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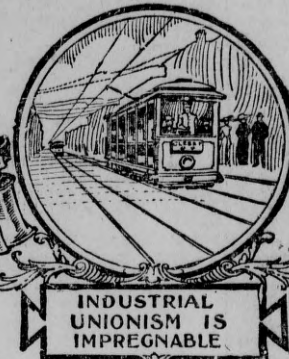
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VOL. XI., No. 4.

Business Address
See page 4

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1915.

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SUSPENDING THE RAILWAY AWARDS

THE HEARING BEFORE MR. BEEBY

The application of the Chief Com-
missioner for Railways and Tram-
ways for the suspension of group
awards that provide for increments
in wages came before Mr. Beeby, as
chairman of the Wages Board, yester-
day, and will be continued to-day.

Mr. McCoy appeared to represent
the Amalgamated Railway and Tram-
way Association, the Tramway Union
and the Loco. Engine Drivers' Union.

Mr. T. Crawford appeared for the Of-
ficers' Association, Mr. Cargill
for the Railway Department, and
Mr. Bavin for the Crown.

Evidence was given by Mr. Gil-
fillan, Secretary of the Public Ser-
vice Board of New South Wales, who
stated that at a request from the
Premier his board had suspended all
increments. A few of such incre-
ments were paid prior to the Pre-
mier's request being received, but,
practically speaking, all increments
had been suspended, both as regards
juniors and adults. There were no
instructions as to when the incre-
ments would be paid, but they were
suspended for the present. He, per-
sonally, understood the suspension
to be due to the situation brought
about by the war, but he was not
aware that the State Government
put to any additional expense as the
result of the war. As far as he was
aware the suspension applied to
manual as well as clerical work.

Mr. Kraegan, Inspector of the
Commonwealth Public Service in New
South Wales, said that during the
last few months increments in the
Commonwealth Public Service had
been paid as they fell due. This ap-
plied to all branches. He had re-
ceived no instructions to suspend in-
crements since the war commenced.

Mr. Macoun, chief accountant in
the Railway Department, gave it as
his opinion that the railway revenue
is likely to decrease during the pre-
sent year. The revenue for the six
months ending December 30 showed
an increase of £24,000, but the
month of December showed a big re-
duction when compared with the re-
turns for the previous December.

Mr. Macoun produced figures to
show the decrease in the wheat and
wool trade. He could not estimate
the amount of the reduction in
revenue that would be likely to take
place this year, but his opinion was
that it would be considerable. Some
members of the staff had gone to the
war, and in most cases their work
was being done by other officers.
The passenger traffic showed
an increase for the six months,
but not nearly the increase that was
estimated it would do. The mileage
had increased, but much of it was
unprofitable, as it consisted of the
removal of starving stock. There
were some officers that had received
increments. These increases were
on the estimates last year, and they
would receive their increases from
July last. He knew that a number
of men had been working short time
since August last, but could not say
how many; he would not say there
were a great number. There was no
work for engine drivers, firemen and
cleaners if trains did not run.
Freights and fares had been raised
since the last award was made, but
there had been no reductions.

Mr. S. B. O'Neill, of Dalgety's
wool department, gave evidence con-
cerning the wool crop, and said that
the movements of wool by rail showed
a large decrease on last season's
figures, the difference being upwards
of 200,000 bales. This detention of
wool was due to the fact that it could

not be sold owing to the war having
curtailed the market. Usually only
about five per cent. of the wool crop
was sold locally, the remainder be-
ing exported, the bulk of it to Euro-
pe.

Mr. G. L. Harden, clerk in the Stat-
istician's office, also gave evidence
and quoted statistical returns show-
ing the reduction in the wheat crop
compared with the usual production,
and in support of the contention that
the shortage was due to drought con-
ditions.

The Court then adjourned until 11
a.m. to-day.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

A meeting of the executive of the
Amalgamated Railway and Tramway
Service Association was held at Head
Office, Bowen Buildings, Central
square, on Tuesday evening, 19th
inst. There were present: Messrs. J.
McDonald (chair), H. S. Odell, M.
A. O'Donnell, G. H. Stokes (execu-
tive officers), and Claude Thompson
(general secretary). Apologies were
received and accepted from Messrs.
Kavanagh and Lawless.

Conference Motions.—The execu-
tive perused and classified the no-
tices of motion that had been sent
in; and the general secretary was
instructed to publish the same in the
first portion of the agenda paper in
the next issue of the "Co-operator"—
28th inst.

Smoke Social.—The General Sec-
retary reported that a meeting of
branch officers had been held and a
committee appointed to work up a
smoke social to entertain conference
delegates. Mr. J. W. Roe (Darling
Harbor) had been appointed chair-
man; Mr. E. Lawless (salaried of-
ficers), secretary; Mr. J. M. Ham-
ilton (Darling Harbor), assistant sec-
retary. Messrs. Pinkstone, Maund
and Harford to assist the committee.
The Trades Hall had been engaged.
Tickets were printed and were now
ready for distribution. Everything
promised that the social would be
made a gratifying success.

Branches Not Sending in Returns.—
The following motion was carried:
"That the General Secretary be in-
structed to report to the next meet-
ing of the executive the names of
the branches which had not sent in
their returns as provided by rule 58,
with a view of debarring such
branches representation at the 24th
Annual Conference."

P.L.L. Delegates.—It was resolved
that the appointment of delegates
to represent the "All Grades" at the
P.L.L. Conference be referred to the
24th Annual Conference. All
branches to be asked to send in nomi-
nation of the persons whom they
deem suitable to act as delegates.

Stopping of Increments.—The
General Secretary reported that he
had attended a meeting of the
Grand Council by invitation, and
after the matter had been thoroughly
discussed a motion was carried un-
animously, that all Service unions
unite in maintaining the services of
Mr. Rupert McCoy, of McCoy and
McCoy, solicitors, to oppose the stop-
page of increments. Mr. G. S. Beeby,
chairman of the board, had fixed
Wednesday, 26th inst., at 10 o'clock,
in the Arbitration Court, to com-
mence the hearing of the applica-
tion. The General Secretary also
reported that in conjunction with
Messrs. Warton, Carroll and Alns-
worth he had gone into conference
with Mr. McCoy and placed the pos-
ition before that gentleman.

Labor Papers, Ltd., Annual Meet-
ing.—Notice of the annual meet-
ing of Labor Papers, Ltd., was received
—on 9th February, at 7.30 p.m.—It
was resolved that the election of a
representative from our Association be
held over till next meeting of the
executive, to be held on 2nd Feb-
ruary.

Goulburn Query.—Letters were re-
ceived from the Goulburn branch of
the Association relative to the book-
ing of men. The matter was dis-
cussed, and it was resolved to in-
struct the general secretary to ex-
plain fully the interpretation of the
Award, and request the Goulburn
branch to forward particulars of spe-
cific cases in order that the matter
may be tested thoroughly.

Eveleigh Branch.—The protest of
Mr. J. O'Sullivan, late secretary of
the Eveleigh branch, against the
election of Mr. Robert Estell as dele-
gate to the 24th Annual Conference
was considered. From the written
statements of independent witnesses
present at the meeting it was clear
that Mr. Estell, although a financial
member himself, was proposed by an
unfinancial member. It was also
clear that the general secretary's let-
ter with regard to unfinancial mem-
bers and their eligibility to take part
in the election of officers had been
placed before the meeting. After dis-
cussion it was resolved that the elec-
tion of Mr. Estell as delegate was
null and void owing to the fact of
his being proposed by an unfinancial
member. Inasmuch as there was
only one other candidate, that is to
say, Mr. J. O'Sullivan, it was resolved
that he is to be deemed elected un-
opposed, as Mr. Estell's nomination
is clearly out of order.

East Greta Deputation.—It was
reported that a deputation from the
East Greta branch, accompanied by
Mr. H. H. Halls, president of the
East Greta Branch, Mr. H. S.
Odell and the general sec-
retary, had waited upon the Min-
ister for Labor and Industry (Hon. J.
Estell). As Mr. Halls had come
down from West Maitland the pre-
vious week, and the deputation hav-
ing been postponed owing to the re-
grettable death of Mr. Treffe, it was
resolved that the amount of Mr.
Halls's expenses (£1/15/-) be reim-
bursed to the East Greta branch.

Interstate Labor Conference.—The
matter of the Interstate Labor Con-
ference was considered, and it was
requested that all those who had
notices of motion to be placed before
the Interstate Labor Conference, to be
held at Adelaide, should send them
in as early as possible.

Lithgow Trades Hall.—A letter
was received from Mr. J. J. Griffiths,
secretary of the Esbank branch of
the Association, asking that the ex-
ecutive should invest £20 in shares in
the Lithgow Trades Hall. Or, in the
alternative, if the proposal was not
agreed to, to send the matter on to
the 24th Annual Conference as a mo-
tion for the agenda paper. It was
resolved that, inasmuch as this mat-
ter had been discussed at conference
previously, conference was probably
the best place, where it could be dis-
cussed; consequently the executive
took no action beyond instructing
the general secretary to place the
Eskbank notice of motion on the
agenda paper.

Correspondence was received from
Mr. J. Hickey, secretary of the Bel-
more P.L.L. (No. 1), asking the ex-
ecutive to join in a demand for a
special conference to discuss the
matter of the readmission to the
Labor ranks of an alleged labor
bogus candidate. The general sec-
retary was instructed to inform Mr.
Hickey that the executive were of
opinion that owing to the near ap-
proach of the regular P.L.L. confer-
ence it was thought unnecessary to

put the party to the expense of con-
vening a special conference. It was
resolved, however, to instruct the in-
coming executive to instruct the dele-
gates to the P.L.L. conference to lend
their support to the Belmore P.L.L.
at the P.L.L. conference.

Railway Appeal Board.—A copy of
the new Railway Appeal Board Bill
was placed before the executive, but
as the hour was late it was resolved
that it be made an order of business
for the next meeting of the execu-
tive.

Intrastate Conference.—The matter
of the minutes of the Interstate Con-
ference of Railway men recently held
in Adelaide was discussed. It was re-
solved that it be made an order of
business for the next meeting.

Collector for Helensburg.—Mr. H.
R. Williams having called in to the
office some few days ago in reference
to collecting in the per. way gang of
which he is a member, it was re-
solved that owing to the fact of his
being a good unionist and there being
no collector in the gang, to appoint
Mr. Williams as a collector.

Eveleigh Car and Wagon Branch.—
A letter was received from Mr. T.
W. Burns, secretary of the Eve-
leigh Car and Wagon branch, ask-
ing the Association to write to the
Registrar for the following informa-
tion:—Is No. 11 Board still in ex-
istence, as the foreman states it is
void? It was resolved to instruct
the general secretary to inform the
Eveleigh Car and Wagon branch
that No. 11 Board, Railway Group,
was still in force, except so far as
wages and prices were increased by
the operation of clause 26, the Chief
Commissioner having agreed to pay
the rates and prices provided under
No. 8 Board, Leather Trades Group.

Eveleigh Car and Wagon branch
also requested that summonses be
taken out for the men concerned for
the back money due to them under
No. 8 Board, Leather Trades Group,
as from the 12th November, 1913, to
April, 1914, the men having been
paid six months' back pay only. It
was resolved to instruct the general
secretary to reply that under the In-
dustrial Arbitration Act the Chief
Commissioner was not legally liable
for more than six months' back pay.
This he had paid. There was a moral
claim for the higher rates since the
No. 8 Board Award had been in
force, and it was resolved that the ef-
forts of the Association be directed
to the honoring of this moral claim
by the Chief Commissioner. It was
clear to the executive that no pro-
ceedings whatever could be taken for
the recovery of more than six months'
back pay.

Increases to High Officials.—The
General Secretary reported that, in
compliance with an instruction of the
executive, he had written to the Min-
ister relative to increases recently
granted to certain highly-paid officers
of the railway department, and pro-
testing against the increase to the
higher-paid officers, whilst the lower-
grade men were having their in-
creases in pay withheld. The Under-
Secretary for Finance and Trade
wrote, in reply, stating that he was
directed by the Minister to inform
the Association that there were grave
and good reasons for the granting of
the increases referred to.

Suspension of Increments in Pub-
lic Service.—The General Secretary
reported that he had asked the Sec-
retary of the Public Service Board to
inform him if increments to public
employees had been withheld. If so,
had they been withheld from all em-
ployees or only some of them? If
only some classes, what grades of
men had been affected? The Sec-
retary of the Public Service Board re-
plied that the granting of all incre-
ments to every grade of officer in the
Public Service had been suspended
for the present.

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LABOR NEWS FROM EVERY DIRECTION.

Secretaries of P.L.L. Branches, and Laborites generally, are invited to send in Reports of Meetings and other news for publication in the "Co-operator." All matters should reach this office at latest on Tuesday morning each week.

THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY, POLITICAL LABOR LEAGUE OF N. S. WALES.

EXECUTIVE'S REPORT.

The report of the executive of the P.L.L. shows that twenty-seven meetings were held during 1914, and that the only member to attend every one of these meetings was Mrs. J. Grant.

Under the heading "Branch and Union Affiliations" the need for the formation of permanent sub-committees in every branch for the purpose of doing that every Labor supporter is enrolled is emphasized, and the report goes on to say:—

"The facilities offered under the rules of the P.L.L. for Union affiliation has been largely availed of, with the result that at the present time 96 are officially attached to the movement. The voting at Conference gives the Unions a direct controlling influence in the election of the Executive, of all delegates, and in the construction of the Platform and the Constitution. Apart from this direct Union representation, some of the delegates representing electorates are also members of Unions, so that there does not appear to be the slightest justification for the suggested formation of a separate Trade Union Party. What is required, however, is that all Unions should realize that the movement is elastic enough to quickly respond to the views of the majority, and comprehensive enough to embrace the whole of the industrial organisations, and that any shortcomings on the part of the P.L.L., or on the part of those elected to represent it, can be easily and constitutionally rectified, not from without, but from within the movement."

The history of the last Commonwealth election is chronicled in detail, also the work done by the Commonwealth Parliament last session. Under the heading of "Work of the State Labor Party" the work of last session of the N. S. Wales Parliament is briefly reviewed.

The report states that the receipts from all sources amounted to £3279 and the expenditure to £2246, and that on Dec. 31st sustentation and capitation fees to the amount of £666 were outstanding.

The Executive records its approval of the passing of "The Wheat Acquisition Act," and also of the Norton-Griffiths contract.

It is mentioned that the Executive requested the Premier to introduce a measure making it compulsory for the Sydney City Council to strike the rates on the unimproved value of land, and that the same principle be followed by the Water and Sewerage Board, together with the principle of adult suffrage.

On the subject of the Upper House, the report says that, although the "Abolition of the Legislative Council" has formed part of the first plank of the Fighting Platform since 1908, no practical steps have yet been taken to carry this part of the programme into effect.

There is only one way for the constitutional abolition of the Upper House, and that is by a majority of that body voting for its own extinction.

Hence every appointee to the Upper House opposing any Plank of the Labor Platform not only negates the Labor Policy, but strengthens the Chamber that has been a traditional enemy to Democratic Reform, and renders the solution of this pressing problem almost impossible.

The Executive considers that in all future appointments not only should Rule 58 of the P.L.L. Constitution be rigidly adhered to, but such men should be of long and loyal service to the movement, and not persons whose personal ambitions and selfish ends are more apparent than genuine democratic service and self-sacrifice.

But beyond any question of the personnel of possible appointees is the urgent need for at once commencing the fight on constitutional lines for the abolition of the Council. Its continual existence is a perpetual menace to Democracy, a buttress to all forms of privilege and monopoly.

DUMBLETON P.L.L.

An enthusiastic meeting of the above League was held at Dumbleton Public School on Wednesday, Janu-

ary 13th, Alderman Macken presiding.

A motion of condolence was carried, to be forwarded to Mrs. Treffe and family. Members deplored the loss of the late Mr. Treffe as irreparable.

A considerable quantity of correspondence was received and dealt with. The report of the ladies' committee was received and adopted.

It was decided to hold a euchre party and social at Hodgson's Hall on Saturday, February 20th. Two good prizes are to be awarded. The members recognise the assistance Mrs. Wallis has rendered to the League, and will take the opportunity of making her a suitable presentation at the euchre party. The executive is to meet to consider ways and means of forming an athletic club, which will include boxing, singlesticks, quoits, etc. This should have Dumbleton up.

The members of this League keep a sharp eye on local matters, and any matter of importance is promptly brought before the State and Federal members.

MURRUMBIDGEE E.C.

A meeting of the Murrumbidgee Electoral Council was held at Narandera on the 9th inst. The delegates present were: Messrs. F. Sullivan, G. Hosking, P. O'Malley and M. McAlister (Narandera), P. Harris and G. Seton (Grong Grong), and E. Robson and W. Shaw (Yanco).

The balance-sheet for 1914 was read, and disclosed the fact that, after paying Mr. Chanter for a three-months' organising tour, and Mrs. Taylor for two months—both of whom did splendid and effective work—a balance of £6/9/6 was in hand.

The Council had no assistance outside the Murrumbidgee State electorate, with the exception of one or two leagues that responded to the call for financial aid, and therefore the brunt of the fight fell on the leagues within the Murrumbidgee.

The report was adopted, and a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to the retiring officers for the efficient way in which they carried out the duties of the Council during the past year.

The election of officers for the coming year resulted as follows:—President, P. Harris (re-elected); Secretary, G. Hosking (re-elected); Treasurer, G. Seton; vice-presidents, H. Mathison (Coolamon), G. Seton (Grong Grong), P. Harris (Yanco), E. Broadman (Leeton). Messrs. P. Harris, G. Seton and G. Hosking were elected trustees.

The Council decided to forward letters expressing deep sympathy, through the Hon. J. M. Chanter, to the relatives of the late Messrs. Arthur and Jolly.

The Council carried a motion to the effect that the State Government, without delay, should carry out the first plank of the Labor platform, and should also make the Totalisator Bill a Government measure.

The Council unanimously condemned the Norton-Griffiths scheme, and carried a motion in favor of all railway engines and trawlers being manufactured and built in the Commonwealth.

Mr. E. Robson was elected delegate to represent the Council at the next annual conference.

The council decided to hold the next meeting at Yanco on a date to be fixed.

FOREST LODGE P.L.L.

The usual monthly meeting of the Forest Lodge P.L.L. was held at Wigram-road on 11th inst. The president, Mr. E. Levey, occupied the chair.

The correspondence included the following:—

From Mr. R. Howe, M.H.R., with reference to the supply of Federal election returns, and from the King branch, P.L.L., relating to a special conference of the P.L.L. on the question of unemployment. It was decided that, owing to the near approach of the Annual Conference, the matter of the special conference could be deferred.

It was resolved that the electorate delegate to the Annual Conference be requested to move the suspension of the standing orders of the Conference, so that the following motions may be discussed, viz.:—"That the Conference deplores the inaction of the State Government in regard to Fair Rent Courts, such being an issue at the last general election, and a matter of urgent importance."

It was resolved that the following motions be placed upon the business paper of the Annual Conference:—"That a clause be added to Rule 53, to provide that all caucus meetings shall be open to the Labor Press."

"That a plank be added to provide for the reduction of the members of the Assembly, and that representation be at the rate of three members for each Federal Electoral Division."

"That a uniform system of electoral subdivisions, Federal and State, be arranged."

"That the election of Parliamentary representatives be on the preferential system."

TO THE EDITOR

All letters intended for publication must bear the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. In every case correspondence will be held strictly confidential.

DISABILITIES OF THE PER. WAY MAN.

Dear Editor,—I am a per. way man residing in the country, and anxious for a removal to the metropolitan area, but I have to wait for a vacancy, or for someone to die; and then I may perhaps be told I am too old for the lines with busy traffic. My only chance now would be to secure an exchange. Then I am again confronted with an inconvenience. I came out to the country, and in order to make myself and family comfortable I had a house erected, and bought a store, tanks, outhouses, and also a cow, the whole of which I value at £45, but have cut that amount down to £30 cash. Our friend "Scotty from Tarrro" is after a country job, and, of course, wants something easy, for he sent along the very generous offer of £24, on terms, for everything complete. I do not feel inclined to accept this offer, so all that is left for me is to go to further expense to remove the house. If the house grew there, like a tree, Scotty could have had it for nothing.

Yours, etc.,

A. D. WORRELL.

SICK AND ACCIDENT BENEFIT COMPANY.

Dear Editor,—Since the publication of the report of the Sick and Accident Benefit Company, proposed by our Union, I have been asked why we did not start a Mutual Aid Society. Some of the reasons are as follow, and they are weighty reasons, too. Under the ordinary mutual aid system, a member has to be away from his work ill for periods ranging from ten to thirteen weeks. These are long periods. The average length of illness is not more than four weeks, and even if the illness lasts more than that, but is just short of the full period of ten weeks, the member gets nothing. This we think is a real hardship. The man that is ill for eight weeks is just as badly off as the one that is off for ten weeks. None of us are able to save much out of our princely salaries for a rainy day, after the landlord has had his cut. Again, a mutual aid

society has the power to alter its rules at any time. A registered company cannot do so. A mutual aid member has no legal standing; he cannot enforce any of the promises made him under the rules. A member of a registered company can have the rules enforced by law. A mutual aid society cannot carry on over the end of the year, but has to disband, otherwise the Registrar of Friendly Societies will want to know the why and wherefore.

I would like to give an instance of how a member can suffer injustice. One of my mates was knocked down and injured, and, as a result, was away for eight weeks. He worked three days, but had to knock off again. Because he worked those three days he will now have to be away for another ten weeks before he is entitled to any assistance. He will then receive ten pounds.

Under our rules a member is paid for every day he is off, and the cost is not any greater, being only sixpence per week. We do not promise a large amount at death, but guarantee £25.

We have already a large number of applications for membership. Yours, etc.,

GUS MULDER,

Hon. Sec.

EVELEIGH BARRACKS QUESTION.

Dear Editor,—In the Report of the Newcastle branch of the A. R. and T. Association appearing in your issue of the 14th of January, appears a resolution of that branch, to take certain action re the alleged insanitary condition of the Alexandria barracks, evidently the proposed action emanates from a complaint received from more or more of its members. And I desire, through the columns of your paper, to publicly challenge the accuracy of the statement.

Although I don't have occasion to use the accommodation provided at the barracks I have a number of friends from the north, south and west who do, and being a member of the Tramway service myself and a constant reader of the "Co-operator," may I hope that my communication will be published, so that others who are directly concerned may express themselves on the matter.

For the past nine years I have been a constant visitor to the barracks (sometimes three or four times a week), and I have had an opportunity of seeing the place at various times during the day and night; and the remarkable cleanliness of the place both inside and outside cre-

ated an impression in my mind that the condition in which it is kept would be creditable to any private home; and the caretaker is deserving of the highest commendation for the interest he takes in it. In view of the number of men that occupy the barracks from time to time, it must be realised that the caretaker has a difficulty in keeping the barracks absolutely free from vermin, as vermin are undoubtedly picked up on the men's clothing and brought in. However, I feel sure that the place will bear a stricter investigation than the motive, that actuated the individual in making the complaint.

I am, yours, etc.,

A. CAMPBELL.

A DISCLAIMER.

FUMIGATING EVELEIGH BARRACKS.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Sir,—I would like to claim a little space in your valuable journal to refute the malicious slander, hurled at me in the "Co-operator" of January 14th issue, in re the report of the Newcastle branch of the Amalgamated R. and T. Association, requesting that the barracks at Eveleigh be fumigated, as the majority of the beds are infected with vermin. I challenge anyone to prove these statements. I invite inspection by anybody interested at any time.

Yours, etc.,

R. A. STEVENS,

Caretaker Eveleigh Barracks.

18/1/15.

(We have had to cut a good deal of matter out of this letter, since the columns of the "Co-operator" cannot be used to abuse any individual or set of persons. We are, of course, ready at all times to publish every side of the case.—Ed.)

MR. TOOLEY'S SURPRISE

A DAY OFF BY MISTAKE.

Conductor W. E. Tooley, of the Dowling-street Depot, finished work shortly after midnight on Sunday, 3rd inst., and upon examining the roster found that he was booked for a day off on Monday, 4th inst., and was to sign on at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday. When he reported for duty on Tuesday, he was informed by the Depot Master that a note had been sent to his address, instructing him to sign on at an earlier hour, and that as he had not done so there was no work for him. Mr. Tooley then went home and found that a note was awaiting him. His landlady stated that the note had been received in a sealed envelope at about 2 o'clock on the Monday, but she had not given it to him when he returned home on Monday night.

The Association, through the General Secretary, wrote to Traffic Superintendent Doran, pointing out that when a man is booked for a day off he is entitled to spend that day in any legitimate way that he desires. It cannot be expected that a man must remain at home on his day off in the expectation of a note being sent to him calling upon him to sign on earlier than he was rostered. There was no reason whatever for Mr. Tooley to anticipate that the requirements of the department would be such as to necessitate calling him to work earlier than his roster called for. The position was that Mr. Tooley would, unless the Traffic Superintendent gave directions otherwise, lose a shift through no fault of his own. The matter was not covered by an Award, and certainly Mr. Tooley had broken no regulation. The Association thought that, in the circumstances, justice would be met by allowing Mr. Tooley to work an extra shift, so as to recompense him for the time that he lost.

Replying to the General Secretary's letter, the Traffic Superintendent stated that Conductor Tooley had already made application for an interview, which had been granted, and that he will be given an extra shift in lieu of the day lost by him on the 5th inst.

NAMES WANTED

We have received during the week several letters for publication in the "Co-operator," bearing only initials or noms-de-plume. We have pointed out very frequently in these columns that communications of this kind cannot be recognised. We are quite willing to give space to any items of interest to our readers, but they must always be accompanied (not necessarily for publication) with the name of the author. The same thing applies to our readers, who desire any information; their inquiries must be accompanied by their names and addresses. If those who have sent communications which are now in question will supply the desired information their matter will be given prompt consideration.

WHERE AWAY ANNIVERSARY DAY? FLOOD'S PENINSULAR ESTATE, PITTWATER

THE WATERSIDE WONDERLAND OF NEWPORT.

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This is the season of the year, when, if cold once gets a grip, it sticks. It is, therefore, essential to fight the first clutch of it. There are few colds that come without preliminary warnings. When you get that creepy feeling or begin to sneeze, it is time to wear clothes that will not only keep you warm but will protect you against the sudden changes that are so often experienced at this time of year.

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PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Within the Commonwealth.

(In Advance Only)

Yearly 5/- posted

Half-yearly 2/6 posted

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 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.

AGENTS WANTED.

We want agents at all depots, workshops, and country centres, who will be paid for their services.

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.

Printed and Published by A. A. Catts, for THE CO-OPERATOR LTD., 421a Kent-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1915.

THE NEW RAILWAY APPEALS BOARD

In last week's issue of the "Co-operator" was published the text of the proposed amendment to the Railways Act, which provides for an alteration in the composition of the Appeal Board. With many of the proposed alterations the men in the Service will no doubt heartily agree. The All-Grades Union has long held that an independent chairman is required if the Board is to be regarded as an impartial tribunal to deal out justice to those who appear before it. No triune court can possibly claim to be impartial in which two of the three judges represent the interests of the prosecuting party, and the other one the interests of the defendant. The chairman's mind should be free from bias, and he should conduct the inquiry, assisted by his colleagues, who would be of use to him in explaining technical details from the point of view of a disinterested outsider, and deal with the cases that come before him in a spirit of equity and good conscience.

That the Chief Commissioner should have authority to appoint a representative to sit on the Board will not be disputed, and the provision that such representative shall not be an officer of the department to which the appellant belongs is imperative.

The most objectionable part of the proposed amendment is the provision relating to the appointment of representatives of the employees. It is proposed that sixteen persons shall be elected by the employees every three years, and for this purpose the employees are separated into eight divisions, as follows:—

- Division 1.—Officers in the Secretary's, Chief Accountants', Estate Agents', Advertising Managers', Solicitor for Railways, Railway and Tramway Medical Officers, Comptroller of Stores, and Traffic Audit Branches.
- Division 2.—Officers in the clerical and running staff sections of the Locomotive Branch.
- Division 3.—Officers on the mechanical sections of the Loco. Branch.
- Division 4.—Officers in the Railway Traffic Branch.
- Division 5.—Officers in the Permanent Way Branch, Railways, including the Signalling and Interlocking Branches.
- Division 6.—Officers in the Permanent Way Branch of the Tramways.
- Division 7.—Officers in the Railway and Tramway Electrical Branches.
- Division 8.—Officers in the Tramway Traffic Branch.

Each division is to elect a representative to sit on the Board when required, and a deputy to take his place in the event of his absence from any cause, or in case of his death. In the case of the employees' representative he must belong to the branch in which the appellant is employed. This dividing up of the employees into sections is the main defect in the proposed measure. The All-Grades Association has for years preached the doctrine of industrial unionism as opposed to sectional or craft unionism. It has contended all along that the object of unionism is to better the conditions of employees and to protect them against what may be conceived to be an infringement upon their liberties and privileges, not as engine drivers or firemen, or permanent way men, or tram conductors, or station masters, but simply as employees. The Association adheres to the ethical principle that an injury to one is the concern of all; that an injustice to a junior porter or a lamp cleaner is equally as important as is an injustice to a head clerk or a superintendent. It is a splendid principle, and one well worth defending, and the attempt to divide the men up into

sections is subversive of such principle and can serve no good purpose.

The employees in the Service have no fault to find with their representative under present conditions. They have been, and are being, well served by the representative they elected, who capably represents every man of the Service. If such were not the case it would rest with the men to elect a representative they required of him. Instead of all this unnecessary machinery of elections and waste of valuable time on the part of permanent officials, who would have to leave their employment to attend the Court every few days, the system of electing a representative of the whole Service, and a deputy would meet the case much more satisfactorily. Such representative must, however, immediately upon his election, be ranked as an official, receive a stipulated salary, and be allowed to devote the whole of his time to his Appeal Board duties and other work incidental thereto.

Not by any means has all been said that can be said against this portion of the proposed amendment, but enough has been said to show that it has many objectionable features, and that efforts must be put forward to have the provision altered when it comes before Parliament next session.

EAST GRETA.

DEPUTATION TO MINISTER.

A deputation from the East Greta branch and the executive of the Association waited upon the Minister for Labor and Industry, Hon. J. Estlin, on Tuesday last, 19th inst., in reference to the position of railway employees employed on the East Greta railway. The deputation consisted of Mr. W. H. Halls, president of the East Greta branch, Mr. H. S. Odell, executive officer, and Mr. Claude Thompson, general secretary. As the Minister had to attend a Cabinet meeting the interview was necessarily a short one. It was pointed out by the deputation that the members of the East Greta branch of the Amalgamated had an industrial agreement with the company. This agreement expired in August last. Negotiations were in progress for a new agreement when the war was seized as an excuse by the company for breaking off the negotiations. The Minister was asked first to use his influence with the directors of the East Greta Coy. with the object of arranging a conference between the Association and the company with a view to coming to an agreement. In support of this the deputation pointed out that the rates of pay on the East Greta railway were lower than those paid on the Government railways, and although the employees on Government railways were not satisfied with their pay and conditions of working, the East Greta men for the present would be satisfied if the rates of their railway were brought up to the level of the Government railway rates. It was pointed out by the deputation that, owing to the interchange of traffic between the East Greta and Government railways, a double set of books had to be kept, and the East Greta men—particularly those on the clerical and traffic staffs—had to familiarise themselves with Government railway matters as well as the matters of the company. It was shown that the traffic of the East Greta railway, as far as the passengers were concerned, had not decreased. Certainly the coal traffic had decreased, but this was owing to the action of the East Greta Company, and not anyone whom the company could blame. Secondly, the deputation asked that a provision be made

in the impending Industrial Arbitration Act, providing that employees on private lines should be paid rates not less than those prevailing on Government lines. The Minister, in his reply, stated he would be quite prepared and glad to use his influence with the directors of the East Greta Company in order to bring about a conference because he was convinced the men could put their case clearly and forcefully to the directors of the company. If the directors agreed to meet representatives from their employees. With regard to the new Industrial Arbitration Act, this probably would not be dealt with in the February session; it might be some time before the Act could be passed through Parliament, but he would be quite prepared to insert a provision of the character outlined. Some care, however, would need to be taken in drafting the clause. After a general discussion the deputation thanked the Minister for his courtesy, and withdrew.

UNITY IS STRENGTH.

As an evidence of the value of united effort, and incidentally the benefit of belonging to a movement covering every grade of men in a given employment, the recent action taken by the men at Darling Harbor to conserve their interests is illuminating. The pay day for the men at "The Harbor" is usually on a Thursday per fortnight, and these men, in common with the rest of the community, make their arrangements fit in with this day. Imagine the consternation which was caused on the Thursday preceding Christmas Day, which was the regular pay day, when the announcement was made that the pay day was to be put back one day to enable the department to pay another section of men in a different locality a day earlier than was usual. In ordinary times this would have been bad enough, since it is well known that men have obligations to meet, which in many cases cannot be put back a day; and, to make the matter worse, if no indication is given of such drastic alteration a great deal of inconvenience is caused by the wives and dependents arranging to meet the men concerned to secure some portion of the pay envelopes. At a time like Christmas, however, the inconvenience was doubly in evidence, since, beside those who had ordinary obligations to meet, there were many of the men who had arranged to take out passes to enable their wives to journey away, and naturally one cannot send one's wife away without some little of the wherewithal to provide the necessities of life, more specially since the passes in question would not have been good for another day. Therefore the announcement that the department proposed to pay wages at a later day than was usual, without as much as ordinary notice, created a deal of indignation amongst the men at the Harbor. Representations were at once made to the responsible officers and it was promised that an endeavor would be made to revert to the existing order. As the day wore on, however, the men found it impossible to get any satisfactory reply, and during the lunch hour a meeting was held, at which it was decided to stop work as a protest against this treatment. Therefore, when the time came to resume work at 2 o'clock it was found that the men did not turn out, and for a quarter of an hour the wheels of industry at the yard were idle. The result of this was that arrangements were at once made to revert to the ordinary pay day and when the men went back to work they had the satisfaction of knowing that their protest had had the desired effect.

This, it may be said, constitutes a great victory for the "All Grades" movement, since the large bulk of the men at Darling Harbor belong to the Association "All Grades" branch; and the unanimity with which a large question of this kind was dealt with, and the prompt action of the department to meet the just desires of the men, shows what can be done by a powerful organization of this kind. There is no desire of the Association, nor of the men themselves, that they should have to meet trouble at any time with the department. At the same time it is clearly realised that the men should be in a position to stand up for their ordinary rights as citizens and employees.

RAILWAY BUILT ON STUMPS

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL ACCIDENT.

At the inquiry into the death of the four persons that were killed on the transcontinental line on the 6th inst., when a guard's van left the metals and was wrecked, a fateful man named Patrick Quinn gave some sensational evidence. He said that he examined the line after the accident and found the metals six inches out of place at the spot where the van ran off, and the sleepers had sunk a few inches into the soft ground on a right-hand side. Drivers had complained about parts of the line, and it was discovered that the track had been formed over tree stumps, the tops of which were only six inches below the surface. In some places the sleepers were discovered with one end resting on a stump, thus causing the line to swing over

WEEKLY TALK ON CURRENT TOPICS

By Claude Thompson (Gen. Sec.).

Preparations for our Annual Conference are moving along very nicely. A large number of notices of motion have been sent in. These have been classified by the executive and will appear in next week's "Co-operator." Every member should retain a copy of the "Co-operator" in order that he may familiarise himself with the business that is to be transacted. I might state that a draft copy of the rules will be published next week, and all the members who desire to know what alterations in our rules are proposed should scan them very carefully so that their delegate may be instructed how the branch will vote when he comes to the Annual Conference.

TWO GOOD MEMBERS.

During the holidays an instance was forthcoming of the regularity and promptness of some of the Amalgamated members. Mr. W. Dignam, of Hilltop, a fitter, came in and paid a year's subscription in advance and obtained one of our membership medals. Mr. Dignam also paid for his brother, who is a fitter in the Tramway. For three years in succession Mr. Dignam has come into Head Office on precisely the same date, 25th December, of each year, and paid 24/-, being one year's subscription for himself and his brother. If we had a few thousand more members like Mr. Dignam affairs of Head Office would move on very rapidly. There is no doubt that the system of paying yearly in advance is the best one to be devised. It saves a lot of clerical work, and the member is never in doubt as to how he stands, nor is there any dispute with collectors.

SMOKE SOCIAL.

The committee that was appointed by a meeting of collectors and branch officers for the purpose of working up a smoke social to our conference delegates is getting to work. The function promises to be a very big success, and it is to be hoped that every effort will be made by our members to dispose of tickets. The number of tickets will be strictly limited, as we do not wish the accommodation of the hall to be overtaxed. An excellent programme is being arranged and fuller particulars will appear in the "Co-operator" week by week. It is not every day we have an opportunity of meeting our members from out-back, so those who wish to make the acquaintance of those who are worthily upholding the dignity of the "All Grades" in the "Never-Nevers" country should make a point of coming along to our Smoke Social.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM.

An indication of the growth of industrial unionism is found in the fact of the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Association, which is now in conference, having unanimously carried a motion approving of the formation of industrial unions and disapproving of craft unions. The trend of industry tends every day to be very complex. Craft unions, whatever good they have done in the past, are useless to safeguard the interests of the organization. The craft unions cannot recognise this. They think that very little sectional organisations that were efficacious in the days of good Queen Anne, will prevail against the present day capitalist. But industrial history day by day shows that sectional unions cannot prevail. It is necessary to regard the industry as the unity, and not the craft. One big union for each industry and one grand executive for all the unions is what is aimed at. This is the ideal of the Big Union Federation. This is the goal for which all industrialists are striving. One Big union for the Railway Service is the ideal that the Amalgamated has been striving for for the last 30 years. Success has not been achieved, but it is in sight. In the meanwhile you, reader, can do your best to bring about one big union for the Railway Service by inducing all of your mates to join the "All Grades."

ORGANISING.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances intervening I was not able to address two of my organising meetings last week. But I went out to Randwick on Tuesday and had an excellent meeting, particulars of which will be found elsewhere. We are making excellent progress at Randwick for the tradesmen there recognise that the Amalgamated is the only union that looks after their interests. It is the only union that knows anything about Service conditions, and it is the only union that has representation on the Appeal Board, Superannuation Board, and is the only union that is successful in departmental intervention.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM.

At the annual conference of the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Association the following resolution was carried for insertion in the P.L.L. agenda:—"That the Industrial Arbitration Act be amended to permit of the abolition of craft awards, and the substitution of industry awards."

WAR FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

SHRINKAGES IN THE RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY OFFICERS' FUND

This is a delicate subject, but the matter has become the subject of debate, and various opinions have been expressed as to the cause of it. That it is an undeniable fact is apparent in the balance-sheet just issued by the hon. secretary (Mr. C. A. Hodgson). Some of the criticism is very strong, and as strongly resented; therefore, we are sifting by verbal inquiry some of the chief points that appear to be operating against the success of the movement. Of course, there are great breaks in the opinions that we publish, and we desire to emphasise the fact that they are not our opinions; that what we print is absolutely WITHOUT PREJUDICE; and that our columns are open to denial, confirmation, or denunciation.

1st Objection:—

Lending money that was subscribed for urgent relief to the Gas Company.

That the money was subscribed with a view to relieving distress, and should not be bottled up by any financial measures, no matter how smart.

That it should not have been paid into three separate funds, and the Chamber of Commerce War Food Fund in particular. They should be able to get food from the producers easily, but the great danger in all such funds is that the bulky kind of relief never gets beyond the supply base to be of any use to one-half of the sufferers. Cash can squeeze through anywhere, and can be exchanged on the spot for whatever life-giving food is necessary. The Belgian Fund is alright. Give plenty, and give it quick in hard cash.

2nd Objection:—

The poorly-paid officers say the criticism comes from the high paid men, who can well afford it. They pretend to be disgusted with the rank and file, but, as Becky Sharpe said, "It is quite easy to be virtuous on £800 a year." The men on £300 to £600 can turn up their beetled eyebrows at the other fellow. It's so easy to hand out 2 per cent. out of £300 to £800, and have plenty left for the wife and kids."

3rd Objection:—

We are opposed to tooth and nail for an increase to a living salary by the Chief Commissioner at the Arbitration Court, and on account of the shortage of trade brought about by war, and yet we know that highly-paid officers have received increases from £100 to £125 per annum. That is patriotism inverted.

4th Objection (chiefly personal):—The circular issued by the secretary in November was a veiled threat, and is resented by the whole staff.

5th Objection:—

The secretary is most unpopular officer that ever held an administrative post. He is unnecessarily severe, and has loaded the consolidated revenue with penalty money needlessly taken from the men. This money—even if it is taken legally or illegally—should be invested in some benefit fund for employees. It is money wrung, not from the wage-earner, but from his family also, and is marked deep in the hearts of men, women, and children, who at least believe they have been wronged. A sovereign to-day only has the purchase power that fifteen shillings had seven years back.

6th Objection:—

And then the low paid man has a grouse. He says such a fund as this constitutes a lovely project for a man getting £800 per annum to start on, but how would he like to keep four kids on £190 p.a. and part out this per annum:—

Insurance, p.a.	£	s.	d.
Salary Stamp Duty	12	0	0
War Fund	0	4	0
Lodge	0	6	0
Union	2	12	0
Superannuation	0	10	0
Loss between quarter's allowance and actual cost	0	5	0
	£	17	0

You can add another 20/- as citizen's obligations, and note what is left to clothe and feed the family in these days, when the most subtle devices for raising patriotic money are counterbalanced by equally subtle promoters for raising the prices of primary food and clothing. The land is teeming with Pharisees, and the War Fund-raising Pharisee ought (if found out) to be summarily shot.

A Philosophic Objector remarks:—"If the subscription was endorsed with an open order to enter Heaven, there would be objectors. Some can't, and do. Some won't because they can, and some pay and growl all the time."

A SUPERIOR SUIT.

CASH ON EASY TERMS, from 63s. cash. Noted F.W. Style, All Shoulders, Latest Suitings and Serge (Indirect), Expert Cutting, Sound, Reliable Tailoring. Everything Shrink (inside and outside). Guaranteed Unbreakable Coat Fronts. Youth's Special Price.

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WESTRALIAN RAILWAY SALARIES

A REDUCTION AND A PROTEST

A MISTAKE RECTIFIED.

The Westralian Labor Government commenced the New Year by forming the lowest paid of its railway employees, the 9s. per day men, that their week's work would be reduced to 45 hours. When retrenchment is regarded as necessary, the usual procedure of a conservative Government is to commence the process at the bottom, and the Scaddan Administration followed this time-honored custom. The Amalgamated Association of Railway Employees at once made a vigorous protest against this "flagrant breach of the railway agreement," and it was pointed out that the men were not being consulted or notified in any way of the proposed reduction. Also it was pointed out that the process of retrenchment—if necessary at all—was commencing at the wrong end.

The Government, realising that a mistake had been made, at once withdrew the notice, and decided to substitute a better method of retrenchment, that of reducing the salaries of the higher paid employees by ten per cent. No one rejoices to see wages reduced, but, if such a course is imperative, the reduction should operate where the least hardship is likely to be imposed, and it follows, as a matter of course, that the man drawing 55 per week can better stand a reduction than can a man drawing, say, £3 per week.

WESTRALIAN STATE LABOR PLATFORM.

SUGGESTED NEW PLANKS.

At the meeting of the Kalgoolie branch of the Australian Labor Federation it was decided to place the following motions on the agenda of the A.L.F. Congress to be held in Adelaide on May 24:—(1) That compulsory insurance and national control thereof be made a plank of the Labor platform; (2) that the tobacco industry be nationalised; (3) that a referendum in all of the States be taken on the question of the retention or otherwise of State Governments; (4) that a Commonwealth Mining Act be introduced; (5) that the Federal Government establish horse, cattle, and sheep stations in the Federal territory; (6) that the Commonwealth military forces be utilised only for the defence of Australia against invasion; (7) that free railway passes be issued to members of citizen forces and cadets attending drill; (8) that cadets and members of the citizen forces when at compulsory drill during working hours be paid full time by their employers; (9) that voting be made compulsory; (10) that Federal election day be observed as a close holiday, and that the sale of intoxicating liquors and all sports be prohibited during polling hours; (11) that the medical profession be nationalised.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

GUARD CUT TO PIECES.

Guard George Quinn was knocked down and cut to pieces by the Moree mail at Hawkesbury River station on Friday night last. Quinn was in charge of a stock train which was standing at the station. He climbed down from the van and had just started to cross the rails when the Moree mail dashed by, the whole train passing over him. The body was unrecognisable. The funeral took place at St. Mar's Cemetery on Tuesday. Railway men from Hornsby, Penrith and Sydney attended in large numbers, and altogether nearly 400 people marched to the grave. The burial service was impressive.

Whilst George Baker (26), a married man, with two children, was attending trucks on the Newbridge deviation works, on Monday, an engine bumped the trucks, and Baker was knocked on to the line. The tender of the engine passed over his body. He was under the tender 15 minutes, and lived for several hours afterwards. At the inquest a verdict of accidental death was recorded.

OBITUARY

We have to chronicle with regret the death of Mr. Peter Hogan, late of the new loco, shop, Eveleigh, at the late of Newcastle, who died at the Lewisham Hospital, on the 5th inst. from enteric fever. The body was conveyed from his parents' residence, 24 Forbes-st., Darlington, to Newcastle, and was interred at Sangate Cemetery.

The late Mr. Hogan's shopmates, to the number of about sixty, with their foreman (Mr. Wilson), the Chief Clerk (Mr. Lawson), and Messrs. Walker, Mason, O'Donoghue and English as pall-bearers, marched en route to the Central Railway Station to pay their last respects, and to place a wreath upon the coffin of a worthy comrade.

THE SERVICE AND HIS WIFE

Mr. W. A. Angell, of the North Sydney Tram Depot, who has represented the hospital fund there with conspicuous success for a few years, has had to resign through pressure of other duties. Last year he harvested for the fund £215/6/11. Mr. H. Eaton has taken over the duties of hospital fund representative at the Shore, and judging from his reputation amidst his comrades will also be a success.

Mr. Tom McKinley is about again, but is not out of the surgeon's hands yet. Tom met with a nasty accident at the turntables near the running shed some weeks ago and got knocked out by a lever. He has been carved up a bit, and Dr. Maitland is now looking into his latest development. He is a good sort, and many will be pleased to hear that he is now on a smooth looking track to health again.

Mr. A. S. Paulsen, of whom we had a notice in our personal column last week, is in Sydney Hospital. He is getting on nicely after a minor operation.

Mr. J. Moran, Pat Smith's chief clerk, is rumored to be taking up quarters in the Goods Manager's office. The Traffic staff will miss the magic initials "J.M." from the bungs in future.

Mr. E. D. Campbell, President of the Association and representative of the men on the Appeals Board, went off on his annual holidays last Friday. Mr. Campbell, who has been feeling very much run down of late, was unable to get far away from the city on account of the sittings of the Appeal Board, and we learn that he has taken a cottage at Cronulla, where, on the days on which he is not sitting on the Appeal Board, he may be found enjoying the cooling breezes and perhaps the delights of surf bathing.

Mr. J. Kearney, Darling Harbor, has just gone off sick. It is expected, however, that he will be about in a few days.

Mr. H. H. Halls, president of the East Greta branch of the Amalgamated, has been in Sydney this week for the purpose of interviewing the Minister for Labor. Mr. Halls looks particularly well.

Mr. G. Armstrong, the hardworking secretary of the Redfern branch of the Amalgamated, goes on his annual leave on the 22nd, and expects to have an enjoyable time at Katoomba.

Mr. H. A. Maddocks, fitter-in-charge at Taree for the past 18 months, has been transferred to Cootamundra. His successor is Mr. J. H. Scott, from Werri Creek.

Night Officer O. Payne, Parkes, has been transferred to Riverstone. Mr. L. Daley, formerly N.O. at Henty, will replace Mr. Payne at Parkes.

Mr. Wythes, goods clerk at Dubbo, has just undergone an operation for appendicitis. He is now progressing well.

Mr. Brennan, who succeeded Mr. Lachlan as S.M. at Parkes, took up duty last Monday after his holidays.

Mr. Geo. Scarlett, who was for many years stationmaster at Petersham, died last Tuesday at his home at Marrickville, at the ripe old age of 73 years.

Mr. W. Brady, storeman at Murrumbidgee, has been transferred to Eskbank. Prior to his leaving the local railway employees held a social for the purpose of bidding him farewell and presenting him with a token of their esteem. The gathering was a large one and the expressions of goodwill towards Mr. Brady were numerous and to the point. All congratulated him upon his promotion; and if good wishes count for anything Mr. Brady and his family have prosperous times ahead of them. The present took the form of a silver coffee service.

Shunter G. Smith, of Dubbo, has just been promoted to the position of night officer at Gulgong.

The Minister for Works has decided to allow soldiers' wives to rent the unoccupied canvas houses near Daceyville. The offer is, no doubt, well meant and in all probability there are soldiers' wives that find it difficult to meet the demands of that culture of civilization, the Sydney landlord, and will gladly avail themselves of the offer. The little boxes have been improved by wooden floors and a coat of paint that renders the walls opaque. But the "houses" are far too small and are placed much too close together. The person who designed them might have been designing a dog kennel instead of a human habitation. A couple of single men might tolerate such a shelter if out on a holiday for a week or so, but as residences for soldiers' wives and families they are "over the odds."

OVER THE ODDS

CYNICAL SIDE LINES

As a rule, judges, sitting on the bench betray a woeful lack of originality, and their utterances are as cold and insipid as a plate of yesterday's porridge. Occasionally, however, some epigrammatic definition or witty fall from the lips of a learned luminary of the law. A case, in point, The other day Judge Pring was reading a document that described a defendant as a "gentleman."

"What does 'gentleman' mean?" said the Judge. "How am I to know what he is by such a vague description? He may be a newspaper-seller or a flower-seller, for all I know." "I understand," said a "gent. one," "that the word had a special legal significance."

"Not at all," replied his Honor. "Any man who behaves himself is a gentleman."

So here we have it for our dictionary of words and meanings: Gentleman—any man that behaves himself. The usually accepted definition is much narrower, for it implies a man of means, and a man of means may be anything but a gentleman.

In the United Kingdom the habitual beer drinker contributes one penny to the expenses of the war every time he swallows a pint. Boozers may, therefore, save their consciences with the knowledge that beer-drinking involves a duty that every free-born Britisher owes to his country at the present time. Instead of saying "Come and have a drink," the man that "holds it" may greet his thirsty neighbor with the more patriotic invitation, "Let us give the Chancellor of the Exchequer tuppence." And when the two pints have disappeared, the other thirsty person will suggest that the Chancellor would gladly welcome another "tuppence," and so on. The man that gets up with a morning-after headache and a guilty conscience will gain some little consolation from the knowledge that his indiscretions have enriched the Treasury and indirectly assisted to wallop the Germans.

H. O. Arnold-Forster, in his "History of England," points out that the "fiftieths" have all been important years in English history. Magna Charta was signed in 1215, the battle of Agincourt was won in 1415, the Jacobite rebellion was suppressed in 1715, and the battle of Waterloo was won in 1815. By December 31st next we shall be able to say whether 1915 will be similarly conspicuous in the pages of history. Those that think it is unlikely to walk under a ladder or to start an enterprise on a Friday may take a less optimistic view of the matter, since the present year came in on a Friday, will go out on a Friday, and will contain 53 Fridays.

Some months ago we were aroused to a high pitch of excitement by cables appearing in the evening papers to the effect that an army of 70,000 Russians had passed through England en route for the seat of war in Northern France. The military authorities were discreetly silent on the subject, and many Australian sub-editors took the matter quite seriously, and wrote wonderfully informative, as well as imaginative, notes on the subject. An English journal to hand clears up the mystery by stating that on that occasion the War Office received a telegram stating that 70,000 Russians had been despatched via Aberdeen, but that the Russians referred to were eggs, not men.

It seems to be quite easy to get a job in Sydney—if you have money to pay for it. Advertisements in the daily papers present some tempting offers of this kind. For instance, one advertiser offers to put you in the way of earning from £3 to £4 per week for the sum of half a sovereign. Such a job should not long go begging, for if you haven't half a sovereign you can surely borrow one from one of your wife's relations. Someone else advertises regularly for a man to

THE WEEK'S WAR NEWS EPITOMISED.

"STAND BY YOUR GUNS."

(By W. W. Metters.)

"Tis many miles from south to north around the rolling sphere To that group of little islands that Britons love so dear; Pat, Taff and Jock and Johnny Bull may oftentimes from them roam, And we, as good Australian-born, still love our fathers' home. And proud are we that British blood runs through our veins— Blood that was shed in freedom's cause in many hard campaigns. New Zealanders, Canadians too, with us will always stand And fight as we have fought before for dear Old Motherland."

Chorus:

Stand by your guns, my boys, stand by your guns! Let 'em see you mean it, brave Australia's sons. They want to test the Bulldog's bite, To see the way the Bulldogs fight; Let 'em find that the boys from the Southern Seas are the Bulldogs of Old John Bull.

We'll always fight as Britons do, no matter where we fight. We leave our home and country to fight for ought but right. O mothers, wives and sisters are watching as we go— They expect us to be true to them the day we meet the foe. The aged and helpless need not fear, and children need not cry; We go to fight with foemen and are not afraid to die. For we can face the wide world, our colors bear no stain; And God forbid that we should win such laurels as Louvain.

THE OUTLOOK.

It is many weeks since the cables stated that the German attack had been broken and that General Joffre had ordered a vigorous advance from the Swiss border to the North Sea. It has to be acknowledged that the situation shows very little improvement. The Germans are still in full possession of Belgium with the exception of a little strip on the coast between Nieuport and Dunkirk, a mere paddock, so to speak, and they still occupy a portion of France almost as large as Belgium. The French occupy a small portion of German territory, no larger than a Queensland cattle station, on the southern end of the battle front. These facts are not pleasant to contemplate, but they must be faced. The march to Berlin has not commenced yet, and everything points to a fierce and prolonged struggle before the enemy can be dislodged and forced back into their own territory. The Russian advance on the Eastern frontier may ease the situation—it must eventually do so; and by the end of the year the Prussians should have shot their bolt and be making a desperate defence instead of vigorous attacks.

GERMAN SUCCESSES.

The Allies, we are told, have made further slight progress on the Belgian coast, near Nieuport, which may mean that they have advanced about the width of George-street. Desultory fighting is really going on continually along the whole western battle front, but no decisive engagement is likely to be fought for many weeks, nay, months. What appears to have been a German victory culminated last week, after many days of fighting, near Soissons, a French town situated some seventy miles from Paris, the nearest point of the German line to the French capital. We have two versions of the struggle, one German, the other French. The German version probably exaggerates the victory; the French version no doubt minimises it. We may believe which report we choose or steer a middle course, and believe part of each. Both versions agree on one point—that the French had to retreat over the Aisne, and that they lost a large number of men; the Germans, however, did not succeed in crossing the river, but they shelled the town of Soissons, killed many civilians and damaged buildings. The Germans compare the action to that of Gravelotte, which was termed the "German hot air." At Gravelotte, after a terrific struggle, the retreat of Marshal Bazaine was cut off, and he, with his army, had to retire upon Metz, where he subsequently surrendered to the Prussians. The victory was a costly one to the Prussians, but it had far-reaching and decisive effects. The Soissons battle is a mere incident in an infinitely greater campaign.

THE CANADIANS.

One of the most interesting war incidents chronicled during the week is the charge made by a Canadian regiment near Ypres during a German attack upon La Bassee. In a cable dated Saturday it is stated

that the British success at this point was a brilliant piece of work, during which a Canadian regiment, shouting "For Canada and Old England!" made a bayonet charge. The Germans broke and fled precipitately. Trench after trench fell, until the German artillery checked the pursuit. Over a mile of ground was gained. Yesterdays' cables state that the British headquarters staff denies the capture of the German positions at La Bassee, and add that no attack, has been attempted. This is certainly rough on the Canadians, and it emphasises the need for more carelessness on the part of those that make up the cables. We may of course believe that the Canadians acquitted themselves as they should, and it is a pity that they should be involved in a glorious victory that did not take place.

HOME AGAIN.

The two hundred and seventy Australians that returned from what was German New Guinea on Saturday last were glad to get home again. Some of them were suffering with malarial fever or its effects, and even those that were fit were delighted to come south and breathe the cooler air of the New South Wales

There were the Socialists and the Quakers. The quiet and unassuming Quakers have made good, but the Socialists, who were forever blatant in their expressions of peace and goodwill, have failed miserably to come up to scratch. The conscientious objections of the Quaker have on many occasions proved to be genuine, and one therefore respects him for holding them. The objections of the Socialist, of the German type, at any rate, are but skin deep, for in spite of his boasted cosmopolitanism he becomes just as patriotic as the maddest British Jingo as soon as the bugle calls him to the front. It is not so long since we read of the power of German democracy. We were told that the Social Democrats—all men of peace, who liked to speak of the workers of other countries as "brothers" and "comrades"—had a voting strength of over four million, and we expected that four million to act as an effective check upon Prussian militarism. Instead of that, we find that the German workers are quite enthusiastic about the war, and that the Socialist Deputies voted war credits in the German Parliament, just as eagerly as did the members of the Conservative and Junker parties. In fact, one of them excused himself for doing by stating to a Belgian "comrade" that he

thought that the British army did not count as a Continental force. So far they have been disillusioned. The future is in the lap of the gods, but it is much to be hoped that before the end of the year we have entered upon these German-silver Socialist Deputies will be voting thumping big indemnities instead of war credits.

GERMAN AMAZONS.

It is stated that German women have been found among the wounded in Poland, and that a number of German prisoners taken by the Russians were also discovered to be women. The cable man gives the impression that these German females are tremendously large and powerful women, of a strong, masculine type, for he states that they "were fine specimens of womanhood and the Russian nurses much admired their fine muscles." The chances are that, if the statement is true, these women belong to the peasant class, and are inured to toil and hardships. Many of them—great, big, coarse females—work in the fields regularly with their men folk, and are ignorant and superstitious, and totally devoid of the fine feelings and sensibilities that are

immigration into Germany has taken place, and so well interested in the economic and industrial function of the nation are her rulers, that she has been able to provide prudent parental attractions and keep her people at home. Not a few of the industrial laws made in Germany would be dubbed morbid socialism here. Forestry is another: State-owned for the most part, yielding a revenue of upwards of 22 millions, one of the greatest mistakes made by present-day critics is that which make them leave Germany out of the calculation tables as a meat-producing country. The following table will give us some food for reflection:—

She has of	
Horses	4,500,000
Cattle	20,000,000
Sheep	6,000,000
Pigs	22,000,000
Goats	3,400,000
In Australia there are of	
Horses	2,500,000
Cattle	12,000,000
Sheep	83,000,000
Pigs	1,000,000
Goats	270,000

So that we can only beat her in jumbucks. Her intense cultivation on farms of small size, aided by the highest scientific attainments, enables Germany to raise such vast numbers of cattle and pigs. The

by the hearthside, trudging along the highroads, faint with hunger and weariness or pleading for places in cattle trucks already overpacked with fugitives, or wandering about unlighted towns at night for any kind of lodging, and then, finding none, sleeping on the doorsteps of shuttered houses and under the poor shelter of overhanging gables.

"At the present time in this part of France there are thousands of husbands who have lost their wives and children, thousands of families who have been divided hopelessly in the wild confusion of these retreats from a brutal soldiery. They have disappeared into the maelstrom of fugitives—wives, daughters, sisters, mothers and old grandmothers, and grandmothers, most of them without money and all of them dependent for their lives upon the hazard of luck. Every day in the French newspapers there are long lists of inquiries. "M. Henri Planchet would be deeply grateful to anyone who can inform him of the whereabouts of his wife Suzanne, and of his two little girls, Bertha and Marthe, refugees from Aire-sur-Lys."

"Madame Tardien would be profoundly grateful for information about her daughter, Madame des Rochers, who fled from the destroyed town of Albert on 10th October,

receive a baptism of fire. Who can tell this distracted man whether the mother or child lives?"

"There are many villages in France to-day around Lille and Arras, St. Omer and Aire, Arras, and Arras, and over a wide stretch of country in Artois and Picardy, where in spite of all weariness, women who lie down beside their sleeping babes can find no sleep for themselves. For who can say what the night will bring forth?"

"Perhaps a patrol of Uhlans, who shoot peasants like rabbits as they run across the fields, and who demand wine, and more wine, until the madness of drink they begin to burn and destroy for mere lust of ruin. So it was at Senlis, at Crepy-en-Valois, and last week in many little villages in the region through which I have lately passed."

"It is never possible to tell the enemy's next move. His cavalry comes riding swiftly from the main lines of the hostile troops, and owing to the reticence of official news, the inhabitants of a town or village find themselves engulfed in the tide of battle before they guess their danger. They are trapped by the sudden tearing up of railway lines and blowing up of bridges, as I was nearly trapped the other day when the Germans cut a line a few hundred yards away from my train. If I had passed that few hundred yards ten minutes earlier I should have been caught in the trap, like scores of poor people who are now without any way of escape."

"Yet the terror is as great when no Germans are seen, and no shells heard. It is enough they are coming. They have been reported—often falsely—across distant hills. So the exodus begins, and with perambulators laden with bread and apples, in any kind of vehicle—even in a hearse—drawn by poor beasts too bad for army requisitions, ladies of quality leave their chateaux, and drive in the throng with peasant women from white-washed cottages. Perhaps in a little while both the chateau and the cottage will be buried in the same heap of ruins."

"In a week or two perhaps the enemy is beaten back, and then the most hardy of the townsfolk return 'home.' I have seen some of them going home—at Senlis, at Crepy, and other places. They come back doubtful of what they will find, but soon they stand stupefied in front of some charred timbers which were once their house. They do not weep, but just stare in a dazed way. They pick over the ashes and find burnt bits of former treasures—the baby's cot, the old grandfather's chair, the parlor clock. On they go into houses, still standing neat and perfect, and find that some insanity of rage has smashed up all their household, as though baboons had been at play or fighting through the rooms. The chest of drawers has been looted or its contents tumbled out upon the floor. Broken glasses, bottles, jugs are mixed up with a shattered violin, the medals of a grandfather who fought in '70, the children's broken toys, clothes, foodstuff and picture frames. I have seen such houses after the arriving and going of the German soldiers."

"Ruin and death came with this invasion. In the war zone there is no safety. Sixty miles or more from the German lines hostile aeroplanes skim through the sky, dropping bombs over quiet little villages. Yesterday, not far from where I write these words, a woman went out with her baby to speak with a neighbor. A moment later the mother and child were both lying dead in the roadway. A German aviator had passed in the clouds."

portal Philip has been decorated is thus described:—"One night he was sent out with 25 men to reconnoitre a creek, where German soldiers were making trenches. On arriving near this creek he saw German engineers digging a trench, while a sentry marched up and down. He told his men to hide in a wood near by, and he took one man with him and advanced towards the sentry. His companion, following instructions, attracted the sentry's attention, and Philip, rushing forward, thrust his bayonet into the German's heart. He put on the dead man's cloak and helmet, and shouldering his rifle, took his place as sentry go. The German engineers, who were unaware of what had happened, finished the trench, and then left it. After their departure Philip brought his men from the wood and occupied the trench. At dawn a company of Bavarians arrived to take their places in the trench, and were received with a steady rifle fire, which killed and wounded all but 18 of them, who surrendered. Philip's regiment, hearing the firing, came to the rescue, and Philip, with a courtly bow, said to the astonished Colonel, 'Mon colonel, allow me to present you with this trench. From it you will be able to get a better idea of the German positions.'"

GERMAN OVERTURE TO BELGIUM

The Foreign Office has issued as a White Paper the diplomatic correspondence respecting the war published by the Belgian Government. The full text of the overture, made by Germany to Belgium after the fall of Liege, in view of what followed, is of particular interest. It is in the taken by assault after a brave defence.

"The German Government most deeply regrets that bloody encounters should have resulted from the Belgian Government's attitude towards Germany. Germany is not coming as an enemy into Belgium. It is only through the force of circumstances that she has had, owing to the military measures of France, to take the grave decision of entering Belgium and occupying Liege as a base for the further military operations. Now that the Belgian army has upheld the honor of its arms in the most brilliant manner by its heroic resistance to a very superior force, the German Government begs the King of the Belgians and the Belgian Government to spare Belgium the horrors of war."

"The German Government are ready for any compact with Belgium which can in any way be reconciled with their arrangements with France. Germany gives ones her solemn assurance that she has not been animated by the intention of appropriating Belgium territory for herself, and that such an intention is far from her thoughts. Germany is still ready to evacuate Belgium as soon as the state of war will allow her to do so."

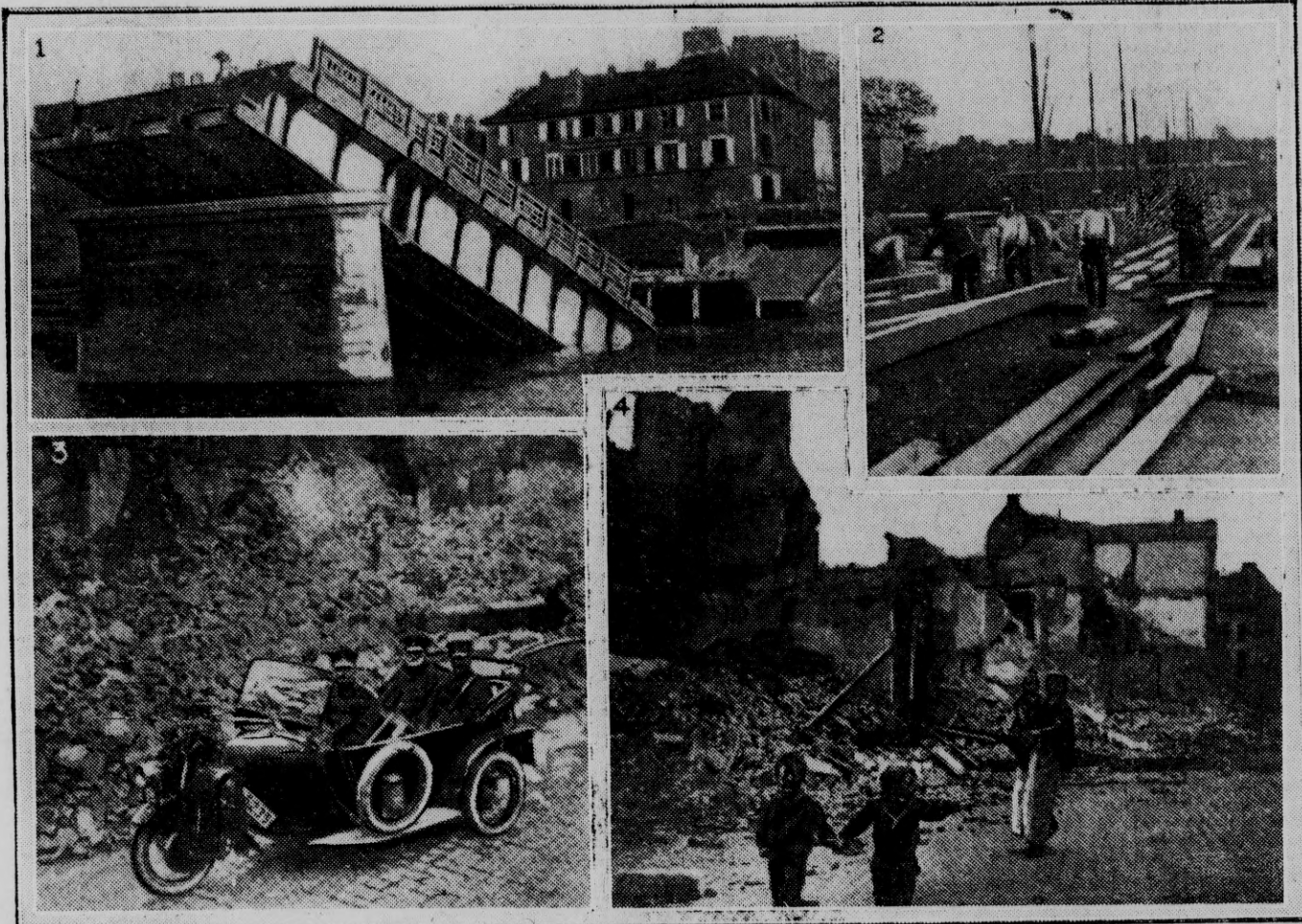
GROWING GERMAN ANXIETY.

The growing apprehensions of the German public in regard to the progress of their armies and the disorganisation of trade finds expression in many anxious inquiries addressed to the newspapers for their opinion as to the duration of the war. Says the "Deutsche Tageszeitung" on this subject:—"How long will the war last? This is a question being asked not only in the cafes and railway carriages, but in a section of the press. Our own readers repeatedly ask us for our opinion, but we cannot meet their wishes, simply because no one at present is in a position to answer the question with any certainty. It is both futile and senseless to express mere suppositions. Moreover, all such discussions are extremely harmful, for they may easily convey a totally false impression of national feeling, and that must be avoided in all circumstances."

"We content ourselves, therefore, with repeating that all sections of the nation are unconditionally resolved to hold on until an enduring, honorable and certain peace has been achieved. This resolve has been repeatedly proclaimed with absolute clearness by all classes of the German people, and on this point the Emperor, the army and the nation are at one. The question as to how long the war will last can, therefore, only be answered by saying that, humanly speaking, it will continue until this goal has been reached."

"It is a matter of history that Belgium emphatically rejected the insidious overture."

The question was recently asked in the House of Commons whether any German princes or their relations resident in England were in receipt of pensions or other payments out of the public funds of Great Britain. Mr. Lloyd-George replied that their annuities to Princess Christian and Princess Henry of Battenburg were being paid, these princesses being British subjects resident in the United Kingdom. The official list of British pensions to German royalties includes £5000 each to Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the Duchess of Edinburgh (Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha), the Duchess of Albany and Princess Henry of Battenburg, and £3000 to Princess Augusta (Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz).



WARS HAVOC IN BELGIUM.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S REPLY.

In reply to the Belgian commission that came to this country to protest against the destruction of Louvain and other atrocities in Belgium, and also in reply to the German and French accusations of the use of dum dum bullets, President Wilson has formally announced to the world that the United States cannot at this time pass judgment upon or take any part in the controversies between the warring European nations over alleged violations of the rules of civilized warfare and humanity. Settlement of these questions, he said, would have to wait until the end of the war, which he prayed would not be long. "It would be unwise," he would be premature," said the President in reading his formal reply to the Belgian delegation, "for a single government, it would even be inconsistent with the neutral position of any nation which, like this, has no part in the contest, to form or express a final judgment."

A FEW FACTS ABOUT GERMANY

The German Empire comprises an area two and a half times that of the State of Victoria, or two-thirds that of New South Wales. It contains 66 millions of people, who are annually increasing at the rate of about 800,000. Since 1880 the increase of population in Germany has been 75 per cent, therefore she has not felt the national goitre of declining birth-rate. But more remarkable still is the fact that during this period emigration from Germany has almost stopped, whilst in the neighboring countries it has increased fourfold. More wonderful still is the fact that

WHAT INVASION MEANS TO FRANCE.

Mr. Philip Gibbs, who has sent some of the best despatches from the war, gives this vivid picture in the "Daily Chronicle" of what the invasion of their country is meaning to the French people.

"England is sending the best of her sons to fight for honor's sake and civilisation, and the imagination of our people is beginning to realise, though still slowly, I think, the tragic significance of this worst of wars," he writes. "But it is impossible, I am sure, for people safe at home in England, in the peace of old country towns and the quietude of English villages, to understand, even dimly, the meaning of invasion by hostile armies."

"They understand it here in northern France. They know the misery and the horror of it. It is a great fear which spreads like a plague, though more swiftly and terribly, in advance of the enemy's troops. It makes the bravest men sick with cowardice when they think of the women and children. It makes the most callous man pitiful when he sees those women with their little ones and old people, whose place is

BRAVE PARENTS

The parents of many of the British soldiers and sailors who have fallen in the war are exhibiting a splendid fortitude. They put aside their private grief for the loss of their dear ones, and regard the sacrifices they have been called upon to make as sacrifices for the good of their country. The following is an extract from a published letter written by Dr. Dickson on behalf of his wife and himself concerning their son, Midshipman Dickson, a youth of 17 years, who perished in the disaster to the cruiser Hogue, which was torpedoed by a German submarine in the North Sea:—"The loss of our brave boy has roused in us no feelings of a desire for revenge for him personally, but we and our other sons are prepared to give still more, and by thought, word and deed to do all in our power to help to wipe this cursed German militarism with its ruthless atrocities, off the face of the earth, once for all. If perchance any parents who read this are holding back their sons, we appeal to them over our son's watery grave, for their King and country's honor, and for the children yet unborn, not to hesitate to send their boys forward into the battle line."

A CAPTURED TRENCH.

Corporal Philip, of the 24th Regiment of French Colonial Infantry, has been awarded the military medal for bravery. The military medal is the highest award for valor bestowed on the soldiers of France, but it is awarded far more frequently than the Victoria Cross, though not with the prodigality with which the Kaiser has been handing out the Iron Cross. The action for which Cor-

WITH HER FOUR CHILDREN.

"Every day I read some of these lists with a pain in the heart, finding a tragedy in every line, and wondering whether any of these missing people are among those whom I have met in the guards' vans of troop trains, huddled among their bundles, or on wayside platforms, patient in their misery, or in the long columns of retreating inhabitants from a little town deep in a wooded valley below the hills where German guns are vomiting their shrieking shrapnel."

"Imagine such a case in England. A man leaves his office in London and takes the train to Guildford, where his wife and children are waiting supper for him. At Weybridge the train comes to a dead halt. The guard runs up to the engine driver, and comes back to say that the tunnel has been blown up by the enemy. It is reported that Guildford and all the villages around have been invaded. Families flying from Guildford describe the bombardment of the town. A part of it is in flames. The Guild hall is destroyed. Many inhabitants have been killed. Most of the others have fled."

"The man who was going home to supper wants to set out to find his wife and children. His friends hold him back in spite of his struggle. 'You are mad!' they shout. 'Mad!' He has no supper at home that night. His supper and his home have been burnt to cinders. For weeks he advertises in the papers for the whereabouts of his wife and babes. Nobody can tell him. He does not know whether they are dead or alive."

"There are thousands of such cases in France. I have seen this very tragedy only yesterday—a man weeping for his wife and children swallowed up into the unknown, after the destruction of Fives, near Lille. A new-born babe was expected. On the first day of life it would

THE SUN WILL SHINE TO-MORROW.

You'll find no help in sighing,
When skies are overcast;
Sighing makes the heart more drear
And shadows longer last.
Be cheerful, and from here and there
A touch of comfort borrow:
To-morrow will be clear and fair—
The sun will shine to-morrow.

You'll find no help in weeping,
Because you tread this morn
A thorny path; each falling tear
But adds another thorn.
Be cheerful, hopeful, and make free
Your mind from thoughts that
harrow:

To-morrow's path will smoother be—
The sun will shine to-morrow.

Oh, bear in mind—let come what
may,
The darkest day will pass away—
The sun will shine to-morrow.

HOW TO WASH IT.

BRAN FOR DELAINE.
I find that a really good way of washing delaine blouses is to boil a pint of bran and sufficient soap to make a lather in two quarts of water. Then strain, add two more quarts of water, and wash the blouses in this, rinsing in lukewarm water. The result is ever so much better than when they are washed in plain soap and water.

NEW MATERIALS.
I find it a good plan before washing for the first time—nunveiling, cotton, delaine, etc., to let the article soak beforehand for about twelve hours in cold water (preferably soft water). This takes all the "dressing" out of the material, and makes it easy to wash.

SILK STOCKINGS.
Never use soap for washing silk stockings, either colored or black. I boil two heaped tablespoonsful of bran in a quart of water, and find it just splendid. Rinse in clear water after.

RICE STARCH.
I always starch my cotton frocks with rice water instead of ordinary starch, and find it ever so much better. It prevents them hanging limp when exposed to damp air, and it also preserves the color.

Also the material does not stick to the iron when it has been stiffened in this way, which I consider another great advantage.

THE HEALTH OF WOMEN

The health of our women is a matter of national importance, as upon it depends not only the present happiness of many homes, but the welfare of future generations. Every woman, especially those who are sufferers, should read "Women's Guide to Health," a valuable little medical book, which will be sent free to anyone sending name and address to Dent, 131A, Ladies' College of Health, 54 Oxford-street, Sydney.

What's fresh?
Abel's Bread

KINGTEA
DRINKS BEST.
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THE AFFAIRS OF WOMEN

I am
Always
at the
Disposal
of our
Women
Readers.

IN THE past a considerable benefit has been conferred on our readers by this interesting city shopping on their behalf. A forward move has now been made by the engagement of the new editor, 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.

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.

WOMEN AND WAR.

MEN MUST FIGHT AND WOMEN MUST WEEP.

Every now and then we get a little glimpse, a kind of snap-shot, illustrating the conditions under which the civilian population has to live in the European war area. It is hard for us here in Australia to realise what war really means to thousands of people in Belgium and northern France; and Australian women not gifted with sufficient imagination to fill in the details that lie unmentioned behind the war news cannot understand the feelings of those that are dwelling in the deep heart of sorrow and desolation. A medical officer of the Special Reserves R.A.M.C., on maternity cases in the fire zone, opens a little window, as it were, and allows us to have a peep at one of the phases of the war that we hear little or nothing of. He says:—"Within 200 yards of our most advanced trenches, and continually under shell fire, what remains of the civil life of the village goes on from day to day. Most of the houses are wrecked and stripped of furniture and valuables. A message was brought to me that a lady wanted to see a doctor. Putting some necessities in a haversack, I went with the guides—two ladies. They led me to a cellar with one door, and no other light. On the left of the door was a space reaching a depth of the cellar and cut off by wire netting. In this there were chickens. On the extreme right was ink darkness. On a mattress lay a woman with two little children asleep at her feet. Another was born, and all the attention possible was given to the mother and child. The food of those in the cellar—and it was filled with occupants—consisted of eggs when the chickens were obliging, beef supplied by the troops when possible, and field produce. There was no bread, no milk. The doctor with difficulty obtained two tins from his Majesty's stores for mother and child. He had to leave the village during the next day, and did not see either of his patients again.

At Broken Hill bread is now selling at 4½d. per loaf, a rise of a penny since the war broke out.

MY COTTON CREPE FROCK
This material is very much worn, and very charming and smart it looks when new.

I have a dress of it myself, so that I think it will interest you if I tell you just exactly how I managed to get it up so that my friends exclaimed in chorus, "Why, it's just as good as new!" which I took as a big compliment to my efforts. Anyone can wash, I know, but can they all make their things look equal to new?

HOW I MANAGED.
My dress was really rather badly soiled, I found, when I set about preparations for the necessary ablutions. I wanted it for a special tennis party, so I didn't mind how much trouble I took over making it look its best.

I fetched some yellow soap, and this I shredded up with an old knife into a saucapan, covered it with water and put it on to melt.

This done, I added half my melted soap to a small bath of hot water. When I say hot, I mean at a temperature which is comfortable for the hands.

THE WRONG SIDE FIRST.
Into this I boldly plunged my frock, and washed it by squeezing in the soap lather thoroughly on the wrong side first, and rubbing where the material was very soiled.

The dirt seemed to fall out. I can't tell you how easy the washing was made by melting the soap instead of rubbing it on in the usual way.

The remaining half of my melted soap I poured into a second bath of hot water, and proceeded to wash the frock on the right side in this. Round the cuffs I had to rub rather hard, but it didn't harm the material in the least.

Washing over, I rinsed in two baths of tepid water, and then in one of cold. To this I added sufficient blue to make the water sky-blue when held in the hand.

OUR GRANDMOTHERS.

Women spend much time in jubilation over the progress they have made, and in celebrating this as the golden age of their sex. None of us would turn back the hands of the clock, but, nevertheless, there are times when it occurs to even those of us who have achieved the privilege of earning our own bread and butter instead of being fed on cake, that we overrate our blessings, and that if we have got independence, our grandmothers had a cinch. It is Eve looking back upon her lost Eden, and beginning to feel the apple lie heavy on her stomach.

It is, of course, a glorious thing for the door of every business and profession to be open to women, but what a nice, soft, restful thing it must have been to merely be a floppy vine that someone was bound to support. It is highly gratifying to our co-educational colleges the girl students carry off most of the prizes, but the woman whose thinking was farmed out between her male relatives escaped a lot of worry. It is inspiring to think of the noble reforms in which women are engaged, but the woman whose horizon was bounded by her own doorway missed a great many sights that wring the heart.

In these halcyon days women escaped the burden of bearing the brunt of conversation. The little bunch of women in the past who could talk have come down to us in history. All the balance merely sat around and looked pretty, and simpered, while men racked their brains for flowery compliments to pay them, and nice innocuous pieces of information on which to regale them. Nowadays it is the other way, and go where you will you may observe women working like coal-heavers trying to keep the men interested. It must have been lovely to loll back and let a man talk to you about the things you were interested in—shopping and cold cream recipes, and whether apples or orange dross are smarter on a skirt—instead of your having to feign a heart-breaking interest in the grocery trade and the chances of Fitzsimmons pulling off a match with Corbett.

Domestic life wasn't so strenuous then, either. Nobody exploited the papers' theories about how to manage a husband, so wives were saved the wear and tear on their nerves of trying experiments that wouldn't work. Nor did women worry so much about trying to retain their husband's affection. They took it for granted that a man who spent his days toiling for a family was putting up a pretty good living picture of devotion and let it go at that. Of course that was a slipshod way of doing things—quite impossible to a woman who knows her Plinero—but it possibly explains why our grandmothers' hair didn't turn grey as early as ours does. All life was simpler. A man's wife was his pet, or doll, or slave, but she wasn't expected to be all of them and a companion and household ornament as well, as she is now.

As for bringing up a family, one small infant is more trouble, anxiety and expense to the modern woman than a dozen were to the women of the past. There were no mother classes and conventions, nor sterilized milk, nor sterilized theories to harass our grandmothers. They did not even know a child was a awful problem. They thought it was a little animal to be fed and washed, and spanked when it was bad, and kissed when it was good, and generally kept in the background. If it was healthy and turned out well they took the credit to themselves. If it sickened and died they laid it to a mysterious dispensation of Providence; but it never occurred to them that they were in any way to blame or responsible for it.

Among all the privileges enjoyed by our grandmothers, though, the one that we envy most was the right to grow old—to have unconcealed crows-feet and honest grey hairs, and a 52-inch waist measure. She didn't have to let masseurs pound and pinch her into a jelly, and complexion artists parboil her, and hairdressers scalp her; she didn't have to read all the stuff in the papers about how to be beautiful though ugly; she didn't have to diet and exercise and go through physical culture contortions, nor wear straight front corsets. She accepted age, with whatever it brought her of fat or thin; and she was happy and peaceful and placid. We can't do that. Age now is a crime in a woman, and there are no sweet-faced old ladies.

Of course we have progressed a long way beyond our grandmothers, but it's on the cards that our grandmothers are mighty sorry for us, if they can see us.

WHY BABY CAN'T DIGEST IT
Don't think that because baby has got beyond the "bottle" stage and can take his milk from a cup that therefore barley-water is no longer necessary. Not at all.

Cow's milk, entirely undiluted, is not always so nutritious as people suppose. One needs to remember that nothing nourishes us which we do not digest, and the curd of cow's milk is not easy of digestion.

AN EXPERIMENT TO TRY.
If you want to understand why cow's milk is indigestible try this simple little experiment. Put a teaspoonful of milk into a saucapan, add about an eggcupful of vinegar, and make the milk hot.

Stir it up and strain off the whey. You can then work the curd that remains into a ball that will look very much like a ball of stiff putty. It will be so tough that you can drop it upon the floor without breaking it.

In the warmth of the stomach milk coming into contact with the acid of the gastric juice coagulates—i.e., forms into a curd very much as the milk in the saucapan does when vinegar is added to it and it is heated.

If the digestion is vigorous it can deal with this curd, digest it, absorb it, and therefore be nourished by it. But very few quite young children possess digestions strong enough to digest such curd perfectly.

WHAT BARLEY-WATER DOES.
If, however, the milk is diluted with barley-water quite another state of things occurs. Try it and you will see.

To a teaspoon of pure milk add vinegar as above and one large tablespoonful of barley-water of the consistency of thin gum. Heat this as much as you like, but you will never get the resulting curd to form into the putty-ball clot that you obtained when you heated the undiluted milk and vinegar.

The reason is that the barley-water breaks up, or sub-divides the curd, and mechanically prevents it from forming into the stiff, tough compound that is so difficult for a feeble digestion to deal with. Consequently it makes the milk much more easily digested.

This little experiment is very instructive for mothers and nurses. It should prove to them the practical value of that good old-fashioned beverage barley-water, which was known to physicians practising many hundreds of years ago.

THE CARE OF THE NECK.
The appearance of the neck is of great importance, in view of the prevailing fashion, for it is impossible to lay too much stress upon the necessity of keeping the throat in good condition if one wants to wear a low collar.

It is a good plan to indulge in a little gentle massage and a few neck exercises every day. Then pure cream or some sort of skin food should be rubbed in lightly with the tips of the fingers, and a light sprinkling of powder applied to finish the treatment, if the cream is applied during the daytime. At bedtime the powdering part of the process should be omitted.

Then again, it matters a great deal how the head is held. Of course some girls have no trouble at all on this score, the head being poised gracefully on a slim column of a throat, while others who wish to appear well in the sight of their neighbors must take care not to let the neck sag, so to say, on the one hand, or be strained on the other.

And, far and away the most important of all, the neck must be clean, for who has not seen an ugly disfiguring shadow beneath the chin of a girl who otherwise presented a smart, trim appearance.

Earlier in the season, before we had become thoroughly accustomed to the décolleté throat, we were frequently confronted with a narrow ribbon-velvet band.

It served its purpose very well as a subterfuge, but now, with the universal adoption of the low neck, it is not nearly so often seen.

At the same time it is still permissible to add this slight neck covering; but I would like to point out that the band looks smart only when worn high up on the throat. If allowed to drop it is anything but becoming.

AS A CURE FOR COLDS.

If a child is feverish you can give it no better drink than barley-water, and it is very useful at any age as a cure for a chill or cold if drunk as hot as possible at bed-time, as it promotes perspiration.

THE LOW NECK MY BEST RECIPE

A fashion that has taken a very firm hold this season is the low neck. There is positively no getting away from it. Smart dresses, morning frocks, luncheon blouses, sports shirts, costume coats, one and all exploit the vogue, and, fortunately, it is becoming to almost every girl, and by far the larger majority of women too.

Even those possessed of long, thin throats manage in a quite remarkable manner to present a pleasing appearance; and before the summer season ends the chances are that we shall have become so accustomed to the bare neck that anything in the shape of a high, close-fitting collar will attract attention by reason of its demode aspect.

But care should be exercised in the choice of a collar and style of neck-tie if you want to look your best. To some, the round décolleté is most becoming, while others find the V-shaped opening far more suitable. The latter may, if liked, be carried to a quite appreciable depth.

There are any amount of pretty collars to be considered, such as the Robespierre in its many varieties, a round Dutch or Peter Pan affair of fine hand-embroidered lawn, Medici collars, lightly upheld by invisible wire supports, Bubbles' frills, and a smart little unusually employed to finish a V-shaped opening.

JUGGED HARE OR STEAK.
Ingredients:—1 hare or 1½ lb. beef; 1 onion stuck with 2 cloves; 1 blade of mace; pinch of nutmeg; sprig of parsley, marjoram, and thyme; salt and pepper; ham bone or rind; boiling water; forcemeat balls.

Method.—Cut up the hare into neat joints, and dip each in flour well seasoned with salt and pepper. Place these in a stew-jar or casserole, add the rest of the ingredients and cover with boiling water. Simmer gently for two hours. Thicken the gravy, and serve with forcemeat balls and red-currant jelly.

SAVOURY OLD-WORLD PUDDING.
Ingredients:—1 lb. sausages; 1 lb. flour; 2oz. beef suet; salt and pepper; 3 small onions; pinch of sage; 3 teaspoonful curry-powder; 1 pint stock.

Method.—Prepare the gravy by frying the onion in a little butter or beef dripping, and then adding the curry-powder and stock. Simmer this for half an hour. Place the sausages in a pan of boiling water for two minutes. Take them out and remove the skins. Break up the sausage-meat thoroughly. Line a greased pie-dish with suet pastry. Place the sausage-meat in the centre and pour in the gravy. Cover with a suet crust and then with greased paper, and steam or bake it for 1½ hours. Turn out of the basin when done, and serve with good plain gravy.

EXCELLENT WAY TO COOK KIDNEYS.
(Good Breakfast Dish.)
Ingredients:—½ dozen kidneys; 1oz. butter; salt and pepper; squeeze of lemon-juice; rounds of toast.

Method.—Melt the butter in a saucapan until quite hot. Add the kidneys, previously split and skinned. By following this method the kidneys are not hardened, and the gravy exudes and mingles with the butter. Season with salt and pepper, and simmer on the range for ten minutes. Add a squeeze of lemon-juice, and serve very hot on rounds of toast over which the butter gravy has been poured.

STEWED CELERY AND EGG SAUCE.
Ingredients:—A good solid head of celery; milk and water to well cover it; a slice of toast; ½ pint of egg sauce.

Method.—Cut off the outer sticks, and trim neatly and wash thoroughly. Place it in a saucapan with milk and water to cover. Boil gently until quite soft. Dish and cover with the egg sauce.

LEEK'S ARE GOOD NOW.
Ingredients:—1 bunch of leeks; salt; boiling water.

Method.—Thoroughly cleanse the leeks by allowing the cold-water tap to flow between the leaves, which should be cut down and across so that all the grit will be removed. Place in a pan of boiling salted water. Boil until tender, about half an hour. Drain well, and dish and coat with white sauce.

SOME CHEAP DISHES YOU WILL LIKE.

ROLLED PICKLED PORK.
Ingredients:—3 lb. thin pork (pickled); 2 or 3 sheep's tongues; 1 small onion; pinch of sage; pepper and salt.

Method.—Remove the bones, flatten and trim the pork. Parboil the tongues and skin them. Lay them on the pork with seasonings and chopped onion between. Roll up and secure with skewers and tape. Tie in a cloth and boil for four hours. Allow this to cool in the water. Remove the cloth. Rasp some browned breadcrumbs over, and garnish with parsley.

BRAISED BEEF.

Ingredients:—2 lb. topside beef; 2 carrots, turnips, and onions; stick of celery; sprig of marjoram and thyme; salt and pepper; 1 quart of stock; 1 tablespoonful flour to thicken.

Method.—Prepare the vegetables and cut them into small cube shapes. Place these in the bottom of a saucapan or casserole. Place the meat on top and cover with the stock. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer this gently for two hours. Place the beef in the centre of a dish and garnish with tiny heaps of the vegetables. Thicken the gravy with the flour, add gravy brownings or glaze to improve the color, if necessary. Pour a little over the beef, and serve the remainder in a tureen.

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All these healthy lads know what they are talking about. They live a strenuous life, and always wish to be in fit condition; but bruises, abrasions, cuts and hurts are bound to come their way, in the natural course of events, and it is when these occur that they prove the worth of Rexona, the Rapid Healer.

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THE RAPID HEALER



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in scores of different ways. Get a tin to-day from your Grocer and try it.

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FAIR'S ON

MARK FOY'S LIMITED

APPEALS BOARD.

RAILWAYS ACT, No. 30, 1912, RELATING TO APPEALS EPITOMIZED.

Sec. 31—(1) Members, Secretary to C.C.—Chief Accountant—C.M.E.—Engineer-in-Chief—Chief Traffic Manager—and (2) Employees' Representative (Mr. E. D. Campbell), elected by ballot for three years. (3) Three members to be chosen by the Board, one by majority vote, Chairman having second or casting vote. (4) No member to hear appeal when appellant belongs to branch of the Service of which he is a member. (5) Appeals must be lodged within 7 days, and heard within 30 days of being lodged. (6) Board may administer oath to witnesses. (7) Appellant entitled to have witnesses examined on oath, and to be represented by barrister, solicitor, or agent, who may examine witnesses and address the Board. (8) Board may decide any appeal as they think fit, and so order. (9) Decision may be made by majority vote, and may be subject to appeal. (10) Decision of Board final, except punishment involves dismissal, or reduction in rank, position, grade, or pay, when appellant may within 7 days appeal therefrom to Commissioners. (11) Thereupon C.C. and one Assistant Commissioner together hear, and confirm or modify appeal, such being final. Appellant has same rights on appeal to C.C. as before set out in Sec. 32 (1), (2), (3).

THE BOARD.

MR. HODGSON,
(Chairman).
MR. SPURWAY,
(Chief Commissioner's Representative).
MR. E. D. CAMPBELL,
(Elected Representative of Whole Staff).

Tuesday, January 5.

FAILING TO SEE HIS TRAM PROTECTED.

GEORGE WEIMAR, driver, North Sydney, 10s per day, was charged with failing to see that a tram was protected during shunting operations on November 29th, and was fined 10s.

Appellant pleaded not guilty. Charles Hurst, casual driver, said that, on November 29th, he was at the Spit-Rd junction. He was standing at the bundy clock, on the way to Milson's Pt., and moved off on receiving the signal from the conductor. He looked round to see if

all was clear behind, and, upon turning his head again, found that he was right on to Wiemar's tram. He was standing at the clock when Wiemar's tram went through. He (witness) left the stopping place without a signal from the starter, and for this the conductor was dealt with. It was the starter's duty to direct the shunting operations. He did not see any signals from Wiemar's conductor. His (witness') certificate as driver was cancelled.

Jas. Worship, who was Wiemar's conductor when the collision took place, said that when crossing over, Wiemar's tram got foul of the hold-up line. He did not warn the other tram that they were foul. He turned the pole, and when he saw the Milson's Pt. tram stationery he flashed his light on the up line. Then he gave his driver the signal to go ahead. He then went to the front to pull the points, and as he was getting the point hook, the Milson's Pt. tram went ahead. Witness' car was never in darkness. He made sure that the Milson's Pt. tram was at a standstill before shunting.

Geo. Weimar, appellant, said that when he arrived at Spit-Rd. Junction, he heard the starter instruct the conductor to shunt. The conductor flashed the lines, and stood by the poles, and afterwards went to the front to turn the points. Witness noticed the Milson's Pt. tram coming towards him, and called out, but the driver was looking in an-

other direction. He considered that all precautions were taken. The appeal was upheld.

RUNNING SHORT OF WATER.

EDWARD MULVILL, driver, loco. branch, Port Waratah, 13s per day, was charged with allowing the water in the tender tank to run short on September 28th, which resulted in delay, and was fined a day's pay.

The appellant, who was defended by Mr. Ainsworth, admitted the charge, but pleaded extenuating circumstances, and said that there was no neglect.

Roy Rundell, Mulvill's fireman, deposed that water was taken in at Port Waratah, but not so far as he knew, at Adamstown. The boiler was priming a good deal all the way to Symington. He knew that priming shortened the water supply.

Robert Embleton, coal yard foreman, deposed that appellant had under his load going out, and also coming back. It was usual for shunting at Symington to take 90 to 120 minutes. If a man had a bad boiler, and there were other bad conditions, he would not run as long without taking in water, as he would if the conditions were good. The consumption of water would depend upon the amount of work there was to do. There was always a certain amount of difficulty in working colliery roads.

Edward Mulvill, appellant, said that he took water at Port Waratah, and at Adamstown. When he got to the colliery he had great difficulty in getting the empties up to the mine, as his boiler was priming. He had to have a second go at them, and then he did a lot of heavy shunting, and had to work the engine harder than usual. When he got to the junction box, he found that he had only about a foot of water, and that four trains were in front of him on the weighbridge road. He then decided to run to Cockle Creek for water, rather than get stuck up on the main road. He was positive he took in water at Adamstown. If he had not done so, he would not have had enough water to take him to the junction.

The Board dismissed the appeal. Mr. Campbell dissenting, considering that it should be upheld.

CAUSING A COLLISION.

JOHN SINCLAIR, driver, Eveleigh, 14s per day, was charged with bringing his engine, No. 12488, into collision with engine, No. 960TF, on

October 19, and was fined one day's pay.

Appellant, who was defended by Mr. Ainsworth, admitted the charge, but denied the responsibility for it.

The appellant said that, on the occasion referred to, he was coming out of No. 1 bay to get coal. When he looked out, he saw No. 960 standing still, and as witness came out 960 set back and struck his engine. He was certain that No. 960 set back.

W. Macqueen, the driver of 960, said that he was not standing when appellant came out of the bay, but was moving steadily all the time, and that appellant must have thought that there would be sufficient margin to clear No. 960 when he came out.

Other evidence was given, and the Board unanimously dismissed the appeal.

THE BOARD.

MR. SPURWAY,
(Chairman).
MR. KENDALL,
(Chief Commissioner's Representative).
MR. E. D. CAMPBELL,
(Elected Representative of Whole Staff).

Wednesday, January 6.

NEGLECTING TO PUT THE LIGHTS OUT.

ALBERT BRUCE CLARKE, 4th class night officer, Sodwalls, £160 per year, was charged with neglecting to promptly extinguish and collect signal lamps on October 19, and was fined 5s.

Appellant pleaded guilty. Inspector S. J. Cook stated that on Oct. 19th he arrived at Sodwalls, and the signal lamps had not then been brought into the lamp room. The appellant stated that he was on duty for 12 hours, during which time it was raining heavily. He was soaking wet, and told the O. in C. that he would return after breakfast and take the lamps in in his own time.

The Board dismissed the appeal.

WASTING OIL.

JOHN ALEXANDER HUNTER, 4th class night officer, Lapstone Hill, £160 per year, was charged with lighting the down distant signal lamps between 12 and 1 p.m. on October 28, without justification, thus causing a waste of oil, and was fined 10s.

Appellant was undefended, and pleaded not guilty. Inspector C. M. Thompson said that

on October 28th he made an inspection at Lapstone. At 1.50 p.m. he asked the appellant where the distant signal lamps were, and appellant said he had put them out at 12 o'clock. He (the inspector) found the down distant signal lamp empty and out. The appellant said he put them out early because he would not have time later in the day. The whole of the signals could be lit in half an hour.

J. A. Hunter, the appellant, admitted having taken the lamps out early. There were several stock trains running behind time, and he was not sure of being able to get out later.

The Board dismissed the appeal.

LACK OF SUPERVISION.

DONALD MACKAY, porter (acting leading porter), Sydney, 8/5 per day, was charged with showing want of supervision over the staff under his control, several members of the staff being found asleep in compartments of first-class carriages standing at No. 1 platform, and with not keeping a proper record of the actual time worked by the staff, one of whom should have been on duty, and was fined 10/- and removed from Sydney.

The appellant pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. C. Thompson, general secretary of the Association.

W. W. Kemp Robertson, inquiry officer, said that he was on special duty at Sydney on October 16th, at 4.15 a.m., and with Harris, another inquiry officer, he examined the carriages on No. 1 platform, and found eight porters asleep, with the shutters next to the platform up. He questioned each man, and some said it was their meal hour from three to four. Two men said they had no break. He examined the appearance book, and found that there were two men working straight shift, two had breaks from 1 to 2, and the rest from 3 to 4. He saw the appellant on the assembly platform, just after he caught the men in the cars.

Charles F. Harris, inquiry officer, corroborated the evidence of the previous witness.

Traffic Inspector Kirkham said he had made inquiries into the report concerning the men being found asleep. He knew that Mackay's staff was frequently altered, and this was detrimental to his getting through with his work.

S. Mansfield, S.M.'s clerk, said he made out the rosters of the staff, and explained the hours of working of

the men. In reply to Mr. Thompson he said that appellant had complained of the difficulty of getting his work done.

Donald Mackay, appellant, said that on the occasion referred to, he had a full staff, and wishing to take advantage of it to get some back work done, he made some of them alter their meal breaks. He told them to finish their work, and then take their hour, which would be about 3.30 a.m. One of the men told him that the officers came and caught them in the carriages.

The Board dismissed the appeal.

THE BOARD.

MR. LUCY,
(Chairman).
MR. SPURWAY,
(Chief Commissioner's Representative).
MR. E. D. CAMPBELL,
(Elected Representative of Whole Staff).

Thursday, January 7.

WILLIAM BEDE HUMPHREYS, Pitman's Assistant, Randwick, 8/- per day, was charged with being absent from work without leave and making an untruthful statement, and was dismissed the Service.

Mr. R. D. Meagher appeared for the appellant, who admitted both charges and asked for leniency.

On behalf of appellant, Mr. Meagher said that when he (appellant) signed on he was not very well, but well enough to go to work. Afterwards he became worse. He admitted that he should have notified the officers. He was the sole support of his widowed mother.

The Board decided that, in view of appellant's good record, he should be restored to his former position.

A YOUTHFUL OFFENDER.

THOMAS MATTHEW HENRY MILNE, Junior Porter, Wellington, 2/9 per day, was charged with irregularly using a bicycle, absenting himself from duty, and making a false statement, and was dismissed the Service.

Appellant, who pleaded guilty and asked for leniency, was defended by Mr. Thompson, General Secretary of the Association, who stated that appellant was without the restraining influence of his mother, who was dead, and having got mixed up with a number of other boys, went for a swim with them. The bicycle was in the parcels office, and he used it to go and call some of the guards.

The Board decided to give appel-

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20 x 13 x 5in 20 x 10 1/2 x 8 1/2in. 9 6
22 x 14 x 5in 22 x 11 1/2 x 9 1/2in. 11 6
24 x 15 x 5in 24 x 12 1/2 x 9 1/2in. 12 6
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lant another chance, and restore him to his position. It was explained that his youth and his frank admission of guilt had been taken into consideration.

LEAVING AN IN DOOR UNFASTENED.

HENRY BARTON, Guard, Eskbank, 10/- per day, was charged with failing to satisfy himself that the door of a louvered van was properly secured, with the result that it came open in transit, and a bag of wheat fell on to the line at Wambool and was damaged, and he was fined half a day's pay.

F. Williams, S.M. at Bathurst, said that Barton ran 38 from Bathurst to Eskbank, and it was his duty to examine the doors of trucks before leaving any place. He never knew of the door of a louvered van to come open. He saw a bag of wheat lying open that had been secured.

T. J. Richards, N.O. at Locksley, said that when 38 passed through Barton told him to tell Wambool that there was a bag lying on the four-foot near his house. Barton did not say that he found the door of a goods clerk.

The appellant said that there were three louvered vans on the train, and none of them were sealed. He told the S.M., and number taken of this, and also the examiner. He saw that the doors were closed, and at Locksley he found the door of one van on the four-foot at Wambool on another line.

The Board dismissed the appeal.

GIVING A WRONG RECEIPT.

WILLIAM EDWIN KNOWLES, Porter, Darling Harbor, 9/- per day, was charged with giving a receipt for two cases of goods consigned to Narrandera when he only received one case, and was fined half a day's pay.

Appellant pleaded not guilty, and was defended by Mr. C. Thompson, General Secretary of the All Grades. Thomas Barton, porter, said he remembered a case of goods being short for a man named Rogers. The invoice showed that two cases had been sent from Darling Harbor, and he could only find one case. He only received three packages out of four that were invoiced for Narrandera, and he reported the matter to the goods clerk.

The Board dismissed the appeal.



Highlands Estate Extension Auburn

AUCTION, Saturday Next, Jan. 23, On the Ground at 3 p.m.

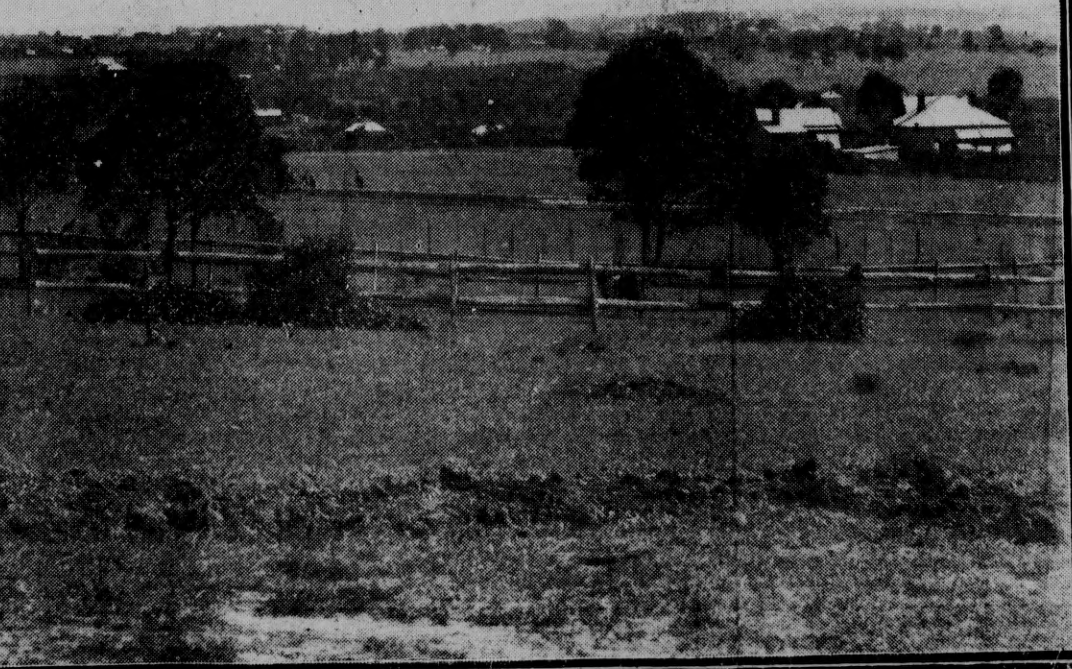
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