

# Anzac Bulletin



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A Camouflaged Road.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

# CABLE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

## Arsenic Mine in Queensland.

Brisbane, 17th January (delayed).

The Queensland Government intends opening an arsenic mine in the Stanthorpe district. It is anticipated that the price of production will be £20 per ton, which compared well with the present market price of £70. Arsenic is wanted to clear land infested with the prickly pear.

## Opposition Labour and National Government.

Melbourne, 17th January (delayed).

The "No Confidence" debate in the House of Representatives discloses the fact that several Labour Oppositionists are strenuously opposed to joining a National Government.

## Accumulations of Wheat.

Sydney, 23rd January.

Wheatgrowers in all the Australian States are greatly concerned about the prospects of disposing of future crops.

The State Ministers of Victoria and New South Wales have suggested that farmers should take up stock raising in preference to wheat growing, as being more profitable, since cereals were accumulating at a great rate for lack of shipping, and the British Government had not disclosed whether it would purchase this year's harvest or not.

Professor Lefroy, who was sent to Australia by the British Government, told the farmers at a conference to-day that he could guarantee that the wheat would stack safely for five years, and begged them still to cultivate it.

The farmers' decision will depend upon whether Great Britain undertakes to buy the crops garnered during the war, even though they cannot be carried overseas owing to shortage of shipping.

## Victoria Buys N.S.W. Coal.

Melbourne, 23rd January.

The Victorian Government has agreed to take from the New South Wales Government 20,000 tons of screened coal for two years, to be delivered at Victoria Dock, at 23s. 7d. per ton.

## Friendly Societies and Doctors Dispute.

Melbourne, 24th January.

Negotiations between the Victorian branch of the British Medical Association and Friendly Societies' Lodges are at a deadlock. The doctors adhere to their determination to resign on January 31st unless their demands are conceded.

## Germans in the Pacific.

### Sir William Cullen's Outspoken Comments.

Sydney, received 27th January.

Sir William Cullen, Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of New South Wales, in the course of a speech here to-day declared:—

"Australia is threatened with the curse of a land frontier from such a nation as Germany, quite apart from the danger which would arise from the creation of submarine bases on the New Guinea coasts and other Hun savagery. Germany could raise a quarrel at any time over mines, oilfields, or anything else which might suit her purpose. Germans are still occupying and developing New Guinea. No Australian can contemplate such a situation with equanimity."—Reuter.

## The Federal Parliament Adjourned. Important Speech by Mr. Hughes.

Melbourne, 26th January.

Mr. Hughes, in moving the indefinite adjournment of the House of Representatives, said the Government would give immediate and earnest attention to several great questions, particularly to reinforcements, repatriation, shipbuilding, and the re-organisation of industry.

He also proposed to reconsider the whole question of industrial legislation, and hoped when the Houses re-assembled to submit a comprehensive industrial measure.

In fulfilment of the Government's promise guaranteeing 4s. a bushel for the present season's wheat, 3s. had been advanced, but the Government was unable yet to effect a satisfactory sale, and had no immediate prospect of doing so; but that fact would not affect the guarantee.

Members were aware that the Government intend to raise £40,000,000 in Australia before the end of the year, but the amount would probably be greater.

Replying to Mr. Tudor, Mr. Hughes gave a positive assurance not to introduce industrial conscription during the adjournment.

## Australian Shipbuilding: Agreement Reached.

Melbourne, 26th January.

Following a further conference of the shipbuilding trades unions, Mr. Hughes stated that an agreement covering industrial conditions had been ratified and a formal contract embodying it would now be signed. The proceedings were harmonious. When contract was signed tribunals would be appointed for various trades to regulate any matters that might arise.

## The Mackay Disaster.

Brisbane, 26th January.

A report from the Postmaster at Mackay, Queensland, states that the cyclone caused a tidal wave and floods, which overcame Mackay. Fourteen bodies have been recovered; hundreds of people are homeless. The wharves and sugar-stores collapsed. The small steamers "Relief" and "Brinwar" and a barge were sunk.

## Erection of Silos in N.S.W. and Victoria.

Melbourne, 26th January.

The erection of two silos for the storage of wheat has been commenced at Rock (? Roche), New South Wales. Tenders for Victorian silos are to be invited in a few days.

## Australian Wheat Glut.

### More than can be Shipped for Five Years.

There is a grave outlook for the Australian wheat industry. Mr. Hughes, the Premier, declares that the present stocks cannot be shipped overseas for at least five years. Experts estimate that 100,000,000 bushels from the last two seasons are still unsold, while the incoming crop is expected to yield 120,000,000 bushels, of which only 40,000,000 are required for Australian consumption.

Thus wheat threatens to become a practically unsaleable commodity and the New South Wales Government is considering the advisability of assisting growers to transfer their activities to raising stock. Meanwhile the Australian wheat pool is paying the farmers 4s. a bushel for the incoming wheat crop and 3s. more in instalments in the indefinite future, whereas the average cost of production of a bushel is 3s. 11d.

"Wheat or meat?" is the Australian controversy of the moment.

## Victorian Premier to Discuss Medical Dispute.

Melbourne, 25th January.

The Victorian Cabinet has decided that Premier Bowser shall invite a representative of each State to meet him to discuss the dispute between the Victorian Friendly Societies and the doctors.

## Vote of Censure in N.S.W. Parliament.

Sydney, 25th January.

Mr. Storey, leader of Labour Opposition in New South Wales, intends to move a censure motion in the State Parliament next week, based chiefly on the Ministry's alleged breaking of its pledge regarding Conscription.

**Death of Sir S. A. Pethebridge.**

Melbourne, 26th January.

The death of Sir Samuel Pethebridge, Secretary of the Defence Department, and Administrator of the German Islands in the Pacific, was due to heart failure following malaria.

Sir Samuel Augustus Pethebridge was one of the ablest and best known of Australian Civil servants. A retired commander in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, he was chosen in 1910 as Secretary to the Commonwealth Department of Finance. On the outbreak of war he joined the Australian Forces, served as administrator of North-West Pacific Islands, captured by the Australians from the enemy, and became administrator of German New Guinea in 1915. Sir S. A. Pethebridge was born at Brisbane in 1862, and was created a K.C.M.G. last year.

**The Randwick Challenge Stakes.**

Sydney, 23rd January.

In the Randwick Challenge Stakes, Sydney, the result was: Bonnie Plume 1, Some Boy 2, Merrimee 3. Betting 16 to 1 against the winner.

**Floods in Queensland. Mackay Submerged. Heavy Loss of Life.**

Brisbane, 23rd January.

A cyclonic disturbance has caused an extraordinary rainfall in Queensland. In twenty-four hours Stanwell registered 1,170 points, Mount Morgan 899 points; many other places over 800 points. Serious floods are feared. The Yaamba River has risen 49 feet. The latest meteorological report is that the disturbance is losing energy.

Brisbane, 24th January.

In Central Queensland the floods are serious. Communication from Gladstone to Rockhampton and also Cairns are interrupted. It is feared that Mackay felt the full force of the cyclone. The Flat Top Lighthouse was destroyed and railway lines and bridges submerged. Telegraph and telephone lines have been razed. The main roads are impassable and all rivers are swollen to torrents. Rockhampton river is higher than in any previous record, flooding hundreds of houses. Many settlers have been removed in boats. At North Rockhampton there is a sea of water for nine miles. One woman, two children and three men have been drowned and hundreds are homeless.

Brisbane, 25th January.

A wireless message from a steamer states that part of Mackay is submerged and that the residents badly needed relief. The Central Pioneer River bridge has been destroyed. Twenty-three inches of rain fell in Rockhampton in three days. The Fitzroy River is falling, but a rise is expected when the western waters arrive. The water was within a few inches of the top of the bridge connecting South with North Rockhampton. The gas supply was cut off through water rising in the works. The electric light plant is in danger.

Brisbane, 27th January.

Following upon the report that the absence of news from Mackay, in Northern Queensland, had given rise to apprehensions regarding a serious disaster, a wireless message has now reached here from a steamer at that port reporting heavy rains and large loss of life.

A later message adds that the town is completely submerged, and that it is feared the loss of life is appalling.



A railway gang taking bricks and stones for road and railway ballast purposes.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

## Home Life in War Time of the A.I.F.

### The Real World Alliance. The Great Pageant in France.

By F. M. CUTLACK, Assistant Official Correspondent with A.I.F.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,  
France, 11th January.

It is almost a platitude to say that this war grows bigger and bigger as it continues, and yet with the economic strain and other sorts of strain the temptation is in many ways to narrow down the view of it. That temptation springs from selfishness in one form or another, and the only time when many people remember that it is a world-war is when their attention is forced on the world-wide shortage of civilised comforts which peace affords and which civilised peoples had grown to demand as necessities of life. The world war in the sense of universal enlistment against Germany, the gradual concentration—it takes a mighty long time to perfect that concentration—of the great majority of peoples in arms against a strong bully, is often forgotten outside France, people farther off being too conscious of other things. But here in this north-eastern French countryside, which becomes a smaller and smaller theatre as the war ages, you cannot help understanding how big this war is and how real the world-alliance.

#### The International Swarm.

Men from all parts of the habitable globe are here with a common objective. Observers of the great cosmopolitan concourse have expatiated on the fact that for the most part this universal effort is voluntary; but voluntary or pressed is now beside the

point. Our own Army, the Army of the Empire, welded of half a dozen free peoples from the four corners of the earth, is to-day a miracle of British civilisation, which has educated men not merely to the enjoyment of freedom but also to the enlightened understanding of it. Other nations may or may not truly love us; but the cause of which Britain and the dominions are the very soul and spirit has aroused the best that is in those others, whether they would or not.

The French and Belgian townspeople, villagers, peasants hereabout have long since ceased to wonder at the immense variety of men there must be in the world. The long front of the early days, when this appeared to be a merely European war, has gone on steadily dwindling in size as every nation which had an ounce of respect for itself sent its army, big or little, into France. The local population, which cheered for its powerful friends when the British and Indians and Canadians first came, and then gazed in wonder on the advent successively of Russians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, Portuguese, began to lose its power of astonishment as the huge international swarm increased. Now the American troops are here. The little shops and farms count their daily customers from every continent; behind the lines, the children of the smallest French village play and

talk with men of more countries than the busiest globe-trotters ever see in their lives. The war and the alliance against the bully that unchained it are no longer European; the nations of every continent have come to France. The labour camps of German prisoners almost complete the tally of the world's peoples.

#### At Home in the French House.

If you can translate some conception of this cosmopolitan spectacle to Australia, to the countryside of the Murray or the wheat districts—if you can imagine there the hum of traffic, the camps, the marching up and down, the buying and selling, you will get something of the real world war. Every French house, you understand, billets one or more soldiers; they may be of any nationality, and they change almost weekly. The regiments, brigades, and divisions come and go and come back again on an endless chain; and there are some villages which the Australians, from constant quarterings, have come to regard quite as their homes. They know the inhabitants intimately, and the difficulties of language no longer interfere with conversation. They have learnt the families' relations and histories. They look, on return after absence, for the accustomed aspect of the place as they would for their own place in "Aussie."

Nearly every house sells beer or wine or coffee or tobacco; many of them food as well. The large room, stone-floored, and



Looking across a captured valley to the high-land from which the Germans were driven.



German prisoners acting as stretcher-bearers bringing in their own wounded while the tanks advanced. Shells will be seen bursting on the Ridge in the distance. (Australian Official Photograph.)

heated with the long coffin-shaped stove-oven near the middle of the room, is generally open to all who care to enter and talk. Most houses are practically estaminets in this public sense; and an estaminet is not a "pub," in case you should think so. If the family knows you, you can come and sit on one of the straight-backed chairs whenever you like and drink the coffee made by Mam'selle, while Madame boils the dinner or the washing, all on the same long stove. Mam'selle and Madame never sit down themselves, they work and talk ceaselessly, and over the coffee are exchanged the histories of generations of that French and that Australian family. Some of the more enterprising of these French-women sell baths, an Australian eccentricity which they have learned to expect, and for which Madame has bought a new tall enamelled cauldron—another thing to go on top of the wonderful stove.

#### A Popular Favourite.

Among all sorts and conditions of men quartered on the French countryside the aptitude of the Australian for the intimacy of this home life is specially marked. The Englishman, Scotsman, Irishman, Canadian make friends well enough, but none of them makes himself so thoroughly at home as the Australian. I think the Australian would have the vote in most French communities, if you could take an election for the popular favourite. Many will tell you that the reason is the Australian has most money to spend. That may be partly true—though the Canadian probably has just as much—and certainly money to spend is always a prepossessing quality in any man's character. But money could not buy the honest good friendship with

the Australian soldier noticeable in most French households. If Australians have the money they have also the bonhomie. The cordiality which greets you as a stranger across the threshold here takes you back to the hospitality of the Bush homestead; it invites the Australian into the atmosphere of his upbringing; this is a thing he knows and catches hold of at once, and is perhaps one of the best touches of home that he gets away from Australia. For you must remember that these are not comfortable people extending hospitality, but hard-working villagers and peasants opening their homes. The places alongside the stove of sons and brothers away fighting are to a modified extent at the disposal of those who can catch on readily to the spirit of sons and brothers. And these Australian boys do that quicker than any others of the great cosmopolitan crowd who come and halt a while and pass on in the ceaseless movement up and down this land.

#### Associations Behind the War.

The business signs hung out of shops and estaminets are mostly in English or what passes for such. Some of the local inhabitants are very fluent in English, and it is no wonder really; the estaminets and shops do a huge turnover. It is estimated that the spending power of an Australian Division amounts to about two thousand pounds a day, and with that amount of custom on tap there is plenty of incentive to learn any language. Certainly the army canteens now cater for most of this custom. But while the canteens were being established it taught English rapidly in the French and Belgian villages. Now and again troops appear in

a district where, as they say, "the people don't understand the language," whereby they mean the quaint pidgin-lingo which deceives many a good Australian into the belief that he can speak French. This pidgin-talk, a sort of military esperanto, which has constructed itself on sheer necessity, has a limited vocabulary of its own—words that mark where the parent tongues have met halfway; the remaining words in a sentence are what the speaker, of either nationality, finds given to him at the moment of utterance. The goodwill, which, as Emerson says, makes intelligence, invests these bare bones with real conversational life.

One of the many reasons for which one looks forward to the end of this war is to observe the impressions which our men carry home with them from this great scene. These years of the A.I.F. abroad are far more than merely years of exhausting physical effort, as we are often tempted to regard them. They embrace periods of happy times with the strenuous, of solid satisfaction as well as of intense strain, and many virtues which the men will realise vividly enough in those coming days of peace. The exile from home touches our men very strongly, but with all that they have learnt a love of France and an appreciation of history and art and the humanities generally which they would never have got at home. The soldiers of the A.I.F., after the war, will make a new caste in Australia, and will be the leaders of Australian life for generations to come. And since they will have rubbed shoulders here in France with the whole world, and helped to save the whole world's freedom, why not, indeed?

## The Jerusalem Campaign.

### General Allenby's Dispatch.

### Fine Work by Australian Mounted Troops.

The "London Gazette" of January 25th publishes a dispatch from General Allenby of his operations up to December 16th, 1917, of which the following is an abridgement.

"I took over the command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force at the end of June, 1917. The Turkish Army in Southern Palestine (then) held a strong position extending from the sea at Gaza, roughly along the main Gaza-Beersheba Road to Beersheba. Gaza had been made into a strong modern fortress, heavily entrenched and wired, offering every facility for protracted defence. The remainder of the enemy's line consisted of a series of strong localities, viz.: the Sihan group of works, the Atawineh group, the Baha group, the Abu Hareira-Arab el Teeaha trench system, and, finally, the works covering Beersheba. These groups of works were generally from 1,500 to 2,000 yards apart, except that the distance from the Hareira group to Beersheba was about 4½ miles.

The enemy's force was on a wide front, the distance from Gaza to Beersheba being about 30 miles; but his lateral communications were good, and any point of the line could be very quickly reinforced.

My force was extended on a front of 22 miles, from the sea, opposite Gaza, to Gamli.

#### Preparatory Measures.

I had decided to strike the main blow against the left flank of the main Turkish position, Hareira and Sheria. The capture of Beersheba was a necessary preliminary to this operation.

When Beersheba was in our hands we should have an open flank against which to operate, and I could make full use of our superiority in mounted troops.

It was important, in order to keep the enemy in doubt up to the last moment as to the real point of attack, that an attack should also be made on the enemy's right at Gaza in conjunction with the main operations. I asked Rear-Admiral T. Jackson, C.B., M.V.O., to afford me naval co-operation by bombarding the Gaza defences and the enemy's railway stations and depôts north of Gaza. Rear-Admiral Jackson afforded me cordial assistance.

The difficulties to be overcome in the operations against Beersheba and the Sheria-Hareira line were considerable, and careful preparations and training were necessary. The chief difficulties were those of water and transport.

The date of the attack on Beersheba, which was to commence the operations, was fixed as October 31st.

The bombardment of the Gaza defences

commenced on October 27th, and on October 30th warships of the Royal Navy, assisted by a French battleship, began co-operating in this bombardment.

#### Beersheba Captured.

On the evening of October 30th the portion of the eastern force, which was to make the attack on Beersheba, was concentrated in positions of readiness for the night march to its positions of deployment.

The right of the attack was covered by a cavalry regiment. Further east, mounted troops took up a line opposite the southern defences of Beersheba.

As a preliminary to the main attack, in order to enable field guns to be brought within effective range for wire-cutting, the enemy's advanced works at 1,070 were to be taken. This was successfully accomplished. The final assault was ordered for 12.15 p.m. It was successful all along the front attacked, and by about 1 p.m. the whole of the works between the Khalasa road and Wadi Saba were in our hands. The casualties were light, considering the strength of the works attacked.

The mounted troops, after a night march, for part of the force of 25 and for the remainder of 35 miles, arrived early in the morning of the 31st about Khasim Zanna, in the hills some five miles east of Beersheba.

A force was sent north to secure Bir es Sakaty, on the Hebron road, and protect the right flank.

Meanwhile, attempts to advance in small parties across the plain towards the town made slow progress. In the evening, however, a mounted attack by Australian Light Horse, who rode straight at the town from the east, proved completely successful. They galloped over two deep trenches held by the enemy just outside the town, and entered the town at about 7 p.m., capturing numerous prisoners.

The Turks at Beersheba were undoubtedly taken completely by surprise, a surprise from which the dash of London troops and Yeomanry, finely supported by their artillery, never gave them time to recover. The charge of the Australian Light Horse completed their defeat.

A very strong position was thus taken with slight loss, and the Turkish detachment at Beersheba almost completely put out of action. About 2,000 prisoners and 13 guns were taken, and some 500 Turkish corpses were buried on the battlefield. This success laid open the left flank of

the main Turkish position for a decisive blow.

#### Stiff Fighting at Gaza.

The attack on Gaza was ordered to take place on the morning of November 2nd.

The objectives of this attack were the hostile works from Umbrella Hill (2,000 yards south-west of the town) to Sheikh Hasan, on the sea (about 2,500 yards north-west of the town). The front of the attack was about 6,000 yards, and Sheikh Hasan, the furthest objective, was over 3,000 yards from our front line.

The attack was successful in reaching all objectives, except for a section of trench on the left and some of the final objectives in the centre.

On the early morning of November 1st the 53rd (Welsh) Division, with the Imperial Camel Corps on its right, had moved out into the hills north of Beersheba. Mounted troops were also sent north along the Hebron Road to secure Dhaheriyeh if possible.

On November 3rd we advanced north on Ain Kohleh and Tel Khuweilfeh, near which place the mounted troops had engaged considerable enemy forces on the previous day. This advance was strongly opposed, but was pushed on through difficult hill country to within a short distance of Ain Kohleh and Khuweilfeh. At these places the enemy was found holding a strong position with considerable and increasing forces. He was obviously determined not only to bar any further progress in this direction, but, if possible, to drive our flankguard back on Beersheba. During the 4th and 5th he made several determined attacks on the mounted troops. These attacks were repulsed.

By the evening of November 5th, all preparations had been made to attack the Kauwukah and Rushdi systems and to make every effort to reach Sheria before nightfall.

The mounted troops were to be prepared in the event of a success by the main force to collect, as they were somewhat widely scattered owing to water difficulties, and push north in pursuit of the enemy.

At dawn on the 6th the attacking force had taken up positions of readiness to the S.E. of the Kauwukah system of trenches.

The attack progressed rapidly, the Yeomanry storming the works on the enemy's extreme left with great dash; and soon after noon the London and Irish troops



commenced their attack. It was completely successful in capturing all its objectives, and the whole of the Rushdi system in addition. Sheria Station was also captured before dark.

During the afternoon, as soon as it was seen that the attack had succeeded, mounted troops were ordered to take up the pursuit and to occupy Huj and Jemmamah.

#### Gaza Evacuated by the Turks.

As soon as it was seen that the Turks had evacuated Gaza a part of the force pushed along the coast to the mouth of the Wadi Hesi, so as to turn the Wadi Hesi line and prevent the enemy making any stand there. Cavalry had already pushed on round the north of Gaza, and became engaged with an enemy rearguard at Beit Hanun, which maintained its position till nightfall.

On our extreme right the situation remained practically unchanged during the 7th. During the 8th the advance was continued. The enemy had, however, retreated during the night 7th-8th, and though considerable captures of prisoners, guns, ammunition, and other stores were made during the day, chiefly in the vicinity of Huj, no large formed body of the enemy was cut off.

By the 9th operations had reached the stage of a direct pursuit by as many troops as could be supplied so far in front of railhead.

Orders were accordingly issued to press the pursuit. Our progress on the 10th and 11th was slow; but by the evening of the 11th favourable positions had been reached for a combined attack.

#### Enemy Forces Cut in Two.

The hostile commander may have hoped to exercise some moral effect on our plans by the presence of the southern portion of his forces on the flank of our advance; if so, he was mistaken. The Australian Mounted troops, extended over a wide front, not only secured this flank, but pressed forward on the 12th towards Balin, Berkusie, and Tel-es-Safi. Their advanced troops were counter-attacked and driven back a short distance, but the enemy made no effort to press further forward. Arrangements were then made to attack on the 13th.

The capture of this position by the 52nd (Lowland) Division, assisted by a most dashing charge of mounted troops, who galloped across the plain under heavy fire and turned the enemy's position from the north, was a fine feat of arms. Some 1,100 prisoners, three guns, and many machine-guns were taken here. After this the enemy's resistance weakened, and by the evening his forces were retiring.

The enemy's army had now been broken into two separate parts, which retired north and east respectively, and

were reported to consist of small scattered groups rather than formed bodies of any size.

In fifteen days our force had advanced sixty miles on its right and about forty on its left. It had driven a Turkish Army of nine Infantry Divisions and one Cavalry Division out of a position in which it had been entrenched for six months, and had pursued it, giving battle whenever it attempted to stand, and inflicting on it losses amounting probably to nearly two-thirds of the enemy's original effectives. Over 9,000 prisoners, about eighty guns, more than 100 machine guns, and very large quantities of ammunition and other stores had been captured.

After the capture of Junction Station on the morning of the 14th, our troops secured a position covering the station, while the Australian mounted troops reached Kezaze that same evening.

The mounted troops pressed on towards Ramleh and Ludd. On the right Naaneh was attacked and captured in the morning, while on the left the New Zealand Mounted Rifles had a smart engagement at Ayun Kara (six miles south of Jaffa). Here the Turks made a determined counter-attack and got to within fifteen yards of our line. A bayonet attack drove them back with heavy loss.

Flanking the advance along the railway to Ramleh and covering the main road from Ramleh to Jerusalem, a ridge stands up prominently out of the low foot hills surrounding it. This is the site of the ancient Gezer, near which the village of Abu Shusheh now stands. A hostile rearguard had established itself on this feature. It was captured on the morning of the 15th in a brilliant attack by mounted troops, who galloped up the ridge from the south. A gun and 360 prisoners were taken in this affair.

By the evening of the 15th the mounted troops had occupied Ramleh and Ludd, and had pushed patrols to within a short distance of Jaffa. At Ludd 300 prisoners were taken, and five destroyed aeroplanes and a quantity of abandoned war material were found at Ramleh and Ludd.

Jaffa was occupied without opposition on the evening of the 16th.

#### Advance through the Judæan Hills.

During this period attacks by the enemy along the whole line led to severe local fighting. On November 25th our advanced posts north of the river Auja were driven back across the river. An attack on the night of the 29th succeeded in penetrating our outpost line north-east of Jaffa, but next morning the whole hostile detachment, numbering 150, was surrounded and captured by Australian Light Horse. On the 30th a similar fate befell a battalion which attacked near El Burj; a counter-attack by Australian Light Horse took 200 prisoners and prac-

tically destroyed the attacking battalion. All efforts by the enemy to drive us off the Neby Samwil ridge were completely repulsed. We took 750 prisoners between November 27th and 30th, and the enemy's losses in killed and wounded were undoubtedly heavy. His attacks in no way affected our positions nor impeded the progress of our preparations.

#### Jerusalem Forced to Surrender.

The date for the attack was fixed as December 8th. Welsh troops, with a Cavalry regiment attached, had advanced from their positions north of Beersheba up the Hebron-Jerusalem road on the 4th. No opposition was met, and by the evening of the 6th the head of this column was ten miles north of Hebron. The Infantry were directed to reach the Bethlehem-Beit Jala area by the 7th, and the line Surbarhir-Sherafat (about three miles south of Jerusalem) by dawn on the 8th.

The troops moved into positions of assembly by night, and, assaulting at dawn on the 8th, soon carried their first objectives. By nightfall our line ran from Neby Samwil to the east of Beit Iska, through Lifta to a point about 1½ miles west of Jerusalem, whence it was thrown back facing east. All the enemy's prepared defences west and north-west of Jerusalem had been captured, and our troops were within a short distance of the Nablus-Jerusalem road.

Next morning the advance was resumed. The Turks had withdrawn during the night, and the London troops and Yeomanry, driving back rearguards, occupied a line across the Nablus-Jerusalem road, four miles north of Jerusalem, while Welsh troops occupied a position east of Jerusalem across the Jericho road. These operations isolated Jerusalem, and at about noon the enemy sent out a parlementaire and surrendered the city.

At noon on the 11th I made my official entry into Jerusalem.

In the operations from October 31st to December 9th over 12,000 prisoners were taken. The total captures of material have not yet been fully counted, owing to the large area covered by these operations; but are known to include about 100 guns of various calibres, many machine-guns, more than 20,000,000 rounds of rifle ammunition, 250,000 rounds of gun ammunition. More than 20 aeroplanes were destroyed by the enemy to avoid capture.

#### Special Services.

Among the officers thanked by General Allenby for special service is Major-General (temporary Lieut.-General) Sir Henry Chauvel, K.C.M.G., C.B., of whom he says that he "Has commanded my mounted troops with invariable success in attack and pursuit. His co-operation with other arms has always been ready and loyal, and has contributed greatly to the victory won."

# GENERAL AUSTRALIAN NEWS

## Record Sugar Crop.

Early in November the General Superintendent of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations, Mr. Easterby, received estimates from the Queensland sugar mills. These show that if the factories are able to crush all the cane still in sight, the total amount that will pass through the rollers for the season will be some 2,900,000 tons. Allowing 8½ tons of cane to manufacture one ton of raw sugar, this would produce 346,000 tons, which, at £21 per ton, would reach a value of £7,266,000, a figure almost equal to the value of the entire wheat crop of Australia for 1914-1915, and double the value of the dairy produce in Queensland for this year. This will be the largest sugar crop ever produced, and there may be, with the production of New South Wales and Victoria, a surplus of about 100,000 tons of sugar.

## New Sewerage System in Sydney.

A proposal has been made to the Minister for Works (Mr. Ball) by the Metropolitan Board of Water Supply and Sewerage, by which it is thought that a very large amount of money might be saved in the construction of outfall sewers. Experiments have been made in the new idea by the board, and the Minister has arranged to inspect the result of these at Folly Point, Middle Harbour.

Mr. Ball explained that, owing to an injunction of the Supreme Court, the board had found it necessary to abate a sewerage nuisance in less time than it would take for the construction of the northern suburbs outfall sewer, which was passed by the Public Works Committee last year, and recommended at a cost of something over £2,000,000. In order to comply with the injunction of the Court the board decided upon the installation of what is known as the activated sludge system. This is a method by which the sewage is kept in motion through a variety of processes until it becomes pure water, as in the septic tank system. The work at Folly Point will cost about £30,000, and the board has suggested to the Minister that, pending the demonstration of its success, he should suspend the work of the ocean outfall sewer.

The Minister said that the board had introduced a similar experiment at Botany, for which success is claimed.

## Income Tax in Queensland.

In the Legislative Assembly, Brisbane, on November 1st, Mr. Theodore, Treasurer, moved the second reading of the Income Tax Amendment Bill. He said it was a similar bill to that debated last year.

The present rate of tax on an income of

£500 from personal exertion was 7½d. in the £, but the rate under the new tax would be 9d. On incomes between £500 and £1,000 the present rate was 9d., but the rate under the next tax would be 10d.; on incomes between £1,000 and £1,500 the new rate would be 14d. instead of 1s. On incomes between £1,500 and £3,000 the new rate would be 1s. 6d. instead of 1s. 3d., on incomes between £3,000 and £5,000 21d. instead of 1s. 6d. On incomes exceeding £6,000 the new tax would be 28d. in the £.

The rate on incomes received from property, he said, would be somewhat higher. The present rate on incomes of £500 was 1s. The new rate would be 1s. 2d. and the rate would increase until the maximum rate of 32d. in the £ was reached on incomes exceeding £6,000. He admitted the rate on big incomes was heavy, but persons in receipt of such incomes were best able to bear the burden. The second reading was carried, and the bill was passed through committee without amendment.

## Alleged I.W.W.ism in West Australia.

As the result of recent raids by the police on premises suspected of having been used by members of the I.W.W., ten men, Thomas Hawkens, Sydney Morton, Alfred Callanan, William Johnson, Patrick Armstrong, Edward Bolt, Otto Saanen, Montague Candish, Sydney Campbell, and Thomas Candish, were charged at the City Court, Perth, on November 1st, with conspiracy. The accused were remanded for eight days. Bail was refused. The following letter, sent from the agricultural township of Gnowangerup, and dated September 21st, was found among the belongings of one of the accused, and put in as evidence:—"People here are mostly bitter about the disloyal strikers. You should have done the same as they are doing in Buenos Ayres—ripped the railway up from Perth to Fremantle, or destroyed the two bridges at Fremantle and the one on the Canning. To-morrow Murphy and I are going out to Milnes to build a motor garage. Then we will see if his stuff is there for the woolshed. If it is we will go right on with it. The glory of the place has departed. Some of the late occupants have gone to the war, fighting for more profits for the fat man—poor, deluded fools. Yours for the revolution, P. Candish."

## Sir Richard Butler.

### Resents Anonymous Inference.

Speaking on Mr. Verran's bill to disfranchise Germans, the Treasurer of South Australia, Sir Richard Butler, said some time ago he addressed a meeting at Salisbury, and afterwards he was accused by a dirty, mean, anonymous cur of having spoken disloyally, and discouraged recruiting, because he had said "thank God America has come into this war." That was supposed to mean he did not want their boys to enlist. Later he was informed that the Minister of Defence had sent a detective to Salisbury district to enquire into his utterances. He had written to Senator Pearce, pointing out his consistent loyalty and advocacy of national service, and remarking, "I am more than surprised that you should have allowed yourself to be associated with an endeavour to brand me as a hypocrite and a disloyalist by sending a detective into the district I represent." Senator Pearce had replied that enquiries were made with the object of ascertaining what words were used. They did not yield any information to justify action by the Defence Department. The Treasurer said he had been unable to get the name of the man who had written to Senator Pearce. "That is military rule," he commented. "We in South Australia will thank God when we get back to civil rule."

## Australian Shipbuilding.

Speaking of the shipbuilding proposals of the Federal Government, on November 2nd, the Minister for the Navy (Mr. Cook) said there appeared to be a great deal of misconception in the minds of many people as to this matter. "The Government is being charged with masterly inactivity, and the Premier of one of the States has told the Commonwealth Government what it ought to do," he said. "There is no general 'hold up' on the part of the unions, such as is suggested. The bulk of the unions have cordially approved the scheme. One or two of the others, notably the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and a section of the boilermakers in Sydney, are standing aloof, but it is understood that these are reconsidering the matter. I have been informed that one or two of them are taking a ballot to decide the matter further; but the recalcitrancy of these unions is not preventing the preparations from going forward. We hope, of course, they will finally decide to come in. The Government appointed a general supervisor and manager some weeks ago, and he is hard at work, and has been for some time, shaping things so that a commencement can be made. Mr. King Salter has done a great deal of preparatory work. The re-

sources of the Commonwealth, both as to slips and materials, have already been ascertained, and generally the whole scheme is maturing. Briefly stated, the position is that all the States have been asked to shape their resources so as to enable them to build ships."

#### West Australian Retrenchment.

A bombshell was hurled at the Perth City Council and local governing bodies of the State by the Minister of Works, when, in reply to a deputation he announced that Government subsidies were to be drastically reduced, that the biggest subsidy that would be paid in future would be £300, and that the city of Perth would not get even that much.

In pursuance of its policy of economy and reorganisation, the Government has retired the Fruit Industries Commissioner (Mr. Moody), the agricultural commissioner for the south-west (Mr. Connor), and Dr. Stoward, botanist and plant pathologist. The positions held by these officers have been abolished.

#### Fifth Australian War Loan.

The Australian Mutual Provident Society subscribed £1,000,000 to the fifth war loan, the list for which closed on November 2nd.

#### An Alleged Game of "Bridge."

At the Water Police Court, Sydney, on November 2nd, Ernest Alfred Bridge, 45, a labourer, was charged with having falsely pretended that he was a senior partner of the firm of John Bridge and Co., Ltd., and having obtained £85 in gold.

Henry Silva, a barber on a steamer at that time lying in Sydney, stated that accused came on board the vessel on the way to Australia, in February last, and represented himself as a senior partner of the firm of John Bridge and Co. He also said that he was a nephew of Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, who had died and left him £15,000. Witness gave him £85 in gold, and received from him a cheque on a London bank. Witness, on arriving at London, tried to cash the cheque. It was returned to him marked no account.

Accused was committed for trial.

#### Sydney Ferries Buy Balmain Company.

Sydney Ferries, Ltd., has arranged to take over the assets and liabilities of the Balmain New Ferry Company, Limited, and to issue for the holders of the 62,500 shares in the Balmain Company 50,000 fully paid shares in Sydney Ferries, Ltd.

On the strength of the announcement the shares of the Balmain Company advanced sharply on the Sydney Stock Exchange, with buyers at 15s. 9d., as compared with 13s. 3d. previously.

The paid-up capital of the Balmain Company on June 30th last was £62,500, and



A scene amongst the ruins of a town near the front. "The Cooks."

(Australian Official Photograph.)

liabilities totalled £27,852. On the other hand, the company held ship properties valued at £53,238, freeholds valued at £34,450, and sundry assets valued at £4,280. The net profit for the six months ended June 30th last was £1,562, and the dividend was at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The purchasing company, Sydney Ferries, Limited, has a paid-up capital of £466,667, and on December 31st, 1916, it owned shipping property worth £301,808, and landed property valued at £133,870. Money at deposit in Government debentures and cash totalled £23,057, and wharfs, etc., were valued at £35,603. Other assets amounted to £18,022. The net profit for

the half-year ended December 31st last was £11,670. The dividend, like the Balmain Company, was at the rate of 5 per cent.

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## With the A.I.F. Stretcher Bearers.

By F. DRESSING.

We happen to be at the R.A.P., or, to give its full title, Regimental Aid Post. This particular R.A.P. consists of a shell-battered blockhouse, conveniently sunk in an old Boche trench, which now forms one of our reserve trenches. In the R.A.P. at present hangs out the M.O. and his three orderlies, and squads for dressing work.

This is a fairly quiet night for the mud-tarnished M.O.—no stunt on, you know. He dozes in a corner of the blockhouse—sits on a bench and rests his elbow on a ledge that projects from one side of the stronghold—his upturned palm supports his head. This ledge holds all surgical and medicinal necessities. The M.O. has the position of honour, next come the Medical Orderlies, who, sitting on the same bench, doze with chins sunk on chest. The bearers take their place in the pit, waiting for a case to come down from the line in order to carry it down to the 1st Relay Bearer Post. Their manner of waiting is thus:—They shelter from the drizzle, cold and fragments of stray explosive missiles, on the floor of the blockhouse, sitting on some raised object in a cramped position, with their hands folded round their knees, and a couple of inches of slush accommodating their feet. Here they nod, smoke, growl, or chat. Peut-être their thoughts in a homeward direction stray. Personally I have a decided tendency for visualising a big brown roast of beef simmering in hot fat—or a foaming tankard of the best. So complete is the illusion that one's nostrils dilate as they inhale an imaginary sniff of so appetising a wish. This pleasant vision comes to an untimely end by the close crash of a "Johnson," the concussion of which shakes the building.

### Finding the Aid Post.

I don't mind telling you that we, viz.: 9 men comprising 2 squads, 2 being Lance Jacks, also a spare Lance Jack, had a fairly interesting trot up to the R.A.P.

As instructed at the Advanced Dressing Station, we had set out to find the Aid Post. We felt our way along the trolley line with our feet—slodged and blodged along this mile and a half of ooze until Pip Squeak Corner was reached, where one of our Relay Bearer Posts was established. Several times before this a sudden flash and bang led us to believe that we had stumbled across this landmark prematurely.

Leaving the line, and striking over to our right, also keeping the Tank that had seen better days on the same side, and the heap of bricks and wreckage known as the Petit Trianon on our left, we shaped our course through the Bois de Wheelbarrow, on which the Hun's frightfulness had come down to some devastating purpose. The

next stage of the journey was a bit mixed—confusion was rife for one long minute. It was traversing the Valley of Death that the drizzle first commenced, and we almost got bogged in the mud; moreover, a couple of "whiz-bangs" had a most accelerative effect on our speed—then a big "g'sump" screamed down the moist, sombre empyrean and caused the end of the world. No devout Parsee could have fallen half so prostrate as we; the Flemish mud, which erstwhile had been called everything that was gangrenous, was now tightly wood by repentant arms.

### "Oh what a day we're having!"

A few seconds elapsed, then our dazed senses perceiving that the world had finished falling and had adjusted itself to fit in with normal conditions, we arose, and one of the dark outlines commenced to sing, "Oh what a day we are having."

Another figure quoted, "A bright spring morning and all Nature seemed glad." Another owl remarked, "It's a great country, though."

These attempts at humour fell rather flat. I, in a soft-headed moment, indicated in confidence to a pal that "the wind had been put up me properly," and he in a moment of weakness admitted unusual symptoms of this malady.

Everyone felt the necessity for instant action—immobility was foreign to our natures in such a catastrophic vicinity. Peregrinate we must, so, with a view to that purpose, I called out, "Anyone hurt or missing?" "No, all correct, sergeant. Would you like to call the roll?" came the answer through the drizzle in over affable tones. That was malicious, as I am only a Lance Jack and felt far from being anxious to call the blasted roll on such an unsuitable parade ground. I refrained, however, from making any squashing retort.

### We lose our way.

Collecting our stretchers and other gear, we peregrinated to such hasty purpose that we overlooked entirely that part of our directions relating to picking up our next trail from the big white cross half way across the Valley of Death, and arrived at the opposite side before we realised our error. The chap who burst this "Mills No. 5" amongst us happened to be the same insolent, lanky, red-headed person who had suggested the calling the roll business, and he now proffered the advice in a tone that sounded a trifle too familiar, "Better turn back, cock."

Again repressing the impulse to retort, I decided to act on this advice, and re-

trace our steps. In the middle of the valley we discovered several crosses, most of 'em being white, and selecting the biggest of them for better or for worse, we picked up the "between the shell holes" track for the trenches.

Here our instructions were very general. Briefly they were, "Follow the track over the hill, then bear to the left diagonally for a couple of hundred yards, then you'd better ask some of the Infantry or Pioneers just where the — Battalion holds the line."

### The Annette Kelle mann Act.

Filing over the hill, and meandering between the shell holes, we almost sustained a drowning casualty—the spare Lance Jack tripped over a ground entanglement and took a header into a shell crater half full of water. This incident served to put us into good spirits immediately, and we congratulated "Birdie" warmly (it might be advisable to mention that this Lance Jack is so nick-named on account of the really good show of colour he displays on his chest, viz.:—the D.C.M. and M.M. ribbons).

Yes, perhaps we were unnecessarily warm in tendering our congratulations on his unexpected prowess in the Annette-Kellermann act. Poor old Birdie grew very heated, and referred to us, inter alia, as an unanæmic lot of fat-headed asses. Everyone strongly urged him to repeat the performance—some declared they hadn't actually seen him enter the water—only heard the splash. Personally, I was solicitous in inquiring whether, if a better hole could be found, would he plunge again. Whereupon Gingernut promised to lead him to a 9.2 dam that would just suit his style. Birdie's explosions were of a kind to pass any reasonable test in verbal ballistics, and delighted us all.

Reaching the brow of the hill the "diagonally to the left" was entered upon, and the proximity of flares and other trench phenomena inspired a chilly feeling—moreover, from the last two shells that were planted down near us a sickly green vapour was seen to rise in the light of a flare. The spasm of hilarity at Birdie's expense forthwith subsided—the light of our mirth suddenly burnt out.

### "I Smell Gas!"

Presently the "nervy" man of the party broke out, "I can smell gas." In a moment the majority smelt gas, and on all sides was heard anxiously and impatiently, "Well, what about putting on our helmets?" "Don't you think a man should stick his gaspirator on?"

Just as all were fumbling with their masks at the "Alert," one fed-up chap at

the rear called out, "I'm not sticking on mine, for one; bad enough getting over these holes and entanglements without being — well blindfolded; besides, the Boche is not silly enough to throw gas about a blasted night like this."

Back went the gaspirators to the "Alert" — the panic was averted!

**"Hallo! Just come in?"**

We scrambled along, and soon dropped upon a perfect maze of trenches—trenches and entanglements that traversed the country in all directions, in bewildering fashion, distinguishable by flare light.

From a relief party of Lewis gunners, we learnt that we were near our destination. Our spirits rose at once! Selecting a likely looking trench, we followed its course until we drew almost on top of some very loud and wrathful voices, alternated with the noise of pick and shovel work. Our Lance-Corporal Bock, who has a stentorian voice, apparently wishing to learn if the occupants of the trench were of the incoming battalion, roared out, "Hullo, below! Just come in?" "No, just damn well fallen in," came back the answer, amidst a chorus of laughter. We guessed that their bivvy had collapsed, and that they were now repairing it. Birdie put the next question thus, "You're the — Battalion, ain't you?" The same comedian who was responsible for the first joke gave us to understand that he wasn't that particular battalion exactly, but that, assisted by some 999 others, he did the work of the regiment, whereupon Birdie, whose temper is easily ruffled, acidly informed him that our muddy little band had been on their way to the R.A.P. for the past hour and a half, and pointed out that, although their rotten dug-out had fallen in, that was no reason why they shouldn't talk sense.

That rebuke seemed to steady the spokesman of the stygian place, for he next said seriously, "Don't think the place you are after is far from here, as we saw some stretcher-bearer coves go up the first turn to the left a few minutes ago." We went on our way, occasionally tripping over entanglements, etc., but in much better heart.

#### The Goal Reached.

At length the light from a flare disclosed a square blocky building set in the side of a trench we were following. A hopeful sign! Proceeding nearer, a blanket was lifted from a doorway, which let out a stream of light, and a man came out in a stooping position, followed by another who carried a stretcher. Our goal was at last reached! Hurrah! Someone scrambled into the trench, making a tremendous splash. We laughed. One of the band enquired very audibly if Birdie were rehearsing. We lowered ourselves gingerly into the trench, four of us squeezing into the shelter of the R.A.P., while the re-



An operating theatre in an Australian Casualty Station.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

mainder elected to chance the cover of a lean-to next door, for the time being.

Upon squeezing inside we were met with a cheery, "Hullo boys! Are you from the — Field?" from the M.O. "Yes, we've just come along to relieve the two squads of the — Field," I replied. Turning to the squad whose place we had taken, he said, "You can get your gear together and imshi as soon as you like." You can see from the common use of imshi that we have had some truck with the fragrant natives of Egypt. Seeing the squad leader ready to "imshi," I questioned him regarding the best track for evacuating wounded, and if many stretcher cases were coming down from the front line. He informed me that the track we had more or less followed was used for "carrying down," and conformed to the requirements of the usual stretcher-bearers' track from a R.A.P., that is, it dodged round the lips of shell craters, over old trenches and entanglements, was easily enough followed by day, although in full view of the Boche's glasses, and at the mercy of anything of an explosive nature that he so indiscriminately projects about, also at night, if a moon were available, one would be much less liable to strike a wrong trail at intervals. To this can be added that, if the Boche only strafed to time-table, everything would be a "jake." (No, I'm not from Canada.)

Apparently we had taken some liberties with the track, as we learnt that our squad from the R.A.P. had "taken a stretcher case down to the Relay Bearer Post" only

20 minutes since, and we had seen nothing of it on our way up. The squad leader added that the Hun was "putting over a good deal of stuff," but most of it was falling to the rear of the front line. "You might have seen something of it coming up," he observed, with a sly wink to a member of his squad.

#### Good Luck, and Good-bye!

We admitted it—one of my illustrious squad even declared that we had "a pretty rough trot." The outgoing and incoming squads wished each other "Good luck," then the outgoing squad gathered up its gear, and left with pleasant anticipation of the time they would have out of the line.

The scene that closes this narrative is that which opened it. Let the curtain drop on that chap sitting on his steel helmet with a "don't know whether to laugh or feel fed up" expression on his face, who has been deceiving himself with the pleasant illusion of the proximity of an appetising meal—whose imagination has been filled with the attractive deception of savoury odours of good substantial meaty dishes. He has been a stretcher-bearer three years, and has experienced the trivial discomforts, the hardships, the tests of endurance, the humours and pathos of war in three different lands, and hasn't yet determined which occupies the foreground and which the background. At times pathos looms up in the foreground and then recedes, humour slipping into its place. Humour that has its life in the incongruities of the idealised "glory" of war.

## Yarns from "Sydney Bulletin."

### The Emu and her Eggs.

How long does the emu sit on her eggs before the chicks appear? I once came across this big fowl on a nest and had to ask her twice before she (or perhaps it was he) would rise. After considering the dozen eggs a good deal I concluded that they were very much addled, so left them. Six weeks later I happened along again and was surprised to find my old friend still on the job, and the eggs appeared to be the same as on my last visit. I've heard it said that if the eggs are touched the bird comes back and kicks them to pieces. This one didn't.

\* \* \*

### The Divining-rod Sceptics.

Amongst the divining-rod sceptics is "Petifi" (B. 2/8/17), who doubts the power of the Rev. E. Pocknall, of Tenterfield (N.S.W.), to ascertain the depth of flows by means of a perpendicular rod. These doubts arise mainly because there have been so many failures to find water where the rod has seemingly indicated its presence to persons who could not tell the difference between mineral and water, or soda, magnesia, and other substances. Pocknall has so developed his knowledge that he can overcome all these difficulties, and he has one rod which will turn for nothing but fresh water. A man out west who had the same views as "Petifi" wagered that the expert could not tell him how many streams were cut by a bore and the respective depths. The diviner supplied data quite exact in most instances and within a very few feet in others, and won the wager. If "Petifi" has any money to back his opinion with, I'll see that he gets a flutter.

\* \* \*

### Ploughing Records.

W. Treeford, working on Killarney, the property of Mrs. A. H. Conroy, Canowindra (N.S.W.), ploughed, sowed and harrowed, single-handed, 400 acres between March 15th and June 20th—14 weeks. Now, come on. Or perhaps you'd better not come on: tell instead of somebody who so thoroughly cultivated his land that he handled only 40 acres in that time, and expected to get as big a net yield from that lot as the average rip-and-tear cocky gets from 500 acres. These big-area farms, poorly worked, are one of the seven curses of Australia.

\* \* \*

### Tough Bushwomen.

Tough bushwomen? Well, on the Manning in the old days lived a Miss Kelly, who on one occasion was grimly taking a couple of her hired servants to Port Macquarie to be "corrected." On the way a flooded stream had to be crossed, and one

of the men, after a big struggle, saved the hard-faced spinster from drowning. She saw to it that he got the lash all the same. She had her home at Brimbin, near Cundle, and one night gave some drovers permission to camp their cattle in her yard. The drovers slept by their fire, and next morning sent the camp boy to the house for a cup of milk for the tea. Some 20 yards from the house he saw a fine calf lying dead, and mentioned the matter to Miss Kelly. "Yes," she answered; "I thought in the dark last night it was one of those men poking about, so I put a bullet through it."

\* \* \*

### South Australia's Attorney-General.

Barwell, the young lawyer who has become Attorney-General in South Australia in his first session in Parliament, is making a bid to get that crowd of enemies which is supposed to be the mark of a strong public man. The stand he made in the Assembly over the Six-o'clock Closing Bill set the teetotal crowd against him; now he has challenged the hotelkeepers who evade the Act. He says that 1,079 men were counted entering a single hotel in a week during prohibited hours, yet the signalling code was so good that the police found nothing wrong whenever they entered:—

"The law is being flagrantly flouted. I, as administrator, am being flouted, and I should be unworthy of the office I hold if I allowed things to remain at

that. If I do not take action it will be said that what I set out to do cannot be done. It can be done. It is now the law-defying publicans and myself for it. The public need have no fear or doubt about the result. Illegal trading by publicans will be stopped, and I undertake to stop it."

And the Adelaide wowsers are rubbing their eyes and asking, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

\* \* \*

### An Old Murder Mystery.

Three bags of human bones are being retained at Edenhope police station (Vic.) as Exhibit A in case an old-time murder should some day be roped in. The tragedy took place about 1864, when a man and his wife and child set out from Horsham in a waggonette intending to go to Portland. They never got there. A man named Cook, said to be on intimate terms with the lady, was known to have followed the party. Ten years later three farmers camping in the Maryvale district were scared at hearing what they declared were a woman's shrieks from the adjoining scrub. Next morning's search discovered the bones of a woman and child beside a decayed log. Further search revealed the remains of a man, but whether those of the husband or Cook nobody knows. The Law has nothing but the three bags of bones, and many Hops have grown grey caring for them. As Cook and the husband were both over 30 at the time of the tragedy the guilty one



Taking him at his word.

The Man with the Flag: "Cripes! I've often told her to do without me, and blimey if she hasn't at last gone and done it!"

(From "Sydney Bulletin.")

(if he is still alive) is well over 80, and would make a very poor hanging. All things considered, the Law might now give the undertaker a chance and get on to something fresh.

\* \* \*

#### Weird Customs of New Guinea.

On the Markham River, New Guinea, native widows have some weird business to go through after the boss has snuffed it. The bereaved one is locked up for four months, but is allowed out at early morning and late night to weep on the grave of the departed. Any small children she may have are shut up also. Though the husband is buried underneath the house his grave is supposed to be at a more distant spot, denoted by a pole, where all his worldly belongings—hats, ornaments, paddles, nets and weapons—are hung till they decay. After six months, during which time the widow must not leave the village, she may marry again. Meanwhile she is not allowed to work in the fields, the tribe thus giving her time to catch another man. This custom applies to all the Lower Markham villages, but not the coastal ones. Along the Upper Markham the lonely missus is still worse off. There the late hubby is planted in a shallow grave covered with dry wood only. In a couple of months the widow takes the head from the body, cleans the skull, and must drink water at least once out of it in the presence of the tribe, and always, no matter where she may roam, she must carry it inside a grass jumper, which she wears for the purpose. The skull, by the constant friction against her breasts, becomes polished like ivory. This practice applies to the "big" men of the village only. The rest of their bones are thrown into the river. The bones of the lesser men are burnt. Widows are known by a white grass affair that they wear over their heads, much resembling in shape a monk's cowl. Widowers sport a black hat, more like half a green coconut than anything else. They must keep it on night and day till they slay a member of another tribe. They are consequently rather keen on visiting other villages. When a sorcerer is killed a big pole is erected, and the natives that took part in the obliteration act dance round and hurl at it the spears used in the good work. A feast is part of the ceremony. Any good dog that has barked its last is buried in the village, and a small bamboo fence is erected around the grave, on top of which is deposited spears and jaw-bones of wild pigs. The dog is supposed to rise at night and feed on the bones, and if they're not good enough he takes the weapons and goes hunting for himself.

\* \* \*

#### A Police Trooper's Yarn.

"Daybreak's" tale of the tethered horse which couldn't be located and so died miserably (B.9/8/17) reminds me of a picturesque yarn the police-trooper at Harrierville (Vic.)



Billjim writes to his Brother in Australia.

"Dear Tom,—It's a —————!"

told me years ago. When Dungey, afterwards a well-known Melbourne sleuth, was stationed in that remote townlet away back o' Bright, he set out in pursuit of a notorious evildoer who had announced his intention of shooting on sight any policeman that came after him. Dungey tracked the quarry to an almost inaccessible part of the ranges and tied his horse to a tree whilst he continued the trail on foot. He duly overtook his man, who opened fire—a trifle late. Dungey dragged the body down the mountain side till he struck a hatter's mining-camp, where he borrowed a pack-horse, and so lumbered the remains to

Harrierville. Then he went back to look for his prad; but the country in that part is so wild that it took Dungey, an experienced bashman, three days to find the unfortunate animal. When discovered the poor brute had gnawed all the bark off the tree to which it was tied and had scooped a fair-sized trench round the roots, but it was alive. When Governor Loch camped out on Feathertop for a few days Dungey acted as his mounted orderly, and did the job so well that his Ex. had him transferred to Melbourne to act in a similar capacity there. Afterwards he was promoted to the C.I.D.

#### An Adelaide Fracas.

Four men went to the house of Mrs. Van Geyer, in Young Street, Adelaide, recently. She refused them admittance, and, in the altercation which followed, someone fired a revolver, and the bullet lodged in the neck of Warren Gleeson, a labourer. His three companions were arrested, and one of them informed the detectives that two other men came from the house, one of whom fired the shot. Mrs. Van Geyer, however, told the police that she fired the revolver herself. Gleeson was not seriously wounded.

#### Australian Soldiers and Drink.

Some time ago—it may have been six years or six months—a transport called at Hobart with a number of returned men on board. No details must be given, but it may be remarked, says "Australasian," that the time was so long ago that the transport has reached her ultimate destination, and the soldiers have been distributed where they belong. That ought to be discreet enough. When the vessel arrived, and the men were to come ashore, a military order was given that between certain hours all licensed houses should be closed. As a result, many worthy citizens who had the habit of seeking some refreshment of body and mind at certain hours of the day found on going as usual to the hostelrys or their clubs that they were denied. The order was of the most stringent kind, and applied not only to visiting soldiers, but to all civilians as well. It would not be safe to say that none of these people got his drink, but at any rate none of them was supposed to get any. But the remarkable thing is that, although many transports have called at Hobart, and the hotels and public-houses have remained open, on no occasion have there been so many soldiers in the streets showing signs of over-indulgence as there were on this occasion—whenever it may have been—on which all licensed houses were closed. This was the observation generally made by men and women, irrespective of their views on the subject of temperance and the liquor traffic. It is not really funny, but it seems to be.

#### The Fruit Business in Tasmania.

The further we go the more muddled the whole of the fruit position seems to be, says Melbourne "Australasian." The suggested deal with the Imperial Government in evaporated apples is definitely off. Now it is suggested that a sale might be effected with the Federal Government, but only the most optimistic expect anything to come of the proposal. The central fruit committee has met again and has talked, the Premier has talked to them, and so has the Minister for Agriculture. Everyone is encouraging everyone else to keep up heart, and to hope for the best. Even the Tasmanian repre-



Australian troops amidst the devastation of war. A scene at Ypres.

sentatives in the Federal Parliament are to come to Hobart in a week or so, and they will meet fruitgrowers and talk still more. The Prime Minister also has talked occasionally, but he varies in such an extraordinary way that no one can discover exactly what he means to do, if anything. It has been pointed out more than once that fruitgrowing is the only considerable primary industry which has had no assistance of any kind from the Federal Government, and it is in this particularly awkward position that an orchard represents a large capital outlay and cannot be neglected without suffering damage or depreciation in

value. The consideration is chiefly for the crop of the coming season, but those who have apples to sell now are not without their grievances. The latest is in regard to the "Sphene," a vessel which brought coal from Newcastle under arrangement, everyone thought, with the Federal Government. When it came to taking back a cargo of fruit, shippers were asked to sign an undertaking to share their profits, over and above certain prices, with a Mr. Biggins, of Melbourne, who is named as the charterer. They had no choice but to agree, but they feel that they are being dealt with rather hardly.



**To My Brother's Spirit.**

FROM THE TRENCHES.

Sweet youth, fair brother, whom so much I  
loved,

I wonder where you're roving now: what  
state,

What thought you feel thus from this world  
removed!

Whether it still influences your fate,  
Or if as each day goes you feel it less,  
Becoming godlier as the time goes by,  
With an existence purer and more free  
From all that does mortality distress;  
I feel that you are with me in my cares,  
And, though unconsciously, my spirit cheer  
With spiritual courage that my heart  
repairs—

I, a weak mortal, who must still be here,  
Ruled by love and hate, desire and fears.

R. Ross, A.I.F.

**Ex-Postal Assistant Charged.**

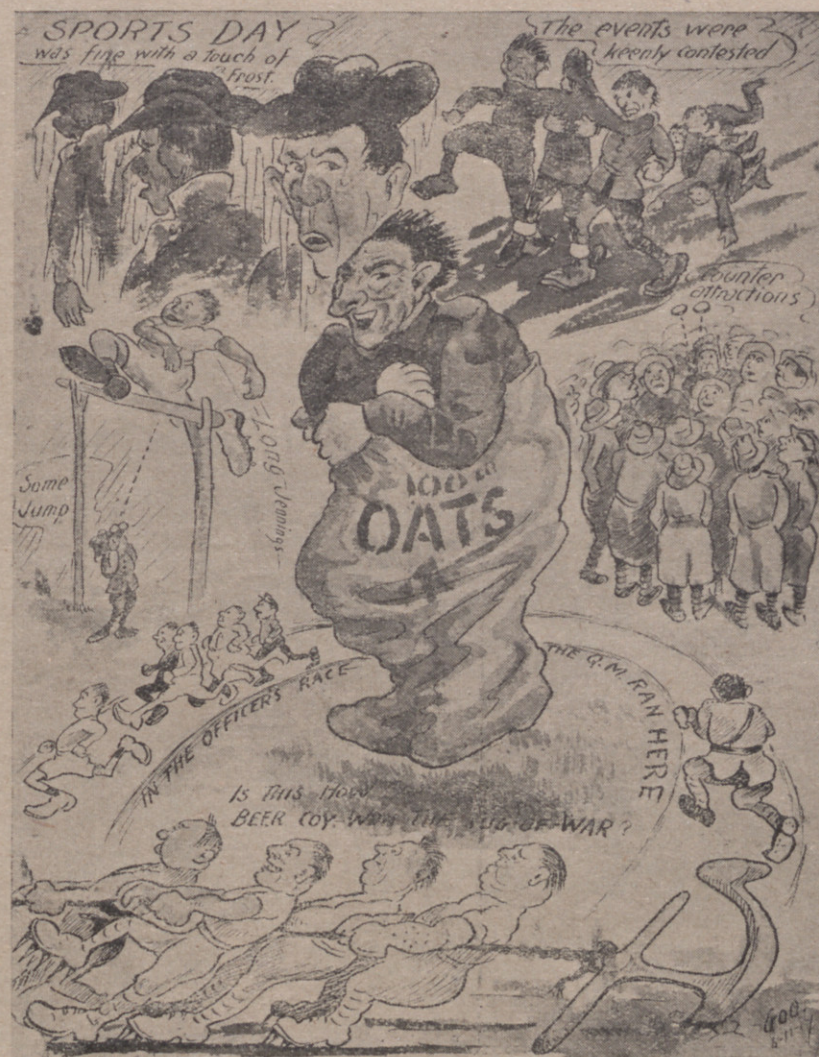
Francis Healey, a young man, formerly  
postal assistant at Bathurst, was charged  
at the Bathurst Police Court recently with  
the misappropriation of the sum of £22,  
the property of the department.

**Soldier's Wife Murdered.**

About 7 o'clock on November 21st, Albert  
Edward Budd was found in his lodgings, in  
Farrell Street, Port Melbourne, with a gash  
in his throat, evidently made by a razor.  
Although the wound was a deep one Budd  
was still conscious when found. Three  
hours later the dead body of Mrs. A. E.  
Samson was found in a house in Princes  
Street, Port Melbourne. Her head was  
almost severed from her body. In the  
room in which the body lay the furniture  
had all been overturned, showing that the  
woman had fought desperately for her life.  
Budd was foster-brother of the deceased  
woman, whose husband is a soldier, at  
present on active service. It is stated by  
the police that Budd had been endeavouring  
recently to press his attentions on Mrs.  
Samson, and that she had ordered him not  
to visit her home at all. Mrs. Samson was  
secretary of the Port Melbourne branch of  
the Political Labour Council and a prom-  
inent worker in a movement in the district  
to raise money to relieve the stress caused  
by the strike. She was also associated with  
Red Cross work.

**Anniversary Day.****Australian Soldiers' Celebrations.**

Australia's Anniversary Day was cele-  
brated in London on Saturday. The two  
events with which the commemoration is  
associated are the first colonisation in  
Sydney in the year 1788 and the formation  
of the Australian Commonwealth, which  
came into being on January 1, 1901. The  
first Federal Parliament was opened by the  
present King (then the Duke of Cornwall  
and York) on May 9, 1901. The popular  
title of the anniversary, Wattle Day, is



A Sports Meeting on the Western Front.

taken from the national flower, the wattle,  
or mimosa.

The Australian Natives' Association  
arranged a "corroboree"—a dinner followed  
by a dance—at the Connaught Rooms,  
where about a thousand Australian soldiers  
and their friends were entertained. Mr.  
Andrew Fisher, the High Commissioner for  
Australia, and Sir Thomas Mackenzie, the  
High Commissioner for New Zealand, were  
among the guests.

At the Anzac Buffet in Victoria Street,  
Westminster, about 400 wounded Austra-  
lian soldiers were entertained during the  
day. Groups of Australian soldiers, either  
on leave or stationed in London, dined to-  
gether in various hotels and restaurants,  
which were decorated with the flags of the  
Allies and with wattle blooms.

At Cambridge on Saturday morning the  
High Commissioner, Mr. Andrew Fisher,

Sir Gregory Wade, K.C., Agent-General for  
N.S.W., Sir Peter Mc-Bride, Agent-General  
for Victoria, Sir Frederick Young, Agent-  
General for South Australia, accompanied  
by Major-General Sir J. W. McCay and  
Brigadier-General Griffith, inspected Aus-  
tralian Cadets and presented numerous  
decorations. The visitors lunched with the  
Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Shipley) at Christ's  
College, and afterwards attended a football  
match played under the Australian rules on  
the University football ground.

**Frank and Stanley Wootton.**

An English paper states that Frank  
Wootton, the well-known rider, has safely  
undergone an operation for an abscess in  
the side, at Baghdad, where he is serving.  
His brother Stanley, who won the Military  
Cross in France, is now with General  
Allenby's forces in Palestine.

## Comforts and Amusements for the Wounded.

We learn from our Red Cross correspondent that the Christmas celebrations, and the issue of comforts to counteract the effect of the cold weather, kept the workers busy at the various centres.

It is estimated that over 12,000 presents were distributed through the Society at Christmas to Australians in France, and the money devoted to providing dinners and extra fare at the festive season amounted to £1,050. The Commissioner is able to report that very few, if indeed any, Australian patients were overlooked.

Great difficulties presented themselves to the workers in tracing our sick and wounded, for, right up to Christmas eve, changes were taking place.

The figures given in the report from Boulogne afford some indication of the month's activities, showing, as they do, that the total number of cases, bales, etc., received into the Depot was 839, while 1,348 were despatched. From Boulogne 8,925 Christmas presents were sent to depôts for redistribution, and the Society's cars attached to the Depot themselves delivered 2,956 to various units in Boulogne, Calais, Camiers, and Etaples areas.

No recipients were more pleased to get their Christmas presents than the patients in hospital in the war-devastated area of Peronne. Comforts in this area are, as may be supposed, not easily procured, and the arrival of the Boulogne touring car, carrying Christmas-boxes for the patients, was warmly welcomed.

The issue of further equipment and appliances for the Sports Club and the Band at the 2nd Australian General Hospital is not the only indication of the constant care of the Society for the entertainment of the sick and wounded. The Commissioner is able to record that three portable cinemas—one for each of the Australian General Hospitals—have been delivered. The cinema at No. 2 A.G.H. is now providing entertainment for the patients, and is particularly appreciated by those confined to their beds in these long winter evenings. The picture thrown by the machine is a small one, but its portability allows of it being wheeled up the middle of the wards, and in this way many small circles of patients are amused. An agreement has been come to with the manufactures whereby a weekly change of films will be supplied.

Arrangements are being made at Hazebrouck for the purchase of a cinema, to be used at the various Rest Stations in turn.

## 48 Generals & 10 Admirals! IMPRESSIVE FACTS ABOUT "PELMANISM."

THE remarkable extent to which the new movement — Pelmanism — is being adopted by officers and men affords impressive reading. There could, indeed, be no finer or more convincing evidence of its intensely practical value than the fact that over 18,000 officers and men of H.M. Army and Navy (including 48 Generals and 10 Admirals) are studying it whilst on active service. All correspondence being confidential, no names can, of course, be published.

From time to time the announcements made by the Pelman Institute have included some of the more interesting letters from officers at the Front or with the Grand Fleet, giving more or less precise particulars of the direct benefits accruing to them from the adoption of Pelman principles. Promotion, distinction, increased efficiency, a keener zest for work; self-confidence, individuality, judgment, decision; a perfect memory (most valuable of qualities in this super-scientific war), concentration—these are some of the benefits daily recorded. Small wonder that a distinguished General writes that the value of the Pelman Course cannot be exaggerated. His letter, with others of special interest, will be found below.

Business and professional men are equally appreciative. The benefits of Pelmanism are so clearly apparent (and so invariable) that scepticism and prejudice have vanished. The facts recorded, by students of the course themselves, dispose of all doubt or question as to the value of "Pelmanism."

### DISTINGUISHED GENERAL'S VERDICT.

One of the most emphatic endorsements that the Pelman Course has ever received comes from a distinguished General with the B.E.F. He says:—"The value of the Pelman Course can hardly be exaggerated. I agree it should be nationalized."

Following up the remarkable letters recently published, in which Colonels, Majors, and Captains (both Army and Navy) have attributed their promotion, and, in some cases, their distinctions, to Pelmanism, the General's pronouncement is of special significance.

For the benefit of those readers of "Anzac Bulletin" who have not already seen the letters referred to, they are reprinted here.

#### "The Unsoldierlike Sub."

The first is from a Captain with the B.E.F. We give his letter in its entirety:—

"I should like to call your attention to the facts of the story of my Pelman Course.

"When I began I was looked upon with disfavour by the C.O. of my battalion at home as being a sleepy, forget-

ful and unsoldierlike sub. When I began your Course my star began to rise—I had the ability, but had not been able to use it. I left the home battalion with my C.O.'s recommendation as being the best officer he had had for more than a year, and came to France.

"I was then appointed as a second lieutenant to command a company over the heads of four men with two 'pips,' and have now three stars and an M.C.

"That I was able to make use of my abilities so successfully I attribute entirely to the Pelman System."

#### Easily followed by Post.

To the uninitiated it may well appear impossible that such remarkable results can be attained in a short time as a consequence of half an hour a day for a few weeks spent in studying lessons. Yet it is the bare truth, and it should help readers to realise what a tremendous force for personal betterment "Pelmanism" is.

As a student in the Course recently wrote:—"If people only knew, the doors of the Pelman Institute would be literally besieged by eager applicants."

Following the intensely interesting lessons and exercises, the students of Pelmanism rapidly develop a brilliant Memory, strong Will Power, complete power of Concentration, quick Decision, sound Judgment, an ability to Reason clearly, to Converse attractively, to Organise and Manage, and to conduct their work and social duties with Tact, Courage, Self-Confidence, and Success. All mental weaknesses and defects are, on the other hand, eliminated—such as Mind-wandering, Forgetfulness, Weak Will, Aimlessness, Bashfulness, Self-Consciousness, the Worry Habit," etc., etc.

#### Over 250,000 Men & Women.

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A full description of the Pelman Course is given in *Mind and Memory*, a free copy of which (together with *Truth's* special supplement on "Pelmanism"), will be sent post free to all readers of "Anzac Bulletin" who send a post card to the Pelman Institute, 94, Wenham House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C. 1.









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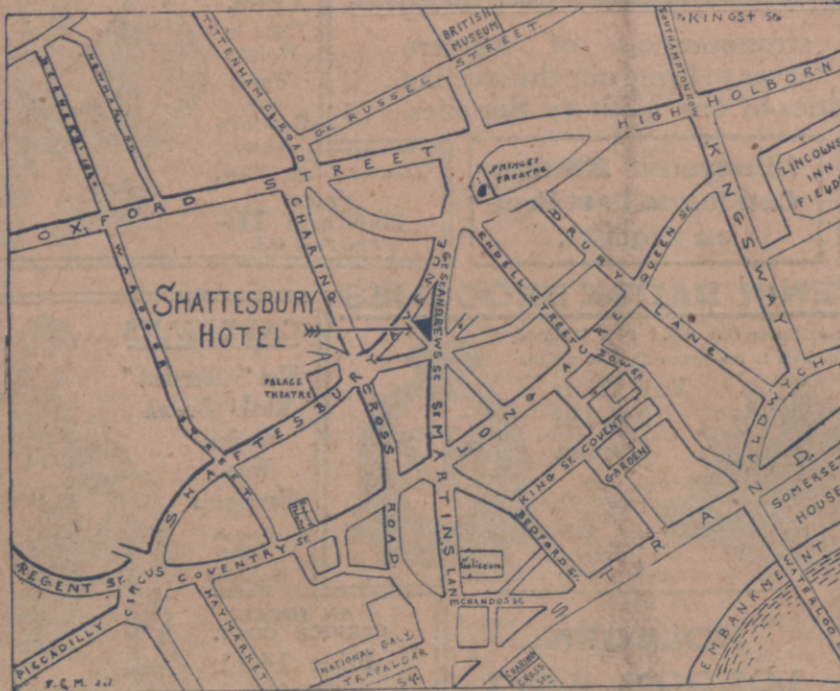
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