to engines booked by drivers are causing many road failures, and better attention be given by S.S. Inspector in future to all engine repairs, especially passenger engines. This resolution was carried after a brief explanation by Mr. Warrington.

BOYCOTTING TUCKER. 65. That in order to control the exorbitant prices charged for necessities required to sustain life this conference accept any motion submitted by any member having for its purpose a total abstinence from any article of foodstuffs, clothing, etc., until the price of such article is, in the view of this conference, commensurate with the purchasing power of the average working man's earnings. Mr. Green moved this resolution, and referred to what had been done in America along similar lines. The motion having been seconded, Mr. Kempster opposed it, and suggested that the better remedy would be the establishment of co-operative stores. The motion was defeated.

FULL TIME FOR SICKNESS. 66. That all employees belonging to the wage staff be paid full time during sickness, the same as men on the staff. The Singleton delegate being absent, this resolution was moved by Mr. Kenny, and was carried.

MINIMUM WAGE. 67. That 11/ per day be the lowest minimum wage. This resolution was carried on the motion of Mr. Godfrey, without debate.

NON-UNIONISTS. 68. In view of the growing unrest amongst members of our Association as regards working among non-unionists, we deem it necessary that some action should be taken by our Association to prevent those men being employed by the Commissioner for a term of more than 14 days after being approached by a collector or organiser, who, having been met with a refusal to become a member of any service union, and in view of the Commissioner refusing to strictly adhere to this principle, we deem it necessary, as the only solution of the non-unionist problem, that members of the A.R. and T.S. Association should refuse to work with such men until such times as they belong to a union, and in the event of such action becoming necessary this Association pledges itself to stand unitedly behind its members who have refused to work with the non-unionist until victory is achieved, and to allow no victimisation to take place after. Mr. Frewin moved, Mr. McBean seconded. Mr. Frewin said that what was desired was an assurance that when a

body of men took a stand they would have the Association behind them. Mr. McBain thought the resolution affected them all. Men that did not join a union shared in the benefits secured by the unionists. They would not come in, but if the ideas expressed in this resolution were put into force they would be compelled to come in.

Mr. Long failed to see how it could be carried out under present conditions. Take a body of men in the workshops; if they refused to join a union the department would not prevent them from working. A delegate: Haven't we passed a resolution to this effect? The chairman: No; that referred to the grades entirely covered by the Association.

Mr. Long referred to impending legislation by the State Government. The Government, as at present constituted, would assuredly uphold the action of the non-unionists if the question arose in the manner indicated by the resolution. It was quite easy for them to talk at Conference, but it meant drastic action, and he wanted to know how they were going to do it. If the railway and tramway men were a solid body they might be able to do something in this direction, but as things were it was utter nonsense to talk about it. If they carried the resolution they could not put it into effect. Mr. Frewin said that twelve months ago he suggested that some such action should be taken as that indicated in the resolution. If they did not take some action the thing would go on for ever. They should bring the matter under the notice of the Chief Commissioner and the Government, and let them know that the Association was prepared to do something. The resolution was defeated.

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY STAFF. 69. That all employees previously on permanent staff and now on temporary staff be immediately restored to the permanent staff. Mr. Kenny said, in moving the adoption of this resolution, that this was a legitimate grievance of long standing. He was in the loco. department for nine years, on the permanent staff, and was transferred to the per. way, and placed on the temporary staff, and it was only after continued efforts on his part, and at the end of five years, that he was placed again on the permanent staff. That was only one case. There were a great many others, some of whom had been on the temporary staff for fifteen and even twenty years. The resolution, seconded by Mr. Godfrey, was carried without debate.

MONEY IN LIEU OF HOLIDAY PASS. 70. That in view of the late Chief Commissioner's (Mr. T. Johnson) statement (as appeared in press) before wages boards, that value of passes and privileges were £17/10/ per year, and wages practically based on that assumption, it be optional to any and all employees when going on their holidays to either take a holiday pass or be given the £17/10/ and no pass. Mr. Godfrey moved this resolution, and spoke in support of it. The chairman said that under the present Industrial Act the question of privileges was not considered when fixing wages. Mr. Armstrong: It states that existing privileges must be preserved. The chairman: That is only put in by consent of the Commissioners; it is only a matter of conditions. The resolution was carried.

LAST TO COME, FIRST TO GO. 71. That in the event of any re-employment of hands being found necessary by the Department non-unionists shall be the first to go, and should there be more than those the system of "last to come, first to go" shall operate from the union books. This resolution was carried on the motion of Mr. Godfrey.

NEW EMPLOYEES MUST JOIN A UNION. Mr. Godfrey moved the adoption of this resolution. Mr. Roe: Don't you think that the union should be named? At Darling Harbour the so-called "loyalists" had formed a branch of the Traffic Association. When men were put on they were told by the officers that there were two unions, and that the Traffic Association was the best one for them to join if they wished to get on in the service. Were they going to ask men to join a "scab" organisation? Mr. Evers pointed out that under a number of awards preference was given to the unions stated therein. If they mentioned railway union they should name their own. The resolution was carried, with this amendment. Resolution 75 was deleted.

SOME PER. WAY DEMANDS. 80. That all gangers be supplied with rules, tapes, and spirit levels for departmental work. That all per. way employees be granted three weeks' leave of absence on full pay each year. Mr. Frewin said that what was desired was an assurance that when a

- ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The results of the election of officers were read out by the returning officer (Mr. Malveney). The figures appeared in last week's "Co-operator." The officers elected are as follows:— PRESIDENT. Kavanagh, V. G. (Ultimo Power House) TREASURER. Evans, A. (Darling Harbour) VICE-PRESIDENTS. Clynne, D. (Mt. Victoria) Smith, N. (Wollongong) EXECUTIVE. RAILWAY PER. WAY. Regan (elected unopposed). RAILWAY TRAFFIC. Falvey. RAILWAY LOCO. Davis INTERLOCKING AND SIGNALS. Hopkins GRAM TRAFFIC. Wallace (elected unopposed). TRAMS GENERALLY. Walsh RAILWAY WORKSHOPS. Pinkstone Rogers GOODS WORKERS. Roe (elected unopposed). GENERAL RAILWAY AND TRAMWAYS. Armstrong P.L.L. DELEGATES. Denford Evers Corish TRUSTEES. Campbell Kavanagh Smith, N. INTERSTATE CONFERENCE. Clynne Thompson, C. Kavanagh EIGHT HOUR COMMITTEE. Kavanagh McDonald TRADES HALL ASSOCIATION. Kavanagh, O'Donnell (elected unopposed). LABOR DAILY REPRESENTATIVE. O'Donnell (elected unopposed). WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION. Arnold (elected unopposed). AUDITOR. Holt, J. O. (present auditor)

LET the Co-operator do your printing cheaper.

Thursday, March 8, 1917.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 4.)

(b). That a cabin be provided at all trolley sheds to keep correspondence, books, etc., and that paper and envelopes be supplied to gangers. These resolutions were carried without opposition.

The general secretary announced that only the men under Mr. Lucy and the tramway men could get leave for the following day. The chairman suggested that a special conference be held within a month to complete the balance of the business.

Mr. Thompson said that there was no word received concerning men from other departments than those mentioned.

It was resolved that the delegates obtaining leave and those that had already leave should meet at Head Office on the following morning. Conference then adjourned.

FRIDAY'S SITTINGS.

On Friday morning there were about forty-five delegates present. The rules provide that a quorum at an annual general meeting shall consist of not less than one-third of the delegates appointed to attend such meeting.

The new rule, No. 21, which was passed at the previous Conference, reads as follows:—

"The annual general meeting shall be held on the third Monday in February, at such place as the annual general meeting (or the executive) shall determine, commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon and terminating not later than the Thursday following."

The new president (Mr. V. G. Kavanagh) presided. The general secretary was absent on Wages Board business. Mr. London was absent on Appeals Board business.

The chairman announced that 27 delegates had not turned up. The large majority of these were delegates from country branches, who were compelled to return home.

CASUAL MEN.

81. That all casual men be made permanent after six months, and receive all benefits.

Mr. Warrington said that the amended Act gave them a little in this direction, namely, three years, but they desired to get casual men placed on the permanent staff after six months' service. He was told that notices had been posted in the per. way department informing casual hands that after six months they are to be placed upon the Superannuation Fund. He would like to know if this was to be a general thing.

The chairman: The circular is in compliance with the new Railways Act. The resolution was carried.

THE HOUSING QUESTION.

82. That conference appoint a deputation to the Chief Commissioner re the housing question for employees.

Mr. Warrington moved the adoption of this resolution. In his district the supply of houses was very short, and no doubt it was the same in other places. During the last twelve or eighteen months the Chief Commissioner had resumed a lot of property, probably 45 or 50 cottages, and no attempt had been made to replace them for the men. He thought that something ought to be done in the interests of railway men. During the last two years several men had not been able to secure houses or accommodation, and had had to return. One man had been there seventeen months, and had not yet been able to obtain a cottage. There were others in the same predicament.

On the suggestion of Mr. Falvey, the following addition was made to the motion: That the matter of housing be referred to the incoming executive, and that country branches be asked to give full information, so that the executive may take steps to bring the matter before the Commissioners. The motion was carried.

ANNUAL LEAVE.

83. That three weeks' annual leave be granted to all employees.

The chairman: That is in the new Act, which provides for six days' annual leave over and above the usual holidays. In reply to Mr. Godfrey, he said the Act came into force in January last.

Mr. Lockhard moved the adoption of the motion. He did not think that six days was sufficient, and they should go on asking. Mr. Munro seconded, and the resolution was carried.

GATEKEEPERS' WAGES.

84. That all junior and female gatekeepers be paid a minimum wage of 7/6 per day. Carried, on the motion of Mr. Denford, seconded by Mr. McBain.

WATCHES FOR GANGERS.

85. That watches be supplied to all gangers and leading men. The chairman said this matter was now before No. 1 Board. The Chief Commissioner informed an Association deputation that it was a matter for the Wages Board.

Mr. Falvey: I move the resolution. Mr. Godfrey: I second it. If the Government can give watches to other officers on the railways it ought to give them to gangers. The resolution was carried.

REDUCTION OF LENGTHS.

86. That all lengths be reduced to one mile per man on main lines, and one and a half miles on branch lines. This was carried on the voice. Resolution 87 was withdrawn.

UNIFORMS.

88. That all male employees be supplied with suitable uniforms. Carried on the voice.

CARRIAGE OF GOODS.

89. That the Department abolish the present system of free carriage of goods from nearest market town and substitute free carriage of goods from cheapest market up to one cwt. per month for employees on branch lines. Carried on the voice.

SHOVELS.

101. That all gangers and fettlers and per. way employees be supplied with one free shovel per year. Carried on the voice. A delegate suggested that it be a small shovel, and another suggested that a spoon might suit.

TELEPHONES.

102. That the department be asked to supply telephones within easy access to all felling gangs and camps so that they may acquaint themselves with the running of trains, many a man having lost his life through having no communication. Carried on the voice.

VACANCIES.

103. That all vacancies be advertised in weekly notice, and the name of successful applicant for such vacancies be published and confirmed and information of nearest doctor and school be published of such vacancies in weekly notice under the same system in vogue in South Australia, that preference for all vacancies to be given to employees, and that the limitation of time of all employees in climatic allowance limit should not exceed two years. Carried on the voice.

MARRIED MEN FOR SCHOOL AREAS.

104. That when new appointments are being made that married men with children of the school going age have preference over single men in places where there is a school. The chairman: This is being complied with by the Chief Commissioner.

STARTING AND FINISHING POINT.

105 (a). That the starting and finishing point be the place on the length nearest each man's respective home. Mr. Harpley moved the resolution. The men on the lengths, he said, worked eleven hours. On a ten-mile length they took an hour and a quarter to get to their work, and it was an hour or more after knock-off time before they reached home.

Mr. Fryke seconded. He had about eight miles of a length, and the trolley shed was about three-quarters of a mile from where he lived. A man had to start half-an-hour before turn-to time to get to the centre of the length, and it took another half-an-hour to go home. The time should start from the nearest point of the length to a man's home. At present men were absent from home eleven and twelve hours. The resolution was carried.

CHANGE OF HOURS AND SANITARY WORK.

(b). That the change of hours start on the first Monday nearest the 15th of April, and 15th September. (c). That the sanitary work be taken away from the per. way staff and men appointed to do the work. Mr. Fryke moved resolution (b). Changing hours in May, he said, meant that the men were in the dark. The resolution was carried. Mr. Fryke also moved resolution (c), stating that the men complained of having to do this work. It should be taken from the fettlers and given to someone else to do. Resolution carried on the voice.

LIVING ALLOWANCE.

106. That all employees in the south-western districts be allowed the extra 6d living allowance as far as Harden, instead of as at present. Mr. Harpley, in moving this resolution, complained that while one gang got the allowance another did not, although they were only a few miles away. He thought the men on the line were worth some consideration. Mr. Godfrey seconded. He stated that this allowance ought to be given to a man outside the 50-mile radius. A delegate: This is provided for in every Wages Board. I think it should be left to the executive to see that it is put in the Award. The principle being affirmed and the executive instructed to take up the matter, the resolution was carried.

WATERPROOF COATS.

107. That all per. way men and gatekeepers (male and female), be provided with waterproof coats and leggings. The chairman said that the Chief Commissioner had stated his intention not to supply oilskins to employees, but that he would sell them to the men at cost price. The resolution was carried.

WORKING IN WATER.

108. All pans in W.C. to be paid at the time it takes to do the same. All per. way men working in water and cleaning out service tanks to be paid the water rates. The resolution was carried on the voice.

TAP AND HOSE FOR FIREMEN.

109. That fuelmen be supplied with a tap and hose for watering coal at Singleton coal station. Carried on the voice.

WEATHER SHEDS.

110. That a weather shed be erected for the purpose of coaling engines during wet weather. Also that the fuelmen be supplied with oilskins and coats. Carried on the voice.

BAFFLE PLATES ON ENGINES.

111. That baffle plates be supplied to all engines before leaving loco-sheds. Mr. Godfrey moved the resolution, and made a brief explanation, adding that the matter should be brought before the Chief Commissioner. The resolution was carried.

SUPPLY OF RAGS.

112. That drivers be supplied with six rags, as in former days, or in lieu thereof 1 lb. of waste. After some facetious discussion the resolution was carried.

PASSES.

117. That the Chief Commissioner be requested to grant married men the privilege of having their wives included on the four privilege passes. This would not increase the number of passes issued, but it would give the married men a concession. Under present regulations a pass issued on which a wife is included counts as two. This resolution was carried, and the new regulations published in last week's "Co-operator" were read by the chairman. Resolutions 118 and 119 were withdrawn.

THE ISSUE OF PASSES.

120. That all sub-inspectors be given authority to issue passes in cases of bona fide emergency cases. The chairman explained that the Chief Commissioner had refused to grant this request. The resolution was carried on the motion of Mr. Godfrey, seconded by Mr. Kenny.

CONSCRIPTION.

121. That no person who advocated conscription be employed in any capacity in the Association. That conference seriously consider the advisability of issuing financial badges. Mr. Smithers moved the resolution and Mr. Pinkstone seconded. Mr. Godfrey opposed the motion. He stated that to carry the resolution meant that they were trying to force their opinions down his throat. If they were going to allow this sort of thing they would soon be bringing in the religious question. He did not care what a man's opinions were, but regarded it as a matter of principle. He was an anti-conscriptionist, but he was not going to crucify other men for having their own opinion. They might as well say that they would expel all Liberals from the union, and he knew some good unionists who were Liberals. He had been defeated on the Gardner question, but that did not affect him in the slightest. Mr. Denford stated that conscription was dead against the principle of industrial organisation. They should have freedom of speech in the union so long as such freedom did not go against the principle of industrial unionism. The conscriptionist would not allow freedom of speech. He, for instance, did not wish to fight for this or any other country, but the conscriptionist, if they had their way, would make him do so. The conscriptionist wanted to take away from him the right to do what he liked with his life, and no advocate of such a thing should be allowed to hold office in the Association. He should be kicked right out of it. Take the Labor movement to-day. The danger was not the National Government, nor the Liberals, but the men that wanted to sell it body and soul. They wanted to smash up the movement the same as had been done in other places, and take away their industrial conditions. They should carry this resolution and pick the men out, refuse to work alongside of the traitors, and treat them worse than they would scabs. Mr. Smith hoped that the resolution would be defeated. It was introducing a dangerous policy, and making a hard and fast rule that it would be very difficult for them to follow. If a man was a good trades unionist that was all they had the right to expect of him. They should stand for liberty of opinion and conduct, and should not try to drag down people because they had a different opinion from themselves. He did not think Mr. Denford was responsible for what he said, and he hoped to see the Allies come out victorious in the war. If a man told him that he would not fight for his own country he would call him a "mongrel." If they were going to introduce this principle they would bring about the disintegration of the organisation. It was foolish to try to force people to hold one opinion. The P.L.L. had wrecked the Labor party. (Disorder and cries of "Chair.") He hoped the resolution would be defeated. Mr. Lockhard stated that the resolution did not mention the rank and

file. It only mentioned those employed by the Association. There was, he understood, one of the executive members who did not have the backbone to say that he was a conscriptionist. They could not talk of freedom under conscription. Mr. Smithers stated that argument had been adduced from the standpoint of the conscriptionist. Mr. Godfrey thought they should not push their opinions down his throat, but this was exactly what the conscriptionist wanted to do. They were only taking the precaution to prevent those that were willing to give their organisation over to military conscription from doing so. He wished to know where the unions would have been had conscription been introduced. After some further discussion the resolution was put to the meeting, and a show of hands resulted in 23 for and 14 against.

Mr. Godfrey moved for a division, which resulted as follows:—For, 28; against, 15. It was then resolved that the names be published in the "Co-operator."

The division list had not been received from Head Office at the time of going to press, but it will probably be available for next issue. Mr. Landers: Will any person elected to office be put out as a result of this vote? The chairman: No, he will not. If a man got up and advocated conscription he would not be employed.

Some debate took place on the second part of this resolution referring to badges, and it was eventually resolved not to adopt the proposal.

PUBLICATION OF VACANCIES.

123. Employees off duty over two days through sickness be compelled to produce a medical certificate. That if the Department requires a certificate it be at the Department's expense, and not the employee. The motion was carried on the motion of Messrs. Falvey and Lockhard.

QUESTION OF SENIORITY.

124. That men with seniority of service shall have prior right over those that are senior in grade, and that seniority shall rule in cases where men are equal. The resolution was moved by Mr. Kenny and seconded by Mr. Godfrey. Mr. Munro opposed the proposal, saying that in the shops to-day they found the boss putting up men that were senior in service, but who were not competent.

Mr. Moody supported the resolution, saying that in the tramway department it was a vital question. Young men were taking the place of older ones at a reduced rate of pay. Mr. Pinkstone opposed the motion. If it were carried, he said, it would allow men to come into the shops and take precedence of others that knew the work better. Mr. Paull moved an amendment that the resolution apply to railway and tramway traffic and per. way branches. The men engaged in these branches knew how important the matter was to them. Mr. Munro seconded the amendment.

Mr. Arnold opposed the amendment. The executive had had a case in hand in which a man who had only thirteen years' service was put into a senior position, and was paid a shilling a day extra. The Commissioner said that this man was better than others, that he had the ability. He hoped that the resolution would be carried, not the amendment. It would suit the men in the car and wagon shop.

Mr. Godfrey said that the Association had always stood for seniority of service, all things being equal. Mr. Paull withdrew his amendment. Mr. Falvey opposed the motion. If all things were equal it might be all right. Supposing, however, there was a vacancy for an inspector and an S.M., and a porter applied for the vacancy; they could not expect the man with less ability to get the job, even if he had longer service.

Mr. Evans spoke in favour of the motion, and complained that Germans were appointed over Brits. Mr. Roe pointed out that a similar resolution was passed at last Conference unanimously. They then decided in favour of seniority in service as against seniority in grade. At Darling Harbour men with eighteen months' service were sent from the

(Continued on page 8.)

MAKE YOUR OWN COUGH MIXTURE

A pint of the finest quality remedy for coughs, colds and throat troubles—equal to 12s worth of ordinary mixtures—may be made in a few minutes by adding 2s worth of HEAN'S ESSENCE to water and sweetening. Sir Rider Haggard, the famous novelist, who recently visited Australia, wrote on the eve of his departure: "You will be interested to know that I am taking a supply of HEAN'S ESSENCE away with me. Upon my return to England I shall be pleased to bring its merits under the notice of my friends." HEAN'S ESSENCE is obtainable from all leading chemists and stores.

HOSPITAL FUND PARS

(By the Secretary.)

The annual general meeting was interesting, representative and live. Next year the meeting should begin an hour earlier. The business is too heavy to put through in two hours. Special features made debate and the late president's retirement was responsible for many kind and noteworthy references to his 27 years of work. Every man who reads this will join in the wish that Mr. W. H. Swain will be spared to enjoy the results of his resting years for the maximum allotted to mortals. He has been an alderman for 20 years, and is still in municipal harness.

The amount collected and entered in the name of Mr. S. E. Hilliard in the annual report should have been credited to Mr. J. W. Nicholson, Mr. Hilliard, who has been elected again as trustee, was a collector for many years, but on being made foreman in his branch had to relinquish collecting. We like to give credit to whom credit is due. Mr. Nicholson is a good worker for the fund, a good attendant at the monthly meetings, and a re-elected vice-president.

Mr. J. Phelan, of the Works Manager's Office, Eveleigh, and who collected there last year, was erroneously entered as being in the Signal branch in the annual report. Between printers' errors and the maze of branches these errors are perhaps excusable. Mr. Phelan is in harness for the fund again this year.

Mr. Basset Evans has been again elected by the Branch Association as Hospital Fund representative for the ensuing year. He is one of the best men we have listed, and does great credit to his branch.

Mr. A. H. Molloy has been removed from Rushcutters Bay to the Ultimo Tram Depot. He is succeeded by Mr. F. M. Humphries at the Bay as fund agent, and will give our veteran friend Mr. R. Long a hand with the traffic collection at Ultimo.

Amongst the veterans at the annual meeting we met Mr. J. Lamond, who, for many a year, was on the executive of the Amalgamated. Jim looks well, and is still going strong. He is a foreman in his branch (Car and Wagon) now.

Another good man was noticeable (Mr. W. Clissold), the well known guard now attached to the Chief Ticket Inspector's office. But there are so many old faces, and space will not permit me to name all of them. Mr. W. E. Newell did very valuable work at the meeting, and has been a good friend to us at the Electrical Engineer's office for many a long year.

Mr. Mulholland has taken up the work on the Otford-Clifton deviation works. So far I have not found any difficulty in getting willing helpers to carry out the fund's work. I would like to ask the "Co-operator" to thank each and every one for myself and for the committee.

The retirement of Mr. W. H. Swain both from the service and from the Hospital Fund chair will not be allowed to pass unnoticed. Something will take shape at our monthly meeting on the first Friday in April.

I again would like to remind all depot collectors that they are ex-officio members of the committee, and are entitled to take part in our committee business on the first Friday in each month, whether notified or not. This should dispense with a number of notices.

I notice that our excellent friend, Mr. E. E. Freeman, late of the Resident Engineer's office, Alexandria, is now located at White Bay. Trusting that the removal is pleasant and remunerative, we extend to Mr. Freeman our thanks and best wishes.

THE SAFETY VALVE

MR. THOMPSON AND THE INTER-STATE CONFERENCE.

Mr. Falvey said: "Notwithstanding your confident denial of my previous statement re above, and the fact that you have obtained unimpeachable evidence from outside to support your contention, I still desire, per medium of your valuable paper, to contradict your report of the discussion re clause 18 of the general secretary's report, and in support of my statement, I would, with all humility, refer yourself and those others who support your view, to the gentleman who did make use of the statement credited to me, namely, Mr. Munro, delegate from the Sydney branch. Awaiting the apology which I am sure you will hasten to tender."

"The 'Co-operator' did not say it had 'unimpeachable evidence from outside to support its contention.' It said it had its notebook, and that others were under the impression that Mr. Falvey said what was attributed to him. No claim is made to infallibility either by this paper or by those that received similar impressions.—(Ed.)"

MEETING OF THE AMALGAMATED EXECUTIVE

A meeting (the first of the newly-elected members) of the Amalgamated Executive took place on Saturday last, at Head Office. There were present Messrs. V. G. Kavanagh (presiding), N. Smith, G. Armstrong, Hopkins, Regan, D. Clynne, Wallace, Falvey, Roe, Rogers, Evers and McDonald, who was appointed owing to the resignation of Mr. Walsh. Mr. Davis was the only member absent. Mr. R. Corish acted as general secretary in the absence of Mr. Thompson.

After the reading of the minutes Mr. Evers referred to the fact that the "Co-operator" report of the previous Executive meeting contained matter which it had been suggested by the President and others present should be left out. He said that the wishes of members of the Executive should be considered by the paper, and that there were occasions when it was impolitic to publish matters that would be calculated to detrimentally affect the Association.

The chairman said that in such cases they could go into committee and thus avoid publication of anything of the nature described. Mr. Wallace: Has the Executive the power to prohibit publication. Mr. Evers: It's a matter of courtesy.

Mr. Hopkins: Was the "Co-operator" asked not to report the matter referred to. Mr. Evers: Yes. The matter referred to by Mr. Evers was as follows:—

"Mr. Evers said that as the hour was late there was no time to go through the accounts. The general secretary said that as men lost time to give evidence before the Board they ought not to be kept waiting for their money. Rather than that should happen, he would pay the money from his own pocket."

Mr. Clynne said that he was one of those that suggested that the witnesses on the Board should get the money due to them, and in regard to the matter of the payment to Mr. Corish of Board fees he thought it unnecessary to have it published. Mr. Smith thought that the "Co-operator" should be amenable to the Executive as regards a matter of a confidential character. The paper should respect the wishes of the Executive and might be asked to do so in future.

Mr. Rogers said that it appeared to him that only one man forced the hands of the paper. Mr. Falvey said that apparently the general secretary forced the matter into the report. Mr. Evers said that the minutes were not a correct report of the proceedings as regards the general secretary and the payment of accounts. The position was that the accounts had not been dealt with and he (Mr. Evers) would have had to sign cheques that had not been passed by the Executive; but there was no need for the general secretary to say in the minutes that there was a disposition not to pass the accounts. He (Mr. Evers) thought the accounts should be passed at the earliest possible moment.

The chairman agreed that it was not fair to say that the Executive showed a disposition to let them stand over. Mr. Evers moved for the deletion of this part of the minutes and this was carried. The following resolution was then carried: "That it be a direction for future guidance that the general secretary be not granted leave of absence until three weeks after the annual conference."

A letter from the general secretary was read in which he pointed out that under rule 21, the proceedings of Conference should have terminated on Thursday instead of Friday. This fact was admitted but the opinion was expressed that the proceedings on Friday should be regarded as valid.

The chairman said that two-thirds of the delegates were present. He thought that Conference was master of the Association just the same as Parliament was master of its own procedure and could have another day's sitting if it so desired. Mr. Smith admitted that there might be a technical objection to Friday's sitting of the Conference, but he thought that the decisions arrived at should be as binding as those of the other four days.

Mr. Corish said that in the absence of the general secretary, he had to register the new rules, one of which dealt with the sitting of the Conference. Personally, he thought that Conference was master of its own actions and could extend the sitting days if it was found necessary to do so.

Mr. Clynne pointed out that neither the general secretary nor anyone else raised any objection at the time. Mr. Falvey desired to move that the Executive affirm the legality of the proceedings on Friday. The chairman: You can't do that. Mr. Smith quoted rule 25 laying emphasis on the words "inaugurate any movement, or order, initiate or approve of any proceedings," etc. This rule, he submitted, would cover the matter.

The subject was then dropped, the general understanding being that the decisions of Conference on Friday shall be regarded as valid and binding on the Executive.

Mr. Corish was authorised to sign, was not satisfied with the prices

cheques during Mr. Thompson's absence.

FINANCE.

Mr. Evers reported on the financial position of the Association. Their position was better than was the position of last year's Executive when they took office. They had more members than they had last year, but the finances would require careful consideration. They had a balance of £156/16/7. The Conference cost £238/12/6, and the delegates had all been paid. Of the total accounts on the account sheet £140/7/ had been paid, leaving £374/8/1.

Mr. Clynne said that Wages Board expenses would not be so heavy this year. P.L.L. AFFILIATION. Mr. Wallace moved that this matter stand over for six months. They were not going to receive any material and immediate benefit from the affiliation and he thought, in view of the state of the finances, that it could be allowed to stand over. The chairman said that Conference had decided to affiliate and they could not get out of it. The amount was passed for payment, and Mr. Corish was instructed to make the necessary arrangements.

MONTHLY MEETING. It was decided to hold the Executive meeting on the first Saturday in each month. The President and Messrs. Clynne and Smith, with Mr. Evers as an alternate member, were instructed to wait on the C.C. and ask for special privilege passes for country members of the Executive. The President, general secretary, treasurer and the member representing the section involved in any particular matter of urgent importance, were authorised to act for the Executive in any emergency.

A.W.U. AMALGAMATION. The President and Messrs. Evers, Clynne, and Wallace were deputed to confer with the A.W.U. and report at some future meeting. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The general secretary was instructed to assist the Returning Officer to make arrangements for the election of general secretary and other officials covered by the decision of Conference. Nominations are to be signed by not less than six members of the Association. It was decided, on the suggestion of Mr. Roe, that branch secretaries or chairmen be appointed deputy returning officers, and that they initial the ballot papers before issuing them to members, but do not count the votes.

The acting general secretary was instructed to register the new rules passed at Conference. Messrs. Falvey, Roe and McDonald were deputed to draw up and arrange all the decisions of Conference that are to be submitted to the Chief Commissioner. THE PAULLAWTON CASE. The chairman said that it was impossible to deal with this case off-hand, and suggested that it be investigated by a sub-committee. The President and Messrs. Wallace, Evers, Falvey and McDonald were appointed as a sub-committee for this purpose. The acting general secretary was instructed in regard to matters connected with several of the Railway Boards.

In reply to a request from Eskbank that an organiser be sent there it was decided to reply stating that the matter will have attention immediately the organisers are appointed. A similar reply is to be sent to Cowra. THE "CO-OPERATOR" DEBT. Mr. Evers said that it was no use leaving this matter stand over, as the debt had to be paid in fifteen months. Mr. Rogers said that he was anxious to get the matter settled. Mr. Wallace wished to know what chance there was of raising the money from the forced contributions of unfinancial members. The chairman thought they could get a good deal of money from that source.

Mr. Wallace moved that the general secretary be instructed to take the matter in hand at once. Mr. Smith said he had been thinking the matter over, and had come to the conclusion that an art union would assist them. They had a big field to work on. Mr. Evers said that an arrears campaign needed careful consideration, and the whole of the responsibility should not be placed upon the general secretary. Mr. Wallace included the president and treasurer in his motion, which was carried. Mr. Smith's suggestion for an art union was also accepted, and Messrs. Smith, Clynne, Falvey and Armstrong were deputed to consider the matter and report at next meeting. Mr. Wallace thought that the words "Co-operator debt" should be omitted, as people didn't like to work off a dead horse. Mr. Falvey: The members got the benefit of the debt. Several tenders for printing were considered, quotations having been obtained from the "Co-operator" and one other firm. As regards new cards, Mr. Falvey was not satisfied with the prices

quoted, and thought they were too high. He asked that prices for cards be obtained elsewhere before a decision was arrived at. The general secretary might go to Messrs. Tomlin's for a price.

On the motion of Mr. Rogers, the "Co-operator's" quotation for collectors' books was accepted. A letter was read from Mr. Clinton complaining that a German had given preference over others better qualified. The Commissioner when approached on the matter refused to disturb existing arrangements. After some discussion it was decided to get full particulars of the case, with a view to taking action.

Mr. A. W. Buckley, who is contesting the Surry Hills seat as the selected Labor man, was granted three weeks' leave of absence. Some discussion took place on the question as to whether the salary decided upon by Conference for organisers should apply to Mr. Buckley, or whether it was meant to apply to the organisers appointed as a result of the forthcoming ballot of members.

Mr. Armstrong upheld the latter view very strenuously, but a resolution to pay the increased salary at once was carried. Messrs. Smith and Armstrong dissenting. Discussion ensued on the subject of wages paid to the staff at Head Office, but as the matter of the reorganisation of the staff there has to be considered the question was held over for the present.

Murrurundi wrote asking that the general secretary attend a social to be held there on March 10. It was resolved to notify the branch that the general secretary is away on holidays. A Murrurundi case, in which an employee named Miller claimed that he had not received payment for a full day when he should have received it, was the subject of a lengthy discussion. Eventually it was decided to make investigations and to take the matter to the Industrial Court if the facts warrant such a step.

Two other cases from the same place were considered, involving the employment of boys at men's work. It was decided to take the matter up with the C.C. A notification from W.E.A. to the effect that a series of lectures on venereal disease were to be held at the Trades Hall was received, as was also a request from the P.L.L. Executive for the names of members willing to assist in the election campaign.

A communication from the Workers' Defence Committee was ordered to lie on the table. The chairman said that when the appeals case was over some action would probably be taken by the P.L.L. for the appointment of a Royal Commission.

£100,000 A GREAT FIGHTING FUND. LABOR MUST PREPARE FOR THE FRAY. If Labor desires to win the next Federal elections, or even to retain its present position in Federal politics, it will have to gird itself for the coming fray. The Tories have formulated their schemes for securing control of the Federal Parliament, and have set to work in earnest to put their plans into operation.

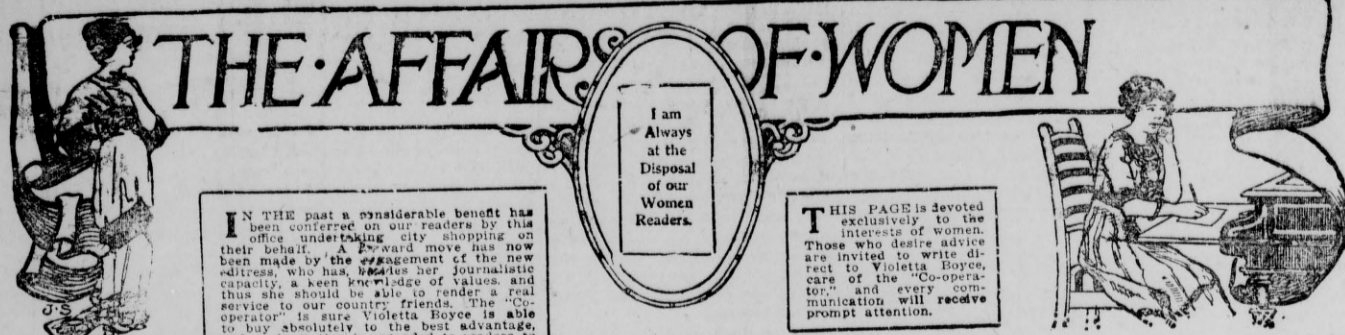
During the past month there have been numerous conferences between newspaper editors and managers in all of the capital cities, local Tories, and Tories from other States. It is recognised that the split in the Labor party in the Federal House has provided the Tories with the best chance they ever had of regaining power in the Federal Parliament. Money is not lacking, for it is said that already a fighting fund of £100,000 has been established in Melbourne. Last week an organising secretary was appointed at a salary of £250 per annum to begin, which is to be increased from year to year. It is understood that a guarantee of five years' employment has been given to the organising secretary. The fighting fund will probably be double before the campaign starts.

With this knowledge before it Labor should get busy, and leave no stone unturned to ensure the defeat of the plans of the capitalists who are using the "Win-the-War" gag to cover up their political schemes.

TO BE AN EDITOR. Most any one can be an editor. All the editor has to do is to sit at a desk six days of the week, four weeks of the month, and twice months of the year, and "edit" such stuff as this:—

"Mrs. Jones, of Cactus Creek, let a can opener slip last week, and cut herself in the pantry."

"A mischievous lad



THE AFFAIRS OF WOMEN

I am Always at the Disposal of our Women Readers.

THIS PAGE is devoted exclusively to the interests of women. Those who desire advice are invited to write direct to Violetta Boyce, care of the "Co-operator," and every communication will receive prompt attention.

IN THE past a considerable benefit has been conferred on our readers by this office undertaking city shopping on their behalf. A few more have now been made by the engagement of the new address, who has, besides her journalistic capacity, a keen knowledge of values and thus she should be able to render a real service to our country friends. The "Co-operator" is sure Violetta Boyce is able to buy absolutely to the best advantage, and an invitation is extended to readers to try this service. There is no charge collected anywhere for this.

THE COOK.

STEWES.

Stew, Beef Kidney.—Slice one pound of kidney, season and flour. When these are fried sufficiently, take out, and make a gravy in the pan with butter, flour, pepper, salt, mixed herbs, and water. A little mushroom ketchup is a nice addition.

Stew, Hot-Pot.—Cut one pound of buttock steak into pieces about three inches long and wide; sprinkle these well with pepper and salt. Butter a pudding basin and put in a layer of raw potato peeled and cut in slices, one potato sliced, a teaspoonful of finely-chopped parsley, then a layer of seasoned steak, then potato, onion, parsley, and steak until the basin is full. Pour over a breakfastcupful of boiling water, cover the top with an extra thick layer of sliced potato, put a plate that will stand the heat of the oven, on top, and bake in a hot oven for an hour and a half.

Stew, Irish.—Two pounds of scrag end of neck of mutton, ten potatoes, four small onions, and nearly a pint and a half of water, pepper and salt. Take the mutton and divide it into portions, put it into the stewpan with alternate layers of sliced potatoes and onions, add the water (cold) and season with salt and pepper. Cover the stewpan closely, and let it stew gently until the greater part of the gravy is absorbed.

Stew, Rabbit.—Cut a young rabbit that has been soaked for half an hour into joints, and stew for an hour in milk, with a little butter, three or four chopped onions, and a blade of mace. Thicken with flour and season.

Stew, Scotch Hotch-Potch.—Prepare one quart of mixed vegetables in equal quantities, carrots, turnips, celery, onions, sprigs of cauliflower, and a gill of dried peas, and add three quarts of water in which mutton has been boiled. When boiled tender, add a few mutton chops freed from fat, pepper, salt to taste, and a lump of sugar. The peas will require to be soaked over night.

Stewed Steak.—A pound and a half of beefsteak, two onions stuck with cloves, a glass of wine, pepper and salt. Cut the steak into slices, roll them and arrange them in a stone jar. Add onions and cloves, a glass of wine, with pepper and salt. Cover tightly, place in pan of boiling water, and cook gently.

SOUPS.

Soup, Haricot.—Put a pint of small haricot beans to soak in cold water overnight, drain them and put them in a saucepan with a large Spanish onion roughly chopped, two ounces of fresh butter, salt and pepper, and two quarts of cold water, and boil gently until the beans are quite soft, after which pass the whole through a fine wire sieve, rubbing the pulp through patiently with the back of a wooden spoon, and moistening it frequently with a little of the liquid; then return the puree to the saucepan, add about a pint and a half of hot milk, and a large tablespoonful of chopped parsley, bring to the boil again, and serve.

Soup, Lentil.—Boil up three pints of white stock, add a quarter of a pound of lentils, a head of celery, three onions, carrot and turnip, cut up, a little mace, thyme, parsley, and two bay leaves. Boil and strain. Add a half pint of milk, with an ounce of flour. Stir in the yolks of two eggs, a piece of butter, and serve hot.

Soup, Mock Turtle.—Mock turtle soup should be flavoured with a bouquet of sweet herbs, onions, carrots, peppercorns, and salt.

Soup, Mulligatawny.—Chop and fry in butter a quarter of a pound of lean ham, three ounces each of carrot, onion, and apple. Add three

THE BOY THAT WAS.

When the hair about the temples starts to show the signs of grey, and a fellow realises that he's wandering far away from the pleasures of his boyhood and his youth, and never more will know the joy of laughter as he did in days of yore. Oh, it's then he starts to thinking of a stubby little lad, with a face as brown as berries and a soul supremely glad.

When a grey-haired dreamer wanders down the lanes of memory, and forgets the living present for the time of "used-to-be." He takes off his shoes and stockings, and he throws his coat away. And he's free from all restrictions, save the rules of manly play. He may be in tattered garments, but he's bared in the sun. He forgets his proud successes and the riches he has won.

Oh, there's not a man that liveth but would give his all to be the stubby little fellow that in dreamland he can see; and the splendours that surround him and the joys about him spread only seem to rise to taunt him with the boyhood that has fled. When the hair about his temples starts to show Time's silver stain, then the richest man that's living yearns to be a boy again.

—Houston Post.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES AND SUNDAY WORK.

Replying to a letter from the general secretary of the "All Grades," the Superintendent of Lines says:—"In reply to your letter of the 31st ult., relative to females employed in the carriage-cleaning department working on Sydney station on Sundays, I have to advise there is evidently some misunderstanding in this matter, as no females are employed in Sydney cloak room on any day. Evidently the reference is intended for the ladies' waiting room, where two attendants are required on duty each Sunday. Roster arrangements are now in course of preparation by which each of the attendants concerned will have one Sunday off in three."

REFLECTIONS.

In England shouting is prohibited. There was a day when, at "The Purple Cow," We stood each other pints of Triple X, And nodding o'er the glasses, cried, "Here's how," Likewise "I catch your eye," or "Best respects."

We did not drink alone, but tete-a-tete, Or shared our cordials with a cheery crowd; The horny-handed navvy nudged his mate, Plew off the froth, and said, "You done me proud."

But in this later introspective day We take the tankard from the polished shelf, And draw the beer, regard its depth, and say, "I look towards you," to that mirrored self. —"The Passing Show."

tablespoonfuls of curry powder and the same quantity of flour, and fry in a little longer. Then put them in a stewpan with two quarts of bone stock, and simmer all together for an hour and half. Strain, return to the stewpan, and make thoroughly hot again, adding lemon-juice and salt. Cut some meat from a cooked fowl, or pieces of cooked white fish will do as well, lay these in a tureen and pour the hot soup over.

Soup, Ox-tail.—Put into a stewpan with an onion, a carrot, and savoury herbs, and ox-tail cut into joints, add to it a quart of water and simmer very gently for four or five hours. Then strain off the liquor, skim and season, keeping it hot. Mix a tablespoonful of flour with a little cold water in the stewpan, pour the strained liquor to this, add meat and vegetables, let it all boil up once, then pour into tureen.

Soup, Pea.—Stew a quart of split peas, soaked overnight, in four quarts of good broth, for an hour. Pass through a sieve, season to taste, and heat again. A little celery and other suitable vegetables will flavour and improve the soup, and bacon or veal may be cooked with it. Powdered dry mint should be sprinkled in before serving.

AFTER THE WAR.

TRADES UNION CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

FABIAN RESEARCH DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE.

The fourth of the Fabian Research Department Conferences on the above subject was held on the 14th December in London. The discussion, which was on "The Entry of Women into Male Occupations," was in many respects similar to that of the previous conference, on the relations of skilled and unskilled. Once again two apparently irreconcilable claims were put forward. On the one hand, it was urged that the only safeguard for men's rates was restriction of the supply of labour, and that for the men's unions to admit women into the higher grades of industry would inevitably break down the barriers built up to protect these rates. Moreover, the importance of apprenticeship (which few women are prepared to enter upon) in preventing the artisan from falling to be a mere cog in the industrial machine, raised an issue wider than that of the interest of the male worker, and makes the introduction of women into industry on a large scale a social and

were frequently very bad. In the woodworking trades, where extensive substitution was taking place, L. 2 did not apply, though the majority of the men formerly employed were fully skilled, and much Government work was being done. There was no Government regulation (except for the aeroplane making) and only one local Trade Union agreement regulating substitution, and the introduced female labour was very cheap. It was not difficult after this to imagine the state of affairs in the unorganised trades. Miss Lawrence thought that one or two important points which had come to light in connection with substitution gave hope for the future. At last the attention of the skilled artisan had been drawn to the conditions under which the unskilled and semi-skilled had to work, and at the same time they had learned that if they cared to, improve the conditions of their less fortunate fellow workers they could do so. Already in engineering this was being done; and if after the war the skilled workers would continue to assist

Not Merely a Sex Problem.

On the other side, the conference was told that a woman should not be penalised on grounds of sex, and that women should have all the rights of men, and be subjected to the same conditions as men.

As at the previous conference, there was agreement on two points only. One was that only the employing class could gain from a sex war after the war, and that an apparent triumph for either the men or the women could not be more than temporary. And there was general agreement that the workers must present a united front to the employer, and that, however wide the gulf which separated the men from the women, it must be bridged before the day of reckoning after the war. Just as the trade unionists and socialists at the third conference asked for a reconciliation of skilled artisan and labourer in the face of the common enemy, so at the fourth conference there was a practically unanimous demand for the immediate formulation by the responsible leaders of the men and the organised women of a policy which shall not penalise a woman on the grounds of her sex, but at the same time safeguard the hard-won rights of the men. Men and women must

Settle Their Differences before meeting the employer.

Miss Susan Lawrence, who stated that she was speaking as an individual, and not as a representative of the National Federation of Women Workers, gave first a summary of the actual process of the substitution of male by female labour during the past two years. She emphasised the wide variations from trade to trade in the conditions under which substitution had taken place. In some industries, notably in engineering, statutory conditions have been secured. At first very low rates were paid for female labour, even in this industry, but eventually (as a result of pressure from the unions) Circular L 2 was obtained from the Ministry of Munitions. That this circular was imperfect was acknowledged even by the Ministry (who some time ago had promised a revision of it, which had not yet taken place), but without it things would have been much worse. In the tailoring industry, the action of the Board of Trade had given statutory force to a minimum of 6d an hour for substituted female labour, and this was reinforced by a strict Trade Union agreement as to the process on which female labour might be employed.

Question of Wages and Conditions would have to be considered at once.

Mr. Bunning then dealt with the demand for "equal pay for equal work." There were two possible interpretations of this. If it meant an equal time rate, this would lead to the exclusion of women from some trades, and the exclusion of men from others. If, on the other hand, it meant an equal piece rate—equal rates for equal work—the experience of industries where this had been tried tended to show that the earnings of women would be less than those of the men. He thought that the claim for equal rates was a legitimate claim, but it was open to the objection that it meant the adoption of piecework, and he doubted whether the piecework system was always good. Piecework was now being greatly extended, notably in America, but it was not possible to introduce it everywhere.

A change of this nature would also complicate the methods of fixing wages. Wages were not now fixed entirely in accordance with the value of the work; the system of the fixation had undergone a radical change in the last 15 years. Wages were formerly fixed by the law of supply and demand, modified by the strength of Trade Unionism. There was also taken into consideration in some trades the profits of the employer or the selling price of the product. But the cost of living was now considered, too; even in the mining industry, where the selling price was the main consideration, we now had the Miners' Minimum Wage Act.

Unorganised Trades.

But there were many other industries where Trade Unionism was weak or non-existent, and here, though substitution was being carried out very rapidly under the pressure of the Government, the male standards were receiving little or no consideration. In these industries the conditions of substitution

In the Organisation of Women,

if the artisan refused to set up a machine without first discovering what rate the operator of that machine was to receive, the outlook for the future would be brighter.

Mr. G. H. Stuart-Bunning, of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, proceeded to deal with the problems raised by the events detailed by the previous speaker. He said that, though it was true that each of the agreements mentioned by Miss Lawrence contained a provision for the restoration of the status quo, he did not consider them of any permanent value. Whatever promises there might be, the fact remained that the women had had, for the first time, experience of higher wages, better work, and the employers had also had active experience of female labour. No agreements and no promises could remove this experience or the desires of the women and the employers. The women would not go back. If the skilled workers or the women took up an intransigent position only, the employer could benefit.

If a Woman came into an Industry she must be prepared to accept the same conditions as a man.

In his own trade, when women were introduced, they normally did not enter upon the seven years' apprenticeship. Few girls were willing to enter upon a seven years' apprenticeship, as the great majority hoped to find a more pleasant occupation before they reached the age of 21; consequently their "apprenticeship" was only one of three or four years. They only learned one section of the trade, and they received a wage which a man could not accept. Apprenticeship was the only way of preventing an influx of semi-skilled and unskilled workers. The importance, from the point of view of the maintenance of the standard rate, of controlling the supply of labour could not be over-estimated. His union was not prepared to undermine its position by opening the trade to everybody.

Some Trades Fundamentally Unsuitable for Women.

as the mother of the race. Finally, he hoped that the question would be settled by conferences between the men and the women. In the discussion which followed several speakers challenged Mr. Naylor's assumption that a woman normally maintained herself, while it was also mentioned that the war had greatly increased the number of women who could not hope for marriage. On the other hand, it was urged that the displaced men had an absolute right to the positions they held before the war, that the skilled workers should not lose by their patriotism, and that an influx of women would undoubtedly break down the standard rate. Both sides united in a demand for conferences between the men's and women's leaders.

HAIR WASHES.

Hair may be kept from going grey prematurely sometimes. Take a wash of alcohol and strong black tea in equal parts. Add to this a handful of kitchen salt. This forms a simple and harmless remedy, and will often not only arrest the greyness but strengthen the hair and increase its growth.

Grey hair can be made to keep its silvery tone if constantly washed and rinsed in clear water in which a little blue has been shaken. For falling hair an excellent preparation is made by adding to eight ounces of alcohol (spirits of wine) half an ounce each of glycerine, spirits of lavender, and tincture of cantharides. Eight grains of sulphate of quinine are then added, and the mixture well shaken. Any perfume desired may be used for scenting it, and it should be well rubbed into the hair night and morning.

Another recommended hair preserver is made thus: Take half an ounce of camphor (finely powdered) and moisten with two tablespoonfuls of gin. Put this into a pint bottle and fill with water. Apply with a sponge to the roots of the hair twice every week. Brush the hair at least once daily, using a brush with rather long, soft bristles. This "preserver" will promote the growth of the hair, besides keeping it clean, soft, and glossy.

A fisherman, happening by, and mistaking his occupation, said:—"Kechin' many, pard?" "I am a fisher of men," replied the preacher, with dignity.

"Well, you sure have the right bait," replied the fisherman, with an admiring glance at the girls.

"It's leap year, Miss Peachey. I suppose you will look to it that you get a husband before the season is over?" "Be assured I will. And I mean to look considerably before I leap."

DOPING THE CHILDREN

THE DANGER OF OPIATES.

This is one of a series of articles on medical subjects for the home sent out by the department of preventive medicine of the University of Missouri at Columbia:—

The dangers of secret preparations, patent medicines, have been pointed out many times. The great majority of these preparations depend on alcohol or some form of narcotic for their effect.

Narcotics are things which dull our senses, make us sleepy, lessen our perception, and usually slow the heart. Many of them have the power of putting us so soundly to sleep that we cannot wake up again. Almost without exception, they establish a craving for their continued use in increasing doses, which we call a drug habit. Without exception, such habits are evil.

There is one class of patients on which the effects of narcotics are peculiarly dangerous, namely, children. Children are peculiarly susceptible to the effects of opium.

People are misled sometimes by the use of names which they are not familiar, such as heroin and codeine. These are all derivations of opium, and weight for weight are much stronger and more potent in their effects than opium. Every mother and every person who has the care of children should know these names, and know what they stand for. The patent medicine manufacturers start with children almost as soon as they are born. There are dozens of so-called remedies for teething children under the name of soothing or teething syrups. One of the best known of these contains a dangerous amount of morphine, and there are few practitioners who have not seen dangerous results following the use of this nostrum, which lures its victims by the name of a woman who is supposed to have invented it and put it out. Naturally, no one would suspect that a kind, motherly woman would use anything which would be injurious to a baby. There is no question that these syrups quiet children, but in doing so they interfere greatly with nutrition. The sleep is not the healthy sleep which a child should enjoy. It is "doping." It interferes with the natural secretions of the body, and markedly with nutrition.

There are also cough syrups recommended especially for children, and medicines for croup. Cases of opium poisoning following the use of these cough syrups are frequent. Here opium again in one form or another is the active ingredient. Croup may be a simple disease brought on by indigestion or exposure to cold. The ordinary forms of croup are readily relieved by simple remedies, but croup may be, and often times is, diphtheria of the larynx, the most dangerous form of diphtheria. This is "true croup," as contrasted with the simple form, which is known as "spasmodic croup." Narcotics in such a case mask the symptoms and mask the danger, but cannot possibly do anything but harm.

If the parents decide that a narcotic must be given to a child, let them know exactly the dose and preparation which they are using, but it is never best to give any opiate to a child except on the advice of a competent physician.

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Men's White Mercerised Twill Golf Shirts, 5/6 each.
Men's White Jap. Silk Shirts, Collar and Pocket, 10/6, 12/6 and 14/6.
Men's White Jap. Silk Golf Shirts, Double Cuff and Collar, 14/6 each.
Men's Tussore Silk Shirts, Collar and Pocket, 10/6 and 12/6.
Men's Tussore Silk Golf Shirts, Double Cuff and Collar, 12/6 each.
Men's Cream Flannel Tennis Shirts, Lightweight, Collar and Pocket, 10/6 each.
Men's White Mercerised Fashion Shirts, Stiff Cuffs and Bands, 4/6, 5/11 each.
Men's White Striped Zephyr Fashion Shirts, Stiff Cuffs and Bands, 5/11, 6/11.
Men's Pure Linen Fashion Shirts, Stiff Cuffs and Bands, 7/6 each.

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One-piece Cotton and Wool, all sizes, Navy Blue, trimmed White, Royal, and Cardinal, 4/6 each.
One-piece Pure Wool, all sizes, Navy Blue, various trimmings, also Plain Black, 8/6 each.
One-piece All Cotton, the "Sills," all sizes, Navy Blue and Black, 2/6 each.
Men's Oiled Silk Surf Caps, 2/6 each.

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N.S.W. DIVISION OF THE Railway and Tramway Employees Federation.

HEAD OFFICE:

Bowen's Building, Central Square, Sydney (opposite Railway Station). TELEPHONES: H.O., Redfern 555. N.W.P., "The Co-operator," Co-op. City 3641.

NOTE.—All matter intended for publication in the "Co-operator" should be sent direct to the "Co-operator" Office, 431 Kent-street, Sydney, by Tuesday in each week, if possible.

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LOCAL SECRETARIES KINDLY FURNISH TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS, AND NOTIFY ANY ERRORS APPEARING WITH RESPECT TO TABLE BELOW.

- Ashfield.—E. Mathieson, Sec., 133 Norton-st., Ashfield.
- Albury.—J. James, Sec., Hovel-st., Albury; Meeting as summoned.
- Armidale.—O. McDermott, Sec., Railway Station, Armidale; Caledonian Hotel, Armidale, 1st Saturday month.
- Ardglen.—S. Ham, Sec., Railway Quarters, Ardglen.
- Mt. Victoria.—Jas. Rook, Sec., Bell-rd., Mt. Victoria; Railway Station, Mount Victoria, 2nd Saturday.
- Byrock.—C. Jeff, Sec., Railway Dept., Byrock.
- Bathurst.—T. Thomas, Sec., 129 William-st., Bathurst; Masonic Hall, 1st Wed.
- Dulcain.—Thos. Egan, Sec., Dulcain; Railway Station, last Tuesday.
- Cootamundra.—R. Murray, Sec., Post Office, Cootamundra; Lodge Room, Town Hall, 1st Saturday.
- Cowra.—J. Smithers, Sec., Cowra; 1st Sunday in each month.
- Darling Harbour.—T. J. Farrell, 60 Renwick-st., Redfern; Head Office, 1st Sat.
- Dubbo.—W. H. Paix, Sec., Carrington-av., Dubbo; Rawden's Rooms, 2nd Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.
- Eveleigh.—A. J. Smith, Sec., 9 Lambert-st., Erskineville; Head Office, 2nd Wed.
- Eskbank.—G. Cooney, Oakley Park, Lithgow; Trades Hall, 1st Sunday.
- Fuelmen.—W. Montgomery.
- Goulburn.—G. Warrington, Sec., Bradley-st., Goulburn; Com. Hotel, 2nd Thurs.
- Grainville.—S. King, Milton-st., Grainville; Town Hall, 2nd Thursday.
- Gunnedah.—Geo. H. Curran, Sec., Railway Station, Gunnedah; Railway Station, 1st Saturday.
- Hurstville.—W. H. Bayliss, "Heather Brae," Oxford-st., Mortdale; Council Chambers, 2nd Saturday.
- Harden (1).—J. Carney, Sec., "Carilla," Harden; Mechanics' In., last Sunday.
- Harden (2).—Hugh Hellaby, 16 Railway-av., Harden; Meeting, 1st Sunday in month, Guard Room, at 10 a.m.
- Hornsby.—H. Hodgson, Colah-st., Hornsby; Lockwood's Rooms, Coronation-st., 1st Wednesday.
- Liverpool.—Thos. McDonnell, P.O. Minto; Meeting, Club Hotel Rooms.
- Railway Signals.—A. E. Boys, Sec., Hanover-st., Lidcombe; Head Office, 3rd Sat.
- June.—W. Nicholls, Sec., Ilabro-rd., June; St. Luke's Hall, June, 2nd Sat.
- Kiama.—S. Hyam, Shoalhaven-st., Kiama; Council Chambers, 1st Saturday.
- Lismore.—Railway Station, 1st Friday.
- Mittagong.—G. Armstrong, Sec., Railway Cres., Mittagong.
- Mudgee.—M. Waters, Sec., Railway Dept., Mudgee; Waiting Room, 2nd Wed.
- Macaroma.—O. McGrath, Railway Dept., Lyndhurst; Masonic Hall, 1st Wed.
- Murrumbidgee.—J. H. Miller, Sec., Little-st., Murrumbidgee; Railway Station, 2nd Sunday.
- Muswellbrook.—J. Higgins, Sec., P.O., Antlene; second Saturday, Railway Hotel, Muswellbrook.
- Maitland.—H. Hopkins, Sec., Abbott-st., West Maitland; Meetings as arranged.
- Moree.—A. S. Tickle, Sec., Railway Station, Moree; 2nd Friday.
- Narrandera.—F. Cowan, Railway Line, Narrandera; Waiting Room, 2nd Saturday, 8 a.m.
- Nyagan.—J. K. Harrington, Per. Way Office, Nyagan; Railway Station, 3rd Fri.
- Newcastle.—T. Godfrey, Sec., "Stanley," Elder-st., Lambton; Trades Hall, New Castle, 19 a.m., and every fourth Tuesday at Trades Hall, Newcastle, 7.30 p.m. COLLECTORS: Thos. Godfrey, loco, Hamilton; J. H. Williams, loco, Port Waratah; Joe. Kenny and Svl. Smith, loco, H.S.P.; Dave. Young, loco, H.S.P.; J. E. Finn, loco, H.S.P.; J. Whybird and P. Cooney, sorters, Newcastle; W. Sandler, J. Babbage and B. Francis, guards, Newcastle; P. Bennett and E. H. Jones, Tramways; W. Chaney, guard, Newcastle; W. G. Goup and H. P. Plumbidge, shunters, Port Waratah; B. Dunny (Eyes' gang), A. E. Doyle (Eyes' gang), W. Rodway (Eyes' gang), T. G. Collins, shunters, Steel Works; T. J. O'Neill (Gillie's' gang).
- Narrabri.—Walter Tiller, Sec., Goobar-st., West Narrabri.
- Orange.—J. McKinnon, Williams-st., East Orange; Meetings as arranged.
- Fairfax Office Staff.—E. M. Keane, P.O., Toxtala, via Queanbeyan; Williamsdale Plat., 1st Friday.
- Pictou.—W. Sattler, Railway Station, Pictou; School of Arts, 1st Thursday.
- Penrith.—C. S. Clissold, Warwick-st., Hornswood; Penrith; M.U. Hall, 11 a.m., 2nd Sunday.
- Parkes.—Owen Parkes, Sec., Talbot-st., Parkes; meeting 3rd Sunday, at Howell's White Australia Cafe.
- Queanbeyan.—E. M. Keane, P.O., Toxtala, via Queanbeyan; Williamsdale Plat., 1st Friday.
- Redfern.—Alex. McElin, Sec., Dorset-st., Redfern; meetings 3rd Monday.
- Randwick.—E. Walsh, 28 Macquarie-st., Leichhardt; meetings 3rd Thursday.
- Sydney.—C. London, Sec., Maclean-st., Parramatta; Head Office, 1st Thursday.
- Singleton.—T. Bathen, Sec., Mary-st., Singleton; Railway Station, 2nd Sunday, 10 a.m.
- Stores.—H. S. Odell, "Hammerston," Rainbow-st., Randwick; Head Office, 2nd Thursday.
- Temora.—J. E. Twaddell, Hoskin-st., Temora; Meetings as summoned.
- Tramway Traffic Office.—A. Wallace, Sec., 36 Wigram-st., and Riverside Crescent, Dulwich Hill; Office, 3rd of 4th Monday.
- Tram Officers.—W. Harding, Sec., of Terrace-rd., and Riverside Crescent, Dulwich Hill; Office, 3rd of 4th Monday.
- Tram Signalmen.—J. Long, Sec., Lamrock-av., Bondi; Head Office, after, Mon.
- Tamworth.—M. Tulk, North-st., Tamworth.
- Tenterfield.—T. Finn, Bungallay Class Room, 1st Friday.
- Trangie.—W. Warman, Whitton-rd., Trangie.
- Ultimo Power House.—E. Kavanagh, Sec., 51 Fowler-st., Campertown; Meeting, last Saturday in month.
- Woolongong.—Fred Mavin, Sec., Keiraville, Woolongong; Woolongong, 2nd Sat.
- Werris Creek.—J. Chapman, Sec., Howarth-st., Werris Creek; Meetings as arranged.
- Werris Creek.—G. Gormley, Sec., Maxwell-st., Wellington; Railway Institute, Wellington.
- Waterfall.—A. Hand, P.O., Waterfall; 2nd Thursday.
- Taree.—A. D. Worrell, Sec., Cornwell-st., Taree; School of Arts (upstairs) 1st Friday.
- Eveleigh Car and Wagon.—H. Arnold, 37 Simpson-st., Auburn; Head Office, 1st Tuesday.
- Electric Light.—K. E. Sec., "Herald," Boumer-st., Banksia; Meetings as summoned.
- East Greta.—H. S. Carruthers, Sec., Onus-st., Telarah; Meetings as summoned.
- Way Way.—W. Roberts, P.O., Way Way.
- Ticket Staff.—C. Boon, 269 Darling-st., Balmalm.

BRANCH MEETINGS.

- DARLING HARBOUR.**
DAYLIGHT SAVING CONDEMNED.
At the monthly meeting of this branch of the Amalgamated, held at Bowen's Buildings, on 3rd inst., the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That the Darling Harbour branch of the A.R. and T.S. Association voices its emphatic protest against the Daylight Saving Bill and asks that it be immediately repealed." The resolution has been forwarded to the Minister for Home Affairs Melbourne, at the desire of the meeting.
- MUSWELLBROOK.**
A meeting of this branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Muswellbrook, on Saturday, March 17th, at 3 p.m., sharp. The secretary desires all members that have not made themselves financial for the current quarter to do so at this meeting or by sending same to any of the following collectors:—A. A. Lord, railway department, Scene; R. R. Whitton, railway de-
- HURSTVILLE.**
The monthly meeting of the Hurstville branch will be held in the Carrington Rooms, Forest-road, Hurstville, on Saturday next, March 10th, at 8 p.m. Business: Delegate's report from Conference and other important matters. A good roll-up is requested. This will be the last meeting this quarter, so all members that have not paid their contributions are requested to bring or send their money. Conference passed a resolution instructing the Executive to recover arrears from unfinancial members. The secretary requests unfinancial members of the branch to make an effort to make themselves financial as he does not want any drastic action to be taken if he can avoid it. The secretary has a few more 1917 medals on hand.
- ASHFIELD.**
The monthly meeting of this branch will be held on night of March 13th, (Tuesday), at 7.30 p.m. sharp, at Friendly Society's Hall, Holden-street, Ashfield. Note: Business of utmost importance to every member, so a good muster is earnestly re-

quested, as a full report of the Annual Conference will be given by the delegate.

EVELEIGH.
The usual monthly meeting of the above branch will be held at Head Office, Bowen's Buildings, on Wednesday, 14th March, at 7.45 p.m. This meeting is very important and all financial members should attend. All those that have not paid their contributions for the quarter will please do so next pay, as the money is wanted. All members that let their contributions run well over one quarter, will have their "Co-operator" stopped. All those members that owe the Association three or four quarters will be proceeded against for the recovery of the same if some arrangement is not made for payment.

PENRITH No. 1.
As the Manchester Unity Hall has been sold, the next monthly meeting of this branch will be held in the Temperance Hall, Station-street, on Sunday, 11.3.17, at 11 a.m. sharp. Business: Delegate's report of Conference and other matters. There are some members of this branch still in arrears and others that have not yet taken out a ticket for the present quarter. The branch secretary would be pleased if those members would make an effort to pay up, as it will soon be the end of the quarter.

MAITLAND BRANCH.
The usual monthly meeting will be held on Sunday next at No. 5 platform at W. Maitland station, March 11th. Business: Delegate's report also other very important business.

NEWCASTLE No. 10.
The report of the meeting of this branch is unavoidably held over for publication in next week's "Co-operator."

APPRECIATION.
Mrs. S. Higgins, gatekeeper. Antlene, writes: "Will you please grant me a little space to state my appreciation of the successful intervention of the Amalgamated Association on my behalf in securing a refund of £1/10/8 rent, which I was charged while off duty ill, after my application to the department for consideration had been refused. The amount saved me will pay my contributions twice over for the time I have been a member of the Amalgamated. I extend my sincere thanks to the general secretary (Mr. Thompson) for the prompt action he took in the matter."

LIVERPOOL.
The monthly meeting of this branch was held at Liverpool on Saturday, 3rd inst., Mr. Pryke occupying the chair. Mr. Pryke, delegate to the conference, gave a lengthy report on the business transacted, which was adopted. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Pryke for the manner in which he represented the branch.

WATERFALL.
The next meeting of the Waterfall branch will be held on 15th inst. Business: important. A good roll-up of members is necessary.

GUARDS, SHUNTERS AND SIGNAL-MEN.
This branch meets on every alternate Sunday, at Head Office.

SYDNEY No. 1.
The Sydney No. 1 branch meet twice a month at Head Office, on the first and the third Thursday in the month.

CAPITALIST ETHICS.
"THE DIGNITY OF LABOR."

AN EXPLODED THEORY.

One of the most effective methods whereby the toilers in the past have been befuddled to hug the chains of servitude closer, has been the capitalist disseminated nostrum of the exalted dignity of labor. More rapid nonsense has been written in this regard than almost any other subject under the sun, and it is high time that the workers formulated their own ethics of morality, smashed the dignity of labor fetish, and refused to any longer meekly accept those propounded for their enslavement by the profit-mongering capitalist. For obvious reasons, the class which seldom labors itself, has impressed upon the toilers of the earth the wondrous nobility and altruism of work. If work as applied to the everyday life of the millions of toilers, was engaged in for the benefit of mankind generally, then there might be some justification for terming labor dignified, but considering that the worker toils long and arduously from the cradle to the grave, not for the comfort and wellbeing of

ANNUAL MEETING

THE RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY HOSPITAL, CONSUMPTIVE AND CONVALESCENT FUNDS.

The annual general meeting was held in the Railway Institute on February 28th. Eighty subscribing members were present. The president (Mr. W. H. Swain) presided.

ANNUAL REPORT.
The annual report was taken as read.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.
Mr. Swain said he moved the adoption of the final annual report 27 years ago. The revenue at that time stood at £390. To-day it nearly reached £2500. Notwithstanding the great strides the fund made, it was still to be deplored that out of about 40,000 men only about one-half were subscribing to the fund, and that an awful amount of energy was required to obtain them. The work of the secretary has been immense. The revenue had doubled itself during the last 12 years, and in ratio so had all the other business. This year we had spent more in maintenance than we ever had, but notwithstanding were able to pay, with the bonus, 20/3 per week for 616 members treated in the various hospitals, with which they were in agreement. It must be emphasized that outside of their own maintenance account the public got the benefit of the surplus. Therefore they had reason to be proud of the result, particularly when they considered the grip that war had upon them. During the incoming year they would have to put their maximum endeavor into the fund's work. No cessation of this cruel war was in sight; and, further than that, they must not lose sight of the burdens of its disconcerting aftermath. He also had to announce that this was the last year he would be able to preside at the fund's functions. He had reached the age limit, and must lay down his tools on the 3rd of March, and from that date would be no longer a railway employee, and in consequence ineligible to hold any office covered by the fund's constitution. He desired to thank sincerely the committee that had served the hospital fund with credit during the current year, and also the great army of collectors spread over the State railways. (Applause.)

THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE THREE FUNDS.
A discussion took place on the recommendation in the annual report for the consolidation of the Consumptive, Convalescent, and Hospital Funds under one general fund. The difficulty was in the constitution of each fund, which was on a separate basis and control. After debate, Mr. J. W. Wright moved an amendment to the effect: "That the annual report be adopted, but with the deletion of the paragraph recommending the consolidation of the three funds." The amendment was carried.

AUDITORS' REPORT.
Mr. R. Burchmore, supported by Mr. G. Burchmore, stated that he found the work growing heavier each year. He remembered when the audit could be done in one day. Now it covered one week. With the reduction of bonus in front of them it might have to be considered if the question of subscription should not be raised. Refunds to patients in private hospitals had reached a phase that they did not anticipate. He had to complain about the number of refunds paid for which no receipts were produced. He did not infer that there was any short dealing on the part of secretary or treasurer, but as a matter of business some steps should be taken to overcome the neglect of the receivers thereof.

THE CONSUMPTIVE AND CONVALESCENT FUNDS.
Mr. Bowmaker found that the Consumptive Fund was practically insolvent. Although special efforts had been made to keep the revenue up to normal conditions, he found they had spent three times as much as their revenue, including the donation received from the Musical Society. He felt certain that the Consumptive Fund was not popular, and that the bulk of railway men did not want it. Mr. Lockhard and Mr. George Wray did not agree with Mr. Bowmaker's idea. They thought a great deal might be done by collectors if they took up the Consumptive Fund collection later than the general fund. Mr. W. Smith was of opinion that the three funds were mixing to the men, and might be made separately, or consolidated into one general fund. The secretary said the fund was eating out its own revenues, but he would not kick it out. This year he was having another big try for it, and would advocate using it up as best they could for the alleviation of a few stricken comrades until such time as they had to close down and say they have no funds.

THE RETIREMENT OF THE PRESIDENT.
The references to the retirement of Mr. W. H. Swain (late president of the Hospital Fund) and its relative funds for 27 years, was the subject of many graceful and feeling eulogiums from a number of old and new friends, including Messrs. Burchmore, Bowmaker, Lamond, J. W. Wright, the secretary, and many others. The general opinion was made clear that the meeting was sincerely sorry to record the loss of a good man who for 27 years had watched and nurtured the growth of the funds with great ability and all the attributes of a gentleman. Mr. Swain briefly acknowledged the kind words showered on him, by a most representative meeting.

A TELEPHONE FOR THE SECRETARY.
The secretary explained that the telephone communication authorized by the last annual meeting had not been proceeded with, because of the heavy toll of sickness the fund had to meet with.

He was wondering what was the matter. Carrington Convalescent Hospital was a very fine institution, and there must be numbers of men that required the convalescent treatment. The secretary said he had doubts about the Carrington Hospital being popular. Verbal reports from men who went there did not corroborate Mr. Bowmaker, but the main fact was that our men, for the most part, were healthy men, subject to accident more than any other thing, and they did not need, nor could they afford, to lose time by going to a convalescent hospital. In all other respects the audit was most satisfactory (said Mr. Bowmaker), the accounts were well kept. The secretary, in reply to the refund receipt question, said he did not pay any money out. It all went by crossed cheque from the treasurer, but the appellants were very migratory people and wantonly careless. The treasurer could always obtain his acquittances from the bank. He also would assist the treasurer in obtaining such receipts if he reported to him the missing ones. Mr. W. E. Newell suggested a voucher form such as are used in public departments, and which must be signed before the cheque is sent out. The secretary said the idea was good, and he would introduce it. Mr. J. Smith moved and Mr. Hurby seconded that the auditor's report be received and adopted. Carried.

Amalgamated Railway and Tramway Benefit Company

MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO ALL EMPLOYEES.

THE GREATEST VENTURE OF THE AGE!

CAN YOU FIND A BETTER INVESTMENT? READ, LEARN, AND INWARDLY DIGEST.

A Weekly Contribution of 6d will entitle you to the following benefits after 3 months membership:—

£1 PER WEEK FOR THE 1st 12 WEEKS. 10/- PER WEEK FOR THE NEXT 12 WEEKS.

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Be prepared! It may be your turn next. Join the Benefit Coy. Now. He that Hesitates is Lost.

Remember the payment of 6d per week protects you from financial hardship during Sickness, and makes provision to assist your family in case of death.

Branches established throughout the State. The undermentioned Collectors will give you any information you require concerning same.

- CITY RAILWAYS.**
Blacksmiths—Mr. F. Crossman, Clyde Loco, and Running—Mr. S. F. Smith.
Car and Wagon—Mr. C. London.
Carriage Cleaning—Mr. W. Sore, Darling Harbour—Mr. Biffell.
Eveleigh Running—Mr. A. J. Smith.
Grainville—Mr. C. Gazzard.
Leichfield Shunters—Mr. E. Teague.
Hawthorn Subn.—Mr. L. Dowling.
Main Suburban—Mr. T. Bell.
- Painters Shop—Mr. P. Quartley.
Parcels Office—Mr. R. O'Connor.
Railway Signalling—Mr. G. H. Stokes.
Sydney Traffic—Mr. K. Davidson.
Shops, Boiler-makers—Mr. T. Hudson.
Large Printing—Mr. F. Pinkstone.
Hurstville—Mr. M. A. O'Donnell.
Hornsby—Mr. H. Davis.
Sydney Yard—Mr. Lockard.
Loco—Mr. W. J. Burns.

TRAMWAYS.
Dowling Street—Mr. W. Moroney.
Roselle—Mr. Price P. Healy.
Newtown—Mr. P. Tarrant.
Port Macquarie—Mr. P. J. McDermott.
Randwick Shops—Mr. J. Dale.
Officers—Mr. G. Tigh.
Newcastle—Mr. Clinton.
Power House, Ultimo—Mr. V. Kavanagh.
Waverley—Mr. T. Forrest.
- Ultimo—Mr. A. Clark.
North Sydney—Mr. G. Williams.
Rushcutters Bay—Mr. E. Davidson.
Signals—Mr. J. Long.
Tempe—Mr. S. Sheppard.
Overhead Wiremen—Mr. W. Arnold.
Power House, White Bay—Mr. A. Pringle.

COUNTRY.
Bathurst—Mr. T. Thomas.
Cootamundra—Mr. E. Siddabotton.
Culcairn—Mr. C. Brennan.
Coopers Creek—Mr. R. Barlow.
Goulburn—Mr. G. Martin.
Harden—Mr. J. Skein.
Murrumbidgee—Mr. Graham.
Mittagong—Mr. Todd.
- Newcastle—Mr. J. Kenney.
Orange—Mr. C. Williams.
Penrith—Mr. C. Clissold.
Parkes—Mr. A. Wilson.
Tamworth—Mr. W. Tulk.
Trangie—Mr. H. Doyle.
Waterfall—Mr. Graham.
Wellington—Mr. I. Vitnell.

Further information willingly supplied by the Secretary, GUS. MULDER, Caledonian-street, West Kogarah,

who is in attendance at Head Office every Monday evening from 8 to 9 p.m.

AMALGAMATED ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were passed for payment at the meeting of the Amalgamated Executive, held on Saturday last.

Rent £12, "Co-operator" £112, P.L.L. affiliation fees for two quarters £64, W.E. Association £3/5, salaries to 7.4.17, Corish (5 weeks at £6) £30; Mulder (5 weeks at £3/10) £17; Kavanagh (5 weeks and 2 days at £4) £21/16/8; A.W. Buckley (5 weeks at £3/5) £16/5; Miss Hamilton (3 weeks at £2/10) £7/10; Miss Murphy (5 weeks at £2) £10; Miss Shaw (5 weeks at £1/10) £7/10; total £110/1/8. Organising: Armstrong 8/; Buckley £1/15/; Printing: Collectors' books, £4/1/10, tickets (balance) 15/. Stationery: Letter followers £1, paper, 25 reams at 4/; 45; carbon-paper £10. Visit to branches: General secretary to Mount Victoria £1/9/; Binding Arbitration reports £1/18/; Conference: Delegates (5 days) £137/5/; Printing: Ballot papers £1/12/6; Campbell's address 7/6; balance sheets £2/10/; resolution slips and pads 12/; rent £3; pencils 4/6; overtime (H.O. staff) 15/4; — Hughes (1 day) 15/; No. 1 Board; A. Connell 10/6; S. Smith 13/; E. A. Boys 4/5/6; Bryan £1/16/6; Stewart £1/13/8; general secretary £1/10/4; Roberts 17/; Carruthers 15/2; Clarke £1/8/9; C. Chapman £1/2/; J. Ford £1/8/6; D. Clyne £2/5/4; A. Robinson 19/6; H. Moxey 15/; H. Roylance £2; T. Lowe £1/9/2; F. Stewart 10/; Cananave 6/6; D. Mayberry 13/; P. T. McDonald 12/6; G. Ward 16/5; C. Malvain £1/6/11. N. 2 Board: J. Richard 12/6. Petty cash £3/1/2. Medals £12/10. Lighting 11/4. In some cases the amounts were passed subject to investigation.

MORE LIGHT WANTED.
The lighting of the local railway station and yards (says the "Werris Creek Chronicle") is said to be the most antiquated on earth—at least that is the opinion of the majority of the men and women who continuously travel our lines. On Saturday night last, just on the arrival of the north-west Sydney mail train, the lights failed, and the whole of the premises, including refreshment rooms, were in semi-darkness, and a good deal of confusion prevailed. The hand lamps of the platform porters are too antiquated for an up-to-date centre like this. The sooner an electrical system of lighting is introduced here the better for all concerned: the waste at present so conspicuous should pay for a system that would prove a boon and a blessing to all concerned. "Let there be light!"

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE BENEFIT FUND.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.
The half-yearly meeting of the contributors to the fund will be held at Head Office, Bowen's Buildings, on Wednesday, March 14th, at 8 p.m. Members are earnestly requested to attend.

Business: Receiving chairman's report, balance-sheet and auditor's report, and any other business that may lawfully be brought before the meeting. By order of the Board. G. H. STOKES, Chairman. GUS. MULDER, Secretary.

By selling waste paper instead of paying to have it burned the P.M.G. has made a saving of £10 a week. A Minister on the economy stunt is a most portentous spectacle. If Webster sold the accumulated piles of red tape in his department he would wipe out the post office deficit.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

(Continued from Page 5).

country and put over the men there, because they were members of a militant union.

PAY FOR BOARD WITNESSES. 125. That provision be made to pay witnesses to attend appeals board and other cases when of a deserving nature.

The chairman said that the new Act gives the chairman power to do that.

BRANCH OFFICERS AS ORGANISERS.

126. That branch officers in country districts be utilised for organising purposes in the country in preference to using city members for that purpose.

This was ruled out on the grounds that it had already been decided to appoint two organisers.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AS MEMBERS OF OTHER UNIONS.

Mr. McHain succeeded in obtaining the suspension of the standing orders to move that no member of any service union shall hold office in the Amalgamated Association. It had come to his notice that a member of the executive was also a member of another union. He thought that this was a false position to put the member in, and it was not fair to the Association. If any trouble occurred in which the two organisations were involved, and one of them acted differently to the other, things would be at stress and strains so far as that member was concerned, because he would belong to two parties.

Mr. Kempster seconded the resolution. He had no personal feeling against Mr. Walsh, but thought it was impossible to serve faithfully two masters.

Mr. Smith: Mr. Walsh is not present.

Mr. Pinkstone supported the resolution. He said that a member of another organisation should not be an executive officer of the Amalgamated. Some years ago the person in question—

Mr. Munro raised a point of order, objecting to references of a personal nature.

Mr. Pinkstone: The member referred to took a prominent part—

Mr. Munro raised a point of order again, but Mr. Pinkstone continued, making reference to a strike that took place at the Randwick shops about six years ago, and criticising the part that, he said, Mr. Walsh had taken during the trouble. Upon these grounds he submitted that the member objected to should not be allowed a seat on the executive.

Mr. Godfrey spoke against the motion, saying that they had had a vice-president who belonged to another union. If a man were elected it showed that he had the confidence of members, and he had a right to be there. Their aim should be to get men into the Association, not drive them away.

Mr. Denford supported the resolution. They were trying to organise one big union, and if men came in they were expected to resign from any other union they might have belonged to, especially if appointed to the position of executive officer. The Tramway Union would not allow a member of any other union to hold the position of executive officer. The rule was not in the Association's rule book, but the motion would have the same effect. There was no need for a map to leave the Association. The resolution would prevent members of other unions from controlling the Association and to prevent a conflict of opinions if at any time there happened to be trouble between the unions. Those that voted against the motion could not be in favour of one big union.

Several other speakers followed, after which Mr. Walsh, who had returned to the room, regretted the statements made by Mr. Pinkstone, and gave them a denial. He had, he said, been a member of the Coach-makers' Society ever since he learned his trade, and if the resolution were carried he would at once resign from his position of executive of the Amalgamated. He also expressed regret that the matter was not brought up prior to the election of officers.

Mr. McHain replied, after which the motion was carried almost unanimously.

Mr. Walsh then announced his resignation from the executive.

A debate took place on the question as to what union members should be excluded from holding office in the organisation.

Eventually a resolution by Mr. Kempster, seconded by Mr. Andrew, that the definition of service union shall be any craft union operating inside the service, was carried.

EXTRA MEN RELIEVING PERMANENT MEN.

127. That we desire to ask conference to place before the Commissioner the undesirable practice of purely extra men relieving permanent men, especially gatekeepers, as it is a common practice in Singleton for extra men to relieve permanent men taking a night out through the week.

This was carried on the motion of Mr. Godfrey without debate.

PREPARING AGENDA.

133. That a conference of branches in districts be called at least a month before the agenda paper closes to discuss and condense business for agenda paper, the State to be divided into districts embracing a specified number of branches.

On the motion of Mr. Kenny, it

was resolved to leave the matter in the hands of the executive.

GENERAL SECRETARY AND COUNTRY VISITS.

134. That the general secretary pay a visit to each country branch at least once every year.

Mr. Godfrey moved the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Lockhard opposed, saying that if the general secretary attended to his work he would not have time for this.

The motion was defeated on the voices.

DISMISSALS.

137. That no employee be dismissed from the service without a trial, to have same privileges as a prisoner in a police court, also to be given the benefit of the Brown system of punishment.

Carried on the motion of Mr. Godfrey.

HOLIDAYS AT SHORT NOTICE.

138. That no employee be sent on their holidays at short notice without some form of compensation.

Carried on the motion of Mr. Godfrey.

PREFERENCE.

139. That on work of any kind employees and ex-employees be given preference over outside employees.

Mr. Godfrey moved the resolution, and explained how he succeeded in having this principle put into practice in Newcastle during the coal strike. This motion was carried.

Resolutions 140 and 141, as under, were carried without discussion on the motion of Mr. Godfrey.

140. That if no time, in any crisis, shall any employee, permanent or otherwise, be put off, but all to share and share alike in whatever time is worked, the only exception being to non-unionists.

141. That the present system of re-grading, re-arranging, and re-classifying of employees be at once abolished and all restored to former positions, as same is in our opinion simply a move to evade payment of increases of wages fixed by wages boards.

Mr. Evers said it was of no use to carry such resolutions. They could not dictate to the Chief Commissioner.

AMBULANCE CHESTS.

142. That all ambulance chests and appliances in all departments of the Commissioner for Railways and Tramways be thoroughly equipped and always complete to meet any emergency that may occur.

The matter was left in the hands of the executive.

VIGILANCE COMMITTEES.

143. That a vigilance committee be formed at conference consisting of country members.

Moved by Mr. Godfrey, seconded by Mr. Kenny.

It was pointed out that members could do this whenever they felt inclined, and the resolution was carried.

BLOWING DOWN BOILERS.

144. That the blowing down of engines inside shed at Hamilton, and fouling of pit crossings, blockage of roads on ash pit roads be forcibly placed before Commissioner in the interests of the Safety First movement.

Mr. Godfrey, in moving the resolution, said that although the Chief Commissioner had forbidden this practice, it was still continued.

Mr. Arnold suggested that the matter be submitted to the Safety First Committee, but his suggestion was not entertained, and the motion was carried.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT TEST.

145. That the height and weight question be abolished for all employees, also the age restriction.

Carried, on the motion of Mr. Godfrey.

146. That employees be allowed to use their holiday or privilege passes on all holidays, including Christmas, New Year, and Easter.

Carried without debate.

EIGHT-HOUR SHIFTS.

148. That all employees (male and female) be granted 8-hour shifts.

Mr. Denford moved an amendment providing for seven-hour shifts, which was carried.

COMMISSION FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

151. That minutes moved at last conference re 2 1/2 per cent. paid to general secretary be rescinded.

Carried on the motion of Mr. Warrington.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

152. That conference confer life memberships on Mr. E. B. Campbell and R. Corish.

Mr. Smithers moved the adoption of the resolution, but it was opposed on the grounds that while Mr. Campbell was retiring from office he was not from the service, and was in a position to pay his contributions like other members.

The motion was withdrawn.

MEMBERS LEAVING AND REJOINING.

153. That any member resigning from this union and still remaining in the service (unless he has been promoted to some other position necessitating him joining another union), or wishing to rejoin again, the initiation fee shall be 5/ for first offence, 7/6 second time, and 10/ third time, which will be the final charge of remaining a member of the A.R. and T. S. Association.

Carried on the motion of Mr. Godfrey.

Mr. Evers wanted to know what was the good of carrying resolutions that could not be put into operation.

ARRAIGNS.

154. After prosecution and decision given against the Association all those members to be struck off the books and not re-admitted, until such time as they pay all arrears owing up to time of decision given by court, unless by arrangement with secretary or executive or general secretary allowing a reduction.

Carried, on the motion of Mr. Godfrey.

FULL POLITICAL RIGHTS.

156. Full political right be allowed to all railway and tramway employees, both municipal and parliamentary, without having to resign their service position.

Mr. Pryke, in moving this resolution, gave particulars of an instance in which an officer in the service, a prominent Labor man, had received orders not to accept a present and illuminated address that was tendered to him by his friends. They could not have citizen and political rights if this sort of thing went on. The officer referred to took the illuminated address, but refused the present. He was subsequently charged with "disloyalty" to the Commissioners and sacked.

The resolution was carried.

AN ENIGMA.

158. For the purpose of checking wilful misrepresentation of the aims of the official Labor movement, of which the P.L.L. is the head, the council may at its discretion, or on a request received from the P.L.L. executive, make operative the foregoing against any newspaper, journal, or body whose propaganda, rules, or objects are in conflict with the ideals of the Labor movement.

This resolution was defeated. Mr. Denford, in moving the resolution on behalf of the Parkes branch, said he could not understand its meaning.

PREFERENCE TO UNIONISTS.

159. That the Chief Commissioner be requested to grant preference to unionists throughout the railways of N.S.W.

The resolution was carried without discussion.

ALTERATION OF RULES.

17. That rule 37 be amended to read as follows: The members of the Executive Council and the general secretary shall be elected at the annual general meeting in each year, and shall hold office for twelve months, unless removed from office by a special general meeting, the voting to be based upon the numerical strength of the branches; or should the general secretary's position become vacant in the interval between the annual meetings, such vacancy shall be filled by a ballot of financial members. Should a vacancy occur on the council it shall be filled by the executive and the council.

Mr. Hall moved the resolution, and spoke in support.

The chairman said he could accept the latter half of the resolution, after the words "special general meeting," and with the deletion of the final sentence relating to the council.

Mr. Hall agreed to this, and the resolution was seconded by Mr. Andrew.

Mr. Falvey opposed, and Mr. Paull said he was prepared to support the card system.

An amendment by Mr. Denford, providing that the voting strength be confined to the numerical strength of branches according to the number of financial members, was accepted by Mr. Hall and embodied in the resolution, which was then carried.

Mr. Paull moved to insert the word "financial" before the word "members" in rule 20. This was opposed by Mr. Kenny, but was carried.

MODE OF FILLING VACANCIES.

18. The members of the executive and council shall be elected by ballot at the annual general meeting in each year, and shall hold office for twelve months, unless removed from office by a special general meeting. Each executive officer and delegate present at the annual general meeting shall be entitled to give one vote to each candidate for such election. Should a vacancy on the executive occur in the interval between the annual meetings it shall be filled by the next highest man that was on the ballot paper at the annual meeting.

This was moved by Mr. Munro and seconded by Mr. London.

Mr. Denford was willing to support the resolution if they would make it to read that when there was no candidate following on the ballot paper the election should rest upon a majority vote of the branches in the section to be represented.

This was accepted, and the motion was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COLLECTORS.

25. Members of branches shall pay their contributions to collectors or agents appointed by the executive.

Resolution defeated.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

26. Branches shall remit to the general secretary from time to time, but not less than once a quarter, two-thirds of all subscriptions received, and shall retain the balance for branch management expenses. The branch secretary shall remit such moneys within twenty-one days after the commencement of each quarter, or shall be fined 2/6 for each omission to comply with this rule.

This was proposed by Mr. Munro, as an amendment to rule 85, and seconded by Mr. Lockhard. The idea, it was stated, was to give the branch

the right to control their own funds.

Mr. Falvey moved that city branches be placed on the same footing as country branches, and Mr. Arnold seconded.

Mr. Denford said he had a resolution which read:

39. That rule 85 be amended to provide "that the Tramway Traffic Branch shall have the same right as branches beyond seven miles from Sydney in regard to retaining one-third of subscriptions received."

If the delegates would accept that with the words "beyond seven miles" cut out he would be agreeable.

Mr. Falvey said that he would accept that.

Mr. Evers thought it absurd. With an increased expenditure to face they were going to take away 5/ in the pound of metropolitan contributions. It would be impossible to carry on in such circumstances.

The delegates from Sydney branch withdrew the resolution in favour of the amendment, and this being put to the meeting was defeated.

TIME OF ANNUAL MEETING.

27. The annual general meeting shall be held on the Tuesday following Bank Holiday at such place as the annual general meeting shall determine, commencing at 10 o'clock in the forenoon and terminating not later than the Thursday following.

Note: The Association is governed by the Trades Union Act which says the year shall end on Dec. 31st.

Mr. Evers explained that this was unworkable, and the resolution was withdrawn.

Resolution 28, "That 'Thursday' be deleted from rule 21, and that 'Saturday' be substituted therefor," was carried, as was also resolution 31, "That the words 'general secretary' in rule 73 be deleted, and the word 'executive' substituted."

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS.

35. That a candidate for position on executive or council must have their nominations in at least fourteen (14) days before conference opens.

This resolution, with the omission of the words "or Council," was carried on the motion of Mr. Falvey, Mr. Munro withdrawing No. 36 in its favour.

THE LAWTON AND PAUL CASE.

114. That a report be presented to the A.G.M. re settlement of the expenses in the libel case Lawton v. Paul and the non-support of Paul.

Mr. Paull secured the suspension of the standing orders to bring forward this resolution. Mr. Paull proceeded to explain the matter, but the chairman ruled the resolution out of order.

Mr. Denford: We will retain that money until we get it, that's all. We'll give you fight if you want it.

The chairman's ruling was upheld upon a division being taken.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE.

42. That rule 118 be amended to provide "that in the event of the dismissal from the service of a member legal assistance shall be provided if so desired by the person concerned."

This was moved by Mr. Wallace, and after some discussion was defeated.

HALF FEES.

48. That members of the Amalgamated Railway and Tramway Association receiving less than 7/ per day be exempt from paying full fees, and placed on half (1/2) rates.

This was carried, as was also resolution 55.

55. That all awards be made retrospective from the expiry of awards.

DUTY STAMPS.

63. That all men receiving wages be exempt from duty stamp.

This resolution was carried, and the executive was recommended to interview the Attorney-General on the subject.

UNIFORM WAGE.

64. That a uniform wage be established for all employees in railway and tramway service.

This was carried without debate.

STEAM RAISERS.

76. That we be classified as steam-raisers or steam-getters instead of freighters, as our work is of a most responsible nature; not just lighting fires, as the classification reads, but attending to and looking after and getting up steam on all engines that are in the depot.

This was brought forward by Mr. Smith (Eyeleigh), and was recommended to the consideration of the executive.

PICNIC DAY FOR EXAMINERS.

77. That ticket examiners, shed foremen, and starters be granted one day per annum for picnic day, in common with all other employees in the tramway service.

Mr. Harding moved the resolution, which was carried.

PASSES FOR EXAMINERS.

78. That ticket examiners be granted 1st class railway pass when on annual leave, and when taking out privilege passes in lieu of 2nd class passes.

Mr. Harding, in submitting the resolution, explained the reason for the request, but an amendment "that all

employers be granted a first-class pass" was carried in its stead.

PLAIN CLOTHES WORK.

79. That ticket examiners be granted extra remuneration when doing plainclothes work;

Mr. Harding said that the examiners were opposed to work of this description, but as they were compelled to undertake it they thought they should receive extra pay for it.

Mr. Munro seconded the motion.

Mr. Denford moved that the Conference protests against the policy of the department in using men on plain clothes work, and demand its abolition.

Mr. Kempster seconded, and the amendment was carried.

BATHS.

81. That the Chief Commissioner be asked to provide bathrooms and dressrooms for the workshops.

Resolution carried.

WAGES BOARD EVIDENCE.

92. That representation from each department before the wages boards be present when the departmental officers are called upon to give their evidence.

Resolution carried.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

93. That all public holidays falling on Saturdays be paid for as a full working day.

Resolution carried. Mr. Landers pointed out that instead of being paid for a full day they were only paid for four hours and a half.

NO OFFICE FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS.

On the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Kempster, it was decided that upon any officer of the Association becoming a member of Parliament his seat shall be declared vacant.

GENERAL.

94. Early closing of the Sydney Parcels Office.

This was carried, as was also resolution 95.

95. That fettlers be supplied with shelter sheds.

Resolutions 96, 97, 98, 99, and 100 were referred to the executive.

113. That a fund be created, called the incidental fund, for the purpose of assisting members of the A.R. and T.A. Service Association who might be out of work through no fault of their own.

This was carried.

128. That all business sent by the general secretary to branch secretaries, which in any way contains a charge against any officer of the Association such business to be first dealt with by the executive.

This was carried on the motion of Mr. Hall.

THE L.W.W. CHARGES.

129. That the charges made by the general secretary against executive officers during the L.W.W. prosecutions in 1916 be discussed by 1917 conference.

Note: This matter was dealt with by the Executive and a settlement arrived at satisfactory to all concerned.

Mr. Hall, in moving the resolution, said this matter was of vital importance. He wished delegates to ignore the note at the foot of the resolution. On behalf of the members he wished the charges cleared up.

Mr. Lockhard called attention to the fact that the general secretary (Mr. Evers) was not giving him (Mr. Evers) a fair deal. He regretted Mr. Thompson's absence, as if he were present it would give him (Mr. Evers) a better chance to say what he had to say.

Mr. Denford said that he never received any notice that his name had been mentioned in a circular or letter as being identified with the L.W.W., and did not care whether his name was so used or not. He moved:

"That the action of the general secretary in making charges against Messrs. Evers and Kearney in connection with the L.W.W. was most deplorable, and deserves our severest censure; and that Conference has confidence in both of these members."

This was seconded by Mr. Hall and carried.

HOLIDAYS AND SICKNESS.

149. That the Commissioner be interviewed and asked to amend rule re payment of holidays to men who have the misfortune to be away from work through illness. As it stands at present if a man is away ill the day before and the day after a holiday he does not receive pay for the holiday.

This was moved by Mr. Byrne and carried. It was also resolved "That two be appointed to interview the C.C. and ask him to alter the custom of non-payment of holidays to men away from work through illness. If a man is away the day before and the day after a holiday he is not paid."

ONE MONTH'S LEAVE.


157. That all employees having 10 years' service shall be allowed one month's leave of absence on full pay, and three months after 20 years' service, without having to submit to medical examination.

This was moved by Mr. Munro and was carried.

On behalf of Eskbank, Mr. Denford moved: "That this Conference express the opinion that should the Labor party be placed in power by the forthcoming elections the first act of such party should be to introduce a bill making it a penal offence to raise a sectarian issue at any State election."—Carried.

This concluded the business, and the proceedings closed with the usual vote of thanks to the chairman, etc.

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A TENTERFIELD CASE

The C.M.E. replies to the general secretary as follows:—
"In reply to your letter of the 15th inst. in regard to fuelmen at Tenterfield being made permanent, I have to state that the fueling staff at Tenterfield consisted of one permanent and one temporary hand. At the present time arrangements are being made to make the temporary man (J. Burton) permanent, and the permanent fuelman (L. Boston) having enlisted I am arranging to transfer one of the casual fuelmen to the temporary staff in his place, as a permanent appointment cannot be made in place of a man absent on active service."

THE CASE OF JUNIOR PORTER CHOWN.

Replying to representations made by the general secretary re the case of W. A. Chown, the Secretary for Railways says:—"With reference to your letter of the 19th ult., relative to the case of Junior Porter W. A. Chown, of Goondah, who was withdrawn for relief duty at Carcaro during the currency of the coal strike, I am directed to inform you the matter has had inquiry and consideration by the Commissioners. For the period ended 2/12/16 Chown was paid at the rate of 3/3 per day for the time worked at Goondah, which is his home station, and at the rate of 5