

Anzac Bulletin



No. 84. (New Issue).

LONDON, AUGUST 16, 1918.

Price 3d.

Issued to Members of the Australian Military and Naval Forces in Great Britain, France, and elsewhere, and to Australian Munition Workers in Great Britain; by Authority of the High Commissioner for Australia.



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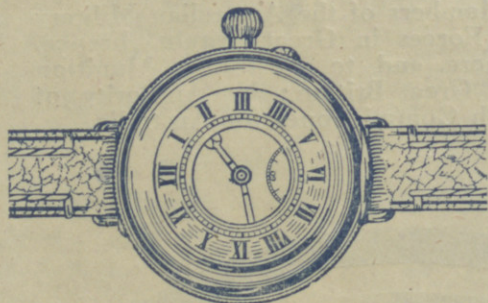
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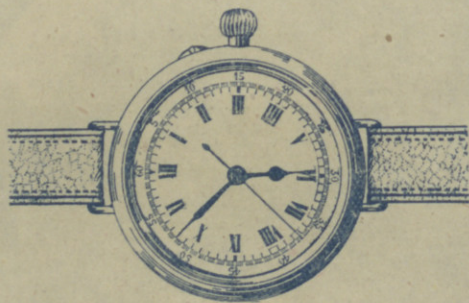
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Edited by Capt. H. C. SMART.

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M. Clemenceau, Gen. Sir Harry Rawlinson, and Gen. Sir John Monash at the headquarters of an Australian Division
(Australian Official Photograph.)

CABLE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Customs and Revenue.

Melbourne, 2nd August.

The Federal Customs received in July amounted to £1,302,985, a decrease of £325,184. Post Office receipts were £524,571, an increase of £36,547. The War Pensions granted amount to 119,712, with an annual liability of £3,826,868.

State Revenue Returns.

Melbourne, 2nd August.

State Revenue returns for July are as follows:—New South Wales, £1,627,625, an increase compared with last July of £270,106; Victoria, £930,012, an increase of £58,526; Queensland, £830,363, an increase of £143,823; Western Australia, £205,684, a deficit of £131,054; Tasmania showed an increase of £12,184.

Colossal Equipment Figures.

Sydney, 2nd August.

Senator Pearce, Minister for Defence, speaking at the Millions Club luncheon in Sydney, yesterday, said that the number of Australian soldiers embarked was 321,000, which was more than the whole Empire had sent to the South African war; 70,160 had returned and 53,138 had been discharged. The articles used in equipment numbered 31,250,000; flannel totalled 22,000,000 yards; practically the whole of the 4,125,000 yards of khaki cloth used was made in Australia. The Department had

purchased 39,000 horses for overseas service, and had also supplied 95,000 horses to the British and Indian Governments. The Australian Government had supplied the whole of the ammunition for the South-West African Campaign, and also all ammunition and explosives for the New Zealand troops.

Australian Pacifists.

Sydney, 2nd August.

Mr. Watt, acting Prime Minister, speaking at the Millions Club luncheon, declared that some forces of disloyalty were based on a mistaken idea of the gravity of the national situation to-day, but sometimes there was pacifist agitation which, to his mind, was as treacherous as deliberate disloyalty or revolution. The Government hoped, by attacking those influences, to exercise a good effect on the man-power problem, which was as urgent to-day as at any time in the history of the war.

The same evening, Mr. Watt, speaking at an enthusiastic meeting at the Protestant Hall, said that for twenty years he had revelled in party strife, but he confessed that the volcano upon which civilisation had been gazing had burned out of him all sense of party creeds, and he wished never to recreate it. They had felt the earth rock on its axis back to barbarity and hell. Should not the unique sacrifices of Australia's sons at the war placard the lesson of unity at the outset? We were fighting for our freedom and existence; we were a divided house with the war fervour perceptibly waning. Profiting by this conviction,

a class of men had sprung up who were seeking to divide the people further by unwise counsels. Beside the pacifists by conviction or war weariness was the pacifist who cloaked treachery to the nation. The Ministry had determined to stop this militant pacifist. (Loud cheers.) A loose rein, perhaps too loose, had been given to many men in Sydney, and Melbourne, and Brisbane, who were doing more harm to the national cause than all the other forces in Australia. Thus far should these men go, and no further. (Renewed cheers.) Despite concession after concession, sometimes against their better judgment, they had got little reciprocation from the forces against continuing the war. The rank and file of that party in Parliament was lending no aid. Von Ludendorff had given the answer to the cry for peace by negotiation. For all the devastation wrought by the hordes of Germany we must get something back. Australia must not slacken her war efforts.

Avenue of Honour.

Melbourne, 2nd August.

The Caulfield and Brighton Municipal Councils have agreed to plant Australian flowering gums as an avenue of honour at Point Nepean and North Roads. Each tree will have an oxidised copper plate, setting out the name and regimental number, rank and date of every soldier enlisted from the district.



Watching a Battle in the Air.

(Australian Official Photograph.)



A Flemish town gradually falling into ruins.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

Remembrance Day in Australia.

Melbourne, 5th August.

Thousands of crowded meetings and church services were held throughout the Commonwealth to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the war, and resolutions were unanimously passed recording an inflexible determination to continue the struggle to a victorious end. Mr. Watt, acting Prime Minister, issued the following message:—"The Allies enter upon the fifth year of the war with a brighter outlook. There is still need for the exercise of our fullest effort, and to that end may I express the hope that Australia will once more face the task in unity. Battalions have disappeared through want of reinforcements. What better resolve can Australia make on this day than that these units shall be recreated for greater glory, and that every requirement in man-power will be cheerfully met." A "King's Men" movement was successfully inaugurated at a crowded meeting in Sydney Town Hall. One object is to combat tendencies to sap the Empire's war energies by disloyal propaganda.

A State Governor Injured.

Hobart, 5th August.

The Governor of Tasmania (Sir Francis Newdigate) was thrown from his horse in the Queen's Domain, Hobart, and his left hip joint fractured. It is expected that he will make a good recovery.

"The Argus" on Lord Lansdowne.

Melbourne, 5th August.

The Melbourne "Argus," commenting on Lord Lansdowne's statement, describes it as really a pitiable letter, and equally inopportune as his previous one. The letter calls up the image of an elderly gentleman, whose powers are failing, and whose nerves can no longer stand the strain of a great struggle.

V.C. Winner Weds.

Melbourne, 8th August.

Captain Robert Grieve, V.C., of the 37th Battalion, has married Sister Isabel Bowman, a Red Cross nurse.

Bureau of Commerce.

Melbourne, 8th August.

A conference of the General Council of the Commonwealth Bureau of Commerce and Industry has elected a council composed of representatives of primary producers, and of banking, shipping and metals interests, of the Chambers of Manufacturers, and of Commerce. The following resolutions were passed:—(1) A declaration that the organisation was to be non-Governmental and non-political. (2) An appreciation of the Government's assistance in appointing a director, and of the help it had given in the pioneering work, bringing about the necessary closer cohesion of the various industrial interests, essential to the

main objects of the scheme; namely, the complete organisation of commerce and industry so as effectively to meet post-war conditions.

Mr. Owen Cox, representing the shipping interests, said that fears of undue Government interference had been dissipated. He thought that considerable benefit could not fail to accrue from the scheme.

Dr. F. M. Gellatly, Director of Science and Industry, states that much scientific work had already been done under the ægis of the advisor to the Council, whom Mr. Hughes appointed two years ago.

The maturing period for yeast had been reduced to 5½ hours, probably solving the day-baking problem. Mangrove bark had proved a suitable substitute for wattle-bark, meaning a reduction of 40 per cent. in the cost of tanning.

The committee investigating alcohol fuel for engines had discovered a new denaturient to replace the one used, which was now almost unobtainable. Another committee had drawn up plans for a mechanical cotton picker.

SPORTING CABLE.

Melbourne, 5th August.

Australian Hurdle race at Caulfield result:—Fastoff 1, Rosyth 2, Pistolier 3. Betting, 11 to 2 v. Westdale; 6 to 1 v. the winner.

Bravest of Brave.

Gallipoli to Morlancourt.

Captain Meysey Hammond's Death.

By C. E. W. BEAN.

France, July 25th.

Men of great bravery are not uncommon in the Australian Forces, nor in the British Army; but every now and then you come across some officer or man whom all his comrades and those of neighbouring units agree in describing as a man of exceeding and outstanding bravery. It is these men who will certainly make our national heroes for many generations to come in Australia. Such an one died the other day. There were no two opinions amongst those who knew him or who speak of him to-day. His name was Meysey Hammond, and he came, I believe, from Broome in Western Australia.

Meysey Hammond was born in England. He ran away from home at thirteen and went to sea. His love of adventure brought him to Australia, and there on the West Coast he owned and captained some small craft amongst the wild, strong men of the pearling seas. When the war broke out he enlisted as a private in the 28th Battalion. As a captain and company commander he was killed in the operations at Morlancourt a few weeks back.

Meysey Hammond had only one arm—he lost the other in the terrible fight at Flers, in the mud of the Somme winter. When he came back before the fighting at Ypres last autumn his colonel decided to leave him out of the fight: all his brother officers agreed that it was the right thing to do. With one arm, Hammond could not even have fixed his gas mask by himself. Yet the day when this decision was come to, no man could speak to him—he was in a black temper. He was a man of straight words, and he went to his battalion commander, who was also a man of straight words, and they had it out between them. Hammond said that, in spite of all the powers in France he would go into that battle; and the colonel, knowing his man, wisely promised to take him: he took him in as intelligence officer with battalion headquarters. Just before the fight Meysey Hammond begged to go up and see the battalion which was to go to the first objective. Of course, he went over with it to the first objective, and then he went over with the next battalion to the next objective; and then, when his own battalion came up for the third objective, he went over with that.

Restless for the Front.

He was intensely proud of his battalion and all its records; and the enthusiasm which he displayed in the piling up of its trophies and diaries suggested that he

would find a suitable place in taking charge of the work of building up the record of the Australian Force in Egypt which had already been well begun. He was sent to London to study the system of this collection, and was keen upon the work. But when letters began to arrive from brother officers in France, telling of the fighting in front of Amiens and of a particular scrap which was rumoured to be ahead of his own beloved battalion, he became restless, and when the day came nearer begged to be back with them at the front. He was sent back, and arrived just before his unit went into the Battle of Morlancourt. He was wild with delight at getting back to them—he was living again amongst his friends—the only life he wanted to live just then.

The attack near Morlancourt took place just after sunset on a clear summer's evening. There was a pretty fierce barrage arranged for, with lifts at stated intervals, all worked to an elaborate time-table. The German front-line posts were the first objective. The German support line, which was a continuous trench, was the second objective.

The Man with the Stick.

There was a very good artillery behind

the battalion, and Meysey Hammond determined that, whatever happened, his company was going to do it right. He knew the time-table by heart—his watch was carefully set. When they climbed out of their deep trenches by the stakes which had been driven in especially in preparation for getting out, Meysey Hammond was there in front of his part of the line, with his useless arm in a sling and his walking-stick hooked over it, and his watch in the other hand, carefully checking the minutes as they advanced.

Hammond straightened them out with his stick, and then walked, with his back to the enemy, well ahead of his men and facing them; now looking at his watch, now bringing up or checking back some part of his line. The long lines of men trailed across that flat hill-top in perfect alignment. They could see the men on their flanks advancing with them for three or four hundred yards down the slope on their left. Our own shrapnel barrage was bursting fifty yards ahead of them in the air, and in front of them walked Meysey Hammond, his back always towards the enemy, keeping them from getting into their own barrage.



After the bombardment. (Australian Official Photograph.)



Repair shop of an Ordnance Depot in France.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

The Last Rush.

Twice on the way over he stopped them to wait till the barrage lifted to go further. At these halts the rest lay down, but Meysey Hammond walked about. There were Germans in the trenches behind him—both in the front line posts and in the second line—but he did not even give them a thought. He just kept his eye on his watch in his hand, and when the second arrived and he saw that the shells had lifted, he took the stick off his useless arm and waved them on. When he wanted them to stop again, he held it up in the air.

The last stop that he gave them was about thirty or forty yards in front of the last enemy trench. Just to the left of him a German machine-gun was firing—not fifty yards away. The German gunner had his head below the parapet, or Meysey Hammond could not have escaped. He stood looking at his watch and then at the barrage. After half a minute he waved the stick. "Come on," he said, and led them on their last rush.

It was the last rush of several of them, poor chaps. Before they reached the trench that machine-gun had killed an officer and five men. But a corporal and another, coming in from the left sideways on to the gun, rushed the crew, and the line jumped into the trench.

"Two minutes late," said Meysey Hammond, looking at his watch.

But so close were they to their barrage

all through the attack that they took not far short of two hundred prisoners in that part of the line. For the most part the Germans were still crouching in their trench for fear of the shells.

Keep the Flag Flying.

So the line was won. Two days later, going round his outposts while the place was still in a disturbed condition, Meysey Hammond was shot through the liver. They carried him down past his battalion's headquarters, looking very grey and wan. "Keep the old flag flying, colonel," he said, as the stretcher passed to the rear. Two days later his brave fight finished. And Australia and the Empire had possessed a name that deserves to be remembered.

Premier's Visit to the North Coast.

The Premier of N.S.W. (Mr. Holman) visited portion of the North Coast recently. He inspected the Clarence River entrance, which it is proposed to improve by break-water extension and removal of a reef that is impeding navigation. Mr. Holman was entertained by Grafton citizens and outlined the Government policy regarding certain public works, which included three different railway projects, viz., the completion of the North Coast line, the duplication of existing lines, and the construction of cross-country lines through the wheat belts. The Government was hoping for

co-operation from the Federal Government to open up Jervis Bay and make it an important commercial port, that would assist largely decentralisation of trade.

Commercial Congress.

Delegates from the various Chambers of Commerce in the Commonwealth sat in Congress at Melbourne and discussed matters of National interest. The President (Mr. F. W. Vasey, of Adelaide) expressed the hope that such serious and costly bungles as had followed the efforts of the British Government Departments to act as trading intermediaries and the resultant economic waste, would be avoided in Australia, especially in the matter of price fixing. The congress also adopted a resolution affirming the desirability of Great Britain retaining the Pacific Islands in the interests of the Empire. Mr. Hughes' trade scheme was discussed. It was thought that the scheme would possibly fail because it was too big. If confined to the primary products it would have more chance of success. The Congress carried resolutions suggesting withdrawal of the War Profits Tax Act, urging expedition in making soldiers' repatriation plans, and asking the Federal Government to discuss with the Imperial Authorities the subject of the metric system of weights and measures and decimal coinage.

Prime Minister and Wounded Soldiers.

Speaking at a luncheon given to wounded Australian soldiers, after the opening of Australia House, on August 3rd, the Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. W. M. Hughes) said:—

Soldiers of Australia,—

You who have gathered here to witness the ceremony which has taken place to-day—the opening of Australia's House in London—give to the occasion a significance worthy of the times in which we live. Over all that we do—whether it be small or great—hangs the shadow of war. The grounding of arms mingles with the sound of the mason's tool; the uniform of the soldier arrests the eye wherever men are gathered. These things, to the Australian, are not merely the circumstances of the moment, the passing phases of a great war. He has come to realise that the presence of an Australian soldier is essential at every function which claims to be national. For in the flame and smoke of battle, Australia found her soul and became a nation. And you, who have endured so much, who have achieved such great things for your own country and the Empire, have blazed the path along which Australia marches to her destiny.

Here, at the heart of the Empire, in this mighty city of London, whose glorious history, stretching back through the ages, has kept step with the progress of our race in its struggle for liberty, in its onward march towards greatness—Australia, our beloved country, the home of the newest of the Britains beyond the seas, has erected for itself this magnificent house; and this House is Australian not merely in name, but in very fact, for the beautiful trachite and marble, and fine woods, of which it is built, have all been brought across the leagues of ocean from the Commonwealth. In design, material, and workmanship, it is indeed a house of which Australia may be proud—a house pleasing to the eye, suited to our requirements—a house at once splendid and solid.

It stands as a mark of our country's greatness, and a symbol of the greater things which we must yet achieve. The millions of people from other lands, who will, when peace comes, gaze upon this noble pile, will see in it not all the things that we Australians see, not all the promise of the future that is ours, but the memory of those glorious deeds which you have done upon the fields of battle. To them it will be a monument to our heroic dead—the commemoration in blocks of stone of deeds that will ever live in memory. It will stir the imagination of generations yet unborn with the memory of what you did; and give fresh impulse to all people who struggle to be free. To us from Australia, come here to take part in this ceremony,

your presence is a great, an inspiring, sight.

When I look around and see before me that familiar uniform, around which the deathless courage and iron endurance of the Anzac has woven a magic spell of such potency that its very sight conjures up splendid visions of the deeds done by those brave men who wear or have worn it, I feel myself uplifted. As in a globe of crystal, I see those shining names, running like fire through the blood-red warp of the Gallipoli campaign; the furious and bloody battlefields of France and Flanders; the desert campaigns of Mesopotamia and Palestine. I see the "Sydney" fighting with and sinking the "Emden." I see you fighting, suffering, enduring. I see all the glorious deeds of the Anzacs unroll themselves swiftly before me; and when I look upon you, my friends, my fellow citizens, and think of the sacred cause in which so many of your brave comrades have made the supreme sacrifice, the suffering of those scarred by the cruel monster of war—the courage, endurance, and resource displayed by you all—I say, with the old Roman:—"If you would see and know what manner of country Australia is, look not upon this monument, this splendid pile of granite and marble, but upon the soldiers and sailors of Australia."

Australia's Part in the War.

For you, and those of your comrades who have laid down their lives upon the altar of their country, have shown your fellow citizens the path they must tread if Australia is to become great. Not by words, but by deeds is Liberty to be won; not by words, but by deeds, can Freedom be maintained. This, the lesson that history throughout all the ages has taught, you have written in letters of fire across the opening page of Australia's national life. Upon your pattern will future generations of Australians fashion themselves; fired by your great example, they will strive to be worthy of the sacrifices you have made.

Australia, fighting side by side with other Dominions in this great war of Liberty, has played her part worthily. A small nation of five millions of people, 12,000 miles and more from the scene of battle, we have sent more than 320,000 soldiers overseas, and have maintained five divisions in France and Flanders, besides large forces in Palestine and Mesopotamia. Our Navy, forming part of the mighty British Navy, has done and is doing its share in the great work of sweeping the seas of the Hun. Many thousands of our bravest and best have fallen in this war; our casualties run into hundreds of thousands; yet only 3,000 of our soldiers are prisoners of war. They fought, they died, but they did not yield.

That is the spirit in which Australia fights. On almost every continent, and in almost every sea, the banners of Australia have been in the forefront of the battle line. The bones of our dead lie on the rocky heights of Gallipoli, the burning sands of Palestine and Asia, and the stricken fields of France and Flanders. Our blood has mingled with that of almost every other nation fighting in the Allied cause. Even the enemy admits the Australians have fought well.

You who have gone out from amongst us, and have done these things, have not been inspired by lust of gain; nor spurred on by the lash of the despot. To you war is suffering and sacrifice. You went out because your country was in danger; because its Liberty was threatened by a nation pledged to achieve world-power or downfall. You went out determined to crush the assailant of civilisation, in order that the world might be free. And you have risen nobly to your task.

What we Have we'll Hold.

But having done so much, and having given so much, which of you would be satisfied to let the world sink back again to its former state—a mere armistice in which the forces shall be again massed for another bloody onslaught? Which of you, fresh from the scenes of appalling slaughter, from the gravesides of your many comrades dead, will ever submit to a peace which leaves us for ever under the dread shadow of war? Let us show plainly to the world that what we set out to do, we shall do; that, having been forced by Germany to draw the sword, we shall not sheathe it until her power is crushed, and lasting peace assured.

This is the task before us, and on its speedy fulfilment we will concentrate our energies.

Fight the Hun at Home and Abroad.

Australia's entry into this war, and the great deeds of her sons, have placed an obligation upon the shoulders of all her citizens, which they have done their best to bear. While you have fought the Hun abroad, we have fought him at home. We have driven him out of every business, we have followed him down into the numerous burrows which he had made in the foundations of our commercial house; we have swept him off our share registers; we have put him behind barbed wires. In short, we have dealt with him in such fashion that he can never again abuse our hospitality and destroy us from within our citadel. We hope and believe that throughout the length and breadth of the Empire this policy will be rigorously enforced. To fall short in this regard is to dishonour the glorious dead and make your sacrifices vain.



Dirty clothes being sorted at a divisional baths.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

Soldiers, you are fighting for liberty for Australia. But Australia can never be secure if Germany holds the key of the Pacific. We are resolved that the possessions in the Pacific which, held by Germany, threaten our safety, shall never more be the stronghold of military despotism. So much we owe to you, who have done and are doing so much for the cause of Liberty and Right, and the present and future safety of Australia.

You are doing your duty as free men. Your fellow citizens are proud of your great achievements, and are resolved that, as you have done your duty to Australia, they in turn will do their duty towards you.

We are endeavouring to make Australia a land worthy of your sacrifices, a land of safety, of promise, of prosperity. We are endeavouring to so establish its industry and commerce that, when you lay aside the rifle and turn again to the plough, all opportunity shall be yours. And we shall see to it that no man suffers because he does his duty in the country's hour of need.

Soldiers, many of you have to return to the task as yet unfinished. I know you will go forward, as you have always done, bravely and cheerfully, confident that your splendid spirit will achieve triumphant victory.

Soldiers of Australia, in the great task that yet lies before you, be strong in the knowledge that Australia is behind you; that your fellow citizens, who honour your name, will not fail in their duty towards the men who have gone out to fight for their country.

Breach of Promise.

Action Against Returned Soldier.

Claiming £750 as damages for alleged breach of promise of marriage by Thomas Richard Archer, carpenter, of Windsor, a returned soldier, Margaret Broadhurst, dressmaker, of East Prahran, brought an action in the Supreme Court in April. The jury returned a verdict for Miss Broadhurst, and assessed the damages at £150, with costs.

Most of the facts of the case were undisputed. It appeared that the parties had been acquainted since 1912, and there had been a conversation about marriage in 1913. It went no further, and on the outbreak of war Archer enlisted. Before he left, however, the two became engaged. He was absent from Australia for more than three years, and a very large number of letters, couched in the most affectionate terms,

passed between them from the time of Archer's departure till the end of 1916. In the latter part of 1916 Archer transferred his affections to a nurse, who had attended him while he was in hospital, and in March, 1917, he married her in England.

Soldiers' Pensions.

The administration of the pensions branch of the military service will shortly be taken over by the Repatriation Department. The change will simplify matters for returned soldiers, for instead of having to go to two offices—to one for the military pension and to another for additional money to bring it up to a living wage—they will be able to obtain the total amount at one visit.

The Eternal Triangle.

A railway guard, Robert Waterston, was committed for trial at Merridin (Western Australia), for the murder of David Young, a railway fettle. The evidence showed that Waterston returned home unexpectedly at night, and found Young with his wife. Seizing a native spear he stabbed Young, and inflicted injuries from which Young died on May 5th.

GENERAL AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Wheat Pool.

There will be a further dividend from the 1916-17 wheat, but it cannot be determined while a third of the crop remains to be disposed of. Senator Russell (Minister in Charge) says there is reason to believe the realisation will be 4s. 9d. per bushel, possibly 4s. 10d.

Captain Carmichael, M.C., M.L.A.

In an address to the Leichhardt Political Labour League, Captain Carmichael (who has had enthusiastic receptions on his return from the front) said that the labour leaders, having many years ago endorsed the principle of compulsory training with a view to home defence, it seemed futile to discuss the matter of compulsory service, for the one goes with the other, or else the Labour Party's original scheme was "a ridiculous playing with a serious subject." "Australia," he added, "could be defended only on the battlefields of Flanders. I have always been convinced that for a proper organisation of our resources, compulsory training and compulsory service are necessary. I am still of that opinion, and if I know myself at all, I always shall be." Captain Carmichael subsequently met the executive of the Labour Party, to which he explained his position regarding conscription. A vote on the matter was postponed.



Sugar Growers' Losses.

The agreement by the Federal Government to make good the loss sustained by sugar-growers through a cyclone that recently swept the Mackay (Queensland) district, will involve an allocation of at least £250,000.

Students from Abroad.

A recently-arrived student from a Japanese University proposes to study the wool industry, beginning at the Sydney Technical College. Professor Murdock (Sydney University) thinks it likely that large numbers of young Japanese who went abroad, mainly to America, to study trade, will be attracted to Australia.

New South Wales Imports.

In the seven months to January 31st, Sydney imported from overseas 638,933 tons of goods, valued at £17,346,957—a decrease of 204,481 tons and £3,836,376 in value as compared with the seven months period of 1916-17. The imports from other States increased in value by £464,254, though showing a decrease of 5,305 in tonnage.

Coal Operations.

The operations of the Coal Board appointed by the New South Wales Government entails a loss of £15,000, which is not considered a big debit in view of the ramifications of the operations and "the extraordinary undertaking under urgent and unusual conditions, for which no preparations could be made, and for which no organisation or precedent existed."

City Property in Sydney.

At a sale of property in the Estate of the late Mrs. Walter Hall, held on March 8th in Sydney, the business premises known as 355, George Street, City, opposite the G.P.O., and comprising portion of premises occupied by David Jones, Ltd., were bought for £40,000. The purchaser was Mrs. Anna McGregor, of Melbourne. At the same sale Resch's Ltd., purchased a two-story bulk store at Cowper's Wharf, Woolloomooloo Bay, for £3,300.

Loan Expenditure.

The New South Wales loan expenditure declined from £4 19s. 7d. per head in 1914 to £3 13s. 8d. in 1917. The amounts expended in the four years were:—1914, £9,126,844; 1915, £6,996,107; 1916, £8,173,104; 1917, £6,862,179.



Stretcher-bearers at work.

(Australian Official Photograph.)



Well-protected horse lines.

*(Australian Official Photograph.)***Mr. Vaughan's Mission to America.**

A report from N.S.W. states that Mr. Crawford Vaughan, ex-Premier of South Australia, had been addressing meetings of labour organisations on the war situation in the large centres of the United States. The subject of recruiting Australians in America was engaging his attention, and he had written to the Premier of New South Wales about it, stating that there were 600 or 700 Australian eligibles in San Francisco alone, and he believed there must be several thousand throughout the States. These men cannot join the United States Army and would gladly join an A.I.F. if started there. The Premier is in communication with the Prime Minister on the subject.

Wine for England.

The prohibitionists are seeking to prevent the completion of arrangements which will allow Australian Wine Merchants to export 500 tons of wine to England where the British Cabinet has permitted importation for this year in a quantity equal to that of 1916, but the wine growers, who have at heart the interest of the wine industry, are fighting valiantly for their cause, and it is not considered likely that the prohibitionists' opposition will prevail.

Small Arms Factory.

A thousand men of the Small Arms Factory at Lithgow have been a month idle through industrial differences, into which Major Piesse inquired under the War Precautions Act. Resumption of work depends upon the speed with which beginners in the barrel-straightening department pick up the work. The operation is highly technical, and there is no prospect of any early general resumption.

Fruit and Mixed Farming.

There were abundant evidences at a recent local show of the suitability of the Batlow (N.S.W.) district for fruit, potatoes and mixed farming. A number of returned soldiers are settled at Batlow, and they are pleased with the high quality of products from land than less than a year ago carried green forest.

Labour Member Enlists.

Mr. Alfred James, State Labour Member for Logan (Q.), has enlisted. The Premier (Mr. Ryan) stated that Mr. James's action had his cordial approval. He would look after the Logan affairs during Mr. James's absence.

Back to Echuca.

There is being put forth from Echuca a call to hundreds of one-time residents of the "capital of the irrigable north" of Victoria, to come back to the scenes of their childhood for a week in September. A carnival of festivities has been prepared.

To September 30th, 1917, 3,889 members of the Commonwealth public service had enlisted, of whom 340 had lost their lives while on active service.

Waterhole Tragedy.

Three boys, named Gordon Austin (10), Percy Bruce (16), and Harry Crawford (10), were playing on two planks in a waterhole at Enfield, a suburb of Sydney, when the planks collided, throwing the three boys into the water, which was about six feet deep. Their cries attracted the attention of a young man named Victor Eldred, who jumped into the water and brought the boys to the bank of the waterhole, all three being in an unconscious condition. Bruce in a few minutes recovered sufficiently to be taken to his home, but later he collapsed and died. Austin died without having regained consciousness, but Crawford recovered soon after his rescue.

Australians' Greatest Effort.

Ten Miles' Advance.

Villages and Guns Captured.

By C. E. W. BEAN.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, August 9th.

The Australians at dawn this morning were launched in the greatest attack they have ever made; while many other British troops are engaged, and the French are attacking to the South. With the infantry, as in the Battle of Hamel, goes a large force of tanks.

It is possible now to state that some days ago the Australians gave up a portion of the line between the Ancre and the Somme, which they handed over to British troops. Shortly afterwards the Germans drove a very powerful attack against the trenches recently captured by the Australians before Morlancourt. Very heavy fighting followed, in which the Germans at first managed to get a fairly deep foothold in our trenches, but yesterday morning they were thrown out of the greater part of these by a British counter-attack. This German thrust, coming immediately before the launching of an attack which is much the biggest launched by the British this year, caused great anxiety, not unlike that which attended the battle of Polygon Wood last year, when, the day before the battle, the Germans, by dint of a tremendous barrage, drove in a portion of the front from where the attack was to be launched by the British. This time the British counter-attack, however, had more or less re-established the front line before our attack started.

The great assault which has just been launched is directed against the flank on the Germans in the Montdidier salient, where the Australians have been biting in during the last three months. While this battle cannot break the German army, it can break the German offensive. The prayers of the world will go with the Allies in this formidable enterprise. It must be a bitter fight, but our troops are entering it with every hope of success.

Favourable Weather at Last.

Later. It is nearly an hour since the great barrage descended from the sky like a regiment of thunderstorms. Yet the dense mist which rises from the Somme hides the whole battlefield. For once the weather has favoured the British from first to last. During several days of preparation, incessant summer rain prevented aeroplanes from seeing the hurried movements and accumulation of supplies, which cannot be entirely hidden. Yesterday, when our movements were practically complete, out came the sun and dried the roads and warmed the spirits of the men.

Last night the enemy shelling was heavier than usual, especially against the British north of the Somme. The Germans clearly expected some attack, within the next few days, astride of the Somme River. Just before dawn the German guns, which have been quiet for an hour or two, broke out into what was clearly a counter preparation in case we were attacking north of the Somme. This continued for five minutes. A quarter of an hour later firing broke out again further south, astride the river. For ten minutes this fire was fairly heavy. Then down came our great barrage. We could not see thirty yards for the mist. The flashes of the guns flared out in the fog over half the sky. But we knew the same mist hid our infantry and tanks from the Germans, as we could scarcely have prayed to hide them. The German barrage was swallowed up in an instant.

In the last hour I have not heard fifteen German shells, and not one can be heard now. We know there can only be one reason, either the German guns have been taken or they are taking them back as fast as they can.

Later: 6.45 a.m. The mist is still heavy over the Somme valley. Aeroplanes pass from time to time. We could hear the German firing his machine-gun from the air. The barrage has already half died away as the battle lengthens. Numbers of prisoners have begun to arrive.

Advance of Ten Miles.

By the end of the first day of the great attack the Australian infantry had advanced ten miles into country which was yesterday morning in German hands, on a front of about nine miles. Six thousand five hundred German prisoners have been definitely counted; 104 guns and many machine-guns and trench mortars. The infantry actually reached this line by a little after mid-day, and were looking out over a wide heath just on our side of the old Somme battlefield. The story of this great assault, so far as the Australian share in it is concerned, is as follows:—

When our barrage fell, the infantry attacked through the mist with tanks. Very few Germans were found in their front support lines. Some points appear to have been held more strongly, but over the greater part of the front line, which the Germans held very thinly, the garrison must have run. Some battalions went half a mile before they found their first Germans. Then machine-guns began, and they found the German gunners fighting

their guns till infantry and tanks were upon them.

After the attack had been going on for about three hours, the mist gradually thinned, and the infantry and tanks began to pass through valleys where there were larger German guns. Some of these still fired at tanks which were coming across the wheat-covered ridges at them. The crews in most cases captured the guns almost entire. We saw about twenty of these guns. From a few the Germans had taken the breechblocks, but others had their sights and breechblocks complete. In every case we saw ammunition still standing beside the guns, though in one case the German officer had had time to burn the cordite charges.

One Australian division sent out with the assaulting troops some of its trench mortar men, in order that they might be able to handle the German guns, if any were captured. At one place these found a German battery with its ammunition complete, but the sights had been hurriedly taken from the guns. The Australian trench mortar men turned these guns round and fired them at their extreme range towards German roads and other targets.

Shortly after eight an Australian division found a German regiment which had just been relieved from the line. It surrendered almost complete. A mile further on, another German regiment was holding a village. The Australian centre and right went on, meeting with little opposition. Here they came on German units resting in support reserve areas, who generally surrendered immediately.

Some fighting on the Canadian front, which Australians joined in, swept past the village. The sound of heavy firing came from the Canadian and French front all day. Before mid-day the Australians, who were about nine miles from their starting place, made a gap sufficient for cavalry to pass. British cavalry went out and also armoured motor-cars. The cavalry and cars got through just in time to make some splendid captures at this point.

Railway Gun Captured.

On a broad-gauge railway here, there was standing a German engine with several trucks, and steam up, just moving off. At the far end of this train was seen a tremendous object, which was at once realised to be a great German railway-gun. It is uncertain whether cavalry or cars stopped this train; but, anyway, they managed to overtake it and put a number of shots

through the engine, and captured the German 9-inch railway-gun with the train of ammunition complete.

By the time I saw this gun the Australian engineers already had an engine-driver in her and steam up, and the train moving along the rails. Just beyond this, within a couple of miles, were seen two more trains. One of these was still burning when we saw it. It is said that when the armoured cars and cavalry reached this point they found the Germans bringing up one train full of reinforcements in order hurriedly to hold the line, and another just leaving. The cavalry came in presently with these men prisoners. One of these trains was caught up by an armoured car, which fired on it, and attracted our aeroplanes, which bombed and burnt it.

The armoured cars passed a gully full of Germans, whom they left, and then hurried on into German territory. Two of them sped into Framerville. Here they found a German transport standing in the street, with waggons all harnessed up and the men ready to start. The cars completely settled the whole of this transport with machine-guns. Then they came upon four junior German staff officers in a motor-car. These were either shot or captured. They found two German steam waggons in a road, and finished these and left them blocking the road.

Incidents of the Chase.

Two other cars hastened on and found a village full of German troops having lunch. The cars raced down the street shooting into the houses, killing numbers of the enemy. Everywhere the cars went they saw fugitives making back, but they nowhere met any formed body of German troops. Finally, some cars went down the main road towards Peronne. Here a solitary German field-gun was firing, and turned on them direct, and shot off one wheel. One other car was disabled on this road. The cars turned round and captured a number of Germans, who dragged the disabled car back to our lines. Our infantry came on some German transport, with horses already harnessed up. These were sent back with wounded prisoners.

We saw a German waggon with two horses not far from the German front line. Both the horses were dead. Behind the waggon was a German trench mortar, which they were evidently attempting to get away when the horses were killed.

Our losses throughout all this were ridiculously small. One battalion, which we found at the furthest point of the advance, had only three casualties. I do not know the exact figures for the rest, but they are little more than those of an ordinary day in many parts of the line. The Germans seldom fought their machine-guns with determination. Nearly all ran or surrendered at once. Our troops are now looking out over country where they can



Another Undiscovered Crime.

"Hie, p'liceman, somebody's robbed me of me 'brella."

"Why, you silly owl, you're carryin' it."

"Oh, no, this is one I found in me (hie) 'and jusht now."

(From the "Sydney Bulletin.")

see quite clearly the familiar old line of trees topping the Peronne road. They are in tremendous spirits. A great deal of German material has been found; so much that getting up many supplies is unnecessary.

Wet Weather at the Front.

By C. E. W. BEAN.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, August 6th.

It has been raining now for four days on the Western Front. Yesterday the showers culminated in one continuous drenching downpour, lasting almost without an interval from before daylight till long after dark. The climate appears, as in last year, to be compensating for the beautiful spring and glorious early summer by almost continuous rain during late summer, when it is usually dry. The conditions this year, however, are very different from last, when British troops, in many parts of the line, were occupying craterfields torn by heavy bombardments. This year almost everyone in the front zone is occupying little trenches out in wheatfields. These only catch rain which falls directly into them, and have no wide catchment, like a crater. By bailing them out like boats and by making steps

and shelves and by other means, the men manage to keep themselves much drier than in the old trenches of the Somme and at Ypres.

The Germans south of Amiens have retired slightly to a better defensive line, similarly to those holding Albert. This looks as if the offensive against Amiens had been definitely given up at last. The preservation of that fine city will always be owed largely to a nation on the other side of the world.

A Saltaire-Melbourne Combine.

Melbourne, 31st July (delayed).

A well-known Saltaire textile firm has joined a Melbourne company, the latter's capital being increased to £200,000.—(Reuter.)

Commonwealth War Loan.

Melbourne, 31st July (delayed).

Victoria's quota for the coming Commonwealth War Loan has been fixed at £13,500,000.—(Reuter.)

French Red Cross Appeal.

Melbourne, 1st August.

The French Red Cross appeal has yielded about £85,000.—(Reuter.)

SPORTING NOTES.

Not for Sale!

It was at a small race-meeting near Wallace Town (Vic.). Two men had trundled a barrel of beer into the trees at the back of the grandstand, and here we found it. The day was hot; we were a-thirst. Round the portly barrel was a cardboard notice: "All Drinks Sixpence." There were two pannikins on top of the barrel, and the two owners were just beyond, one lying down drowsily drunk, one standing up, just as drunk, and just as drowsy. My cobbler tendered a shilling, and asked for two pints. The standing one kicked the prostrate one. "Dan!" he said. "Dan! Dan! Here's a bloke wantin' to buy our beer." Dan sat up and blinked. "Wantin' buy our beer?" he hiccuped. "Well, stoush the cow!"

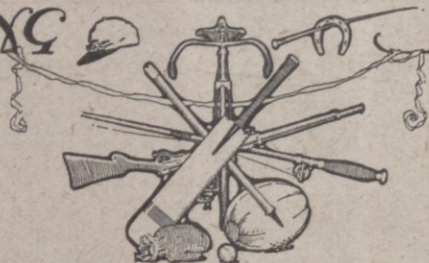
Imported Horses.

Imported horses promise to play a big part in the leading races of next season in Australia. With Magpie, Shadowland, Rebus, Lanius, Elsdon and Whitefield among the "Britishers" likely to be racing, the imported division should win its full share of weight-for-age races of the spring. The same horses, and a few as yet untried importations, may also make things merry in the big handicaps.

Messrs. Lionel Robinson and William Clark, the Anglo-Australian mining investors, appear to have got hold of another champion in the imported horse, Magpie. Having his first Australian race in the w.f.a. Elder Stakes at Morphettville, Magpie won brilliantly from two smart horses in Wedge and Whitefield. Magpie was bred in England by Major W. Astor, and ran Gay Crusader to a head in the Two Thousand Guineas last year. Magpie is trained by R. Bradfield, and makes a good successor to Lanius, who was recently sold for 2,500 guineas to go to Queensland.

Football Commences.

With flags half-masted and black armlets worn for many a comrade gone down in that greater game, Vic. League footballers started the season in May. Two more clubs—St. Kilda and Essendon—decided that the games are little, if any, hindrance to recruiting; only Melbourne now stands out. Crowds were moderate and unusually courteous, especially at Richmond, where umpire Nugent took up the thankless job again. Nugent is now a Captain and M.C., and the barracker who loses his block over him will probably be handed some well-chosen insults to think over. Collingwood celebrated its silver jubilee by hoisting last season's pennant, and empha-



sized the occasion by walloping its ancient enemy Carlton by 65 to 30. As the Saints haven't played since '15, 'Roy, last year's runners-up, were considerably shocked at having to return from the seaside leaving the thick end of the stick behind—St. Kilda 40, 'Roy 34. The Association also resumed operations, and barrackers got a chance to break their two years' silence. Wherefore the uproar resembled the bellowing of the Bulls of Bashan, from Footscray even unto Preston and the parts beyond.

Desert Gold and Biplane.

Mr. T. H. Lowry will, all going well, send Desert Gold on another trip to Australia in the spring. Desert Gold will be accompanied by the Derby colt, Finmark, and probably Estland. F. Davis will have charge of the trio, which, fit and well, represent, in class, one of the strongest teams in one trainer's care to-day. The long-deferred meeting of Desert Gold and Biplane may take place at Randwick in October.

For the Red Cross.

Searl Brothers' estate at Exeter, near Moss Vale, has been purchased by Messrs. Eric Lloyd Jones, E. G. White and Rodney Dangar and offered to the Red Cross Society for use as a convalescent home.



A Good Season.

Dad: "What do they call this darnce, Bill?"
Bill: "Springtime."
Dad: "Must be plenty feed about by the look of the calves."

(From "Sydney Bulletin.")



MEMORIES OF THE METROPOLIS.

(Drawn for the "Anzac Bulletin" by Will Hope, A.I.F.)

Big Factory Returns.

In April the North Coast Co-operative Company made 629 tons of butter, and paid cream suppliers 1s. 2½d. per lb. The bacon department treated 4,327 pigs in the month for which suppliers were paid 7½d. per lb. in advance for pork. The total pay was £113,227.

New Gold Finds.

A party of three men, who have been fossicking in the gullies to the east of Black Hill, Ballarat, have had the good fortune to strike some nice patches of gold. In a fortnight they have secured £100 worth of gold at a depth of from four to eight feet. Another party at Little Bendigo have been getting rich specimens in the quartz at a depth of 20 feet.

Non-Union Restaurant.

Several thousand persons gathered outside Elliso's Cafe, in Edward Street, Brisbane, on the night of May 24th, and vigorously hooted all who entered the premises. The disturbance was the outcome of a strike of employees, which occurred about ten days previously. It appears that the proprietor had occasion to discharge one of the waitresses, and subsequently all the employees ceased work. Their places were easily filled with non-unionists. The union now demands that the whole of the employees should be reinstated, but the proprietor appears determined to stand by those who came to his aid in time of need.

Newcomers to Commonwealth.

A total of 53,036 persons were admitted into the Commonwealth during 1917 without having been asked to pass the dictation test, according to an official return. Of this number 45,988 were British, and 2,016 Chinese, of whom 1,889 were formerly domiciled here. There were 888 Japanese, 706 being pearlers, 552 Scandinavians, and 341 Russians. The return also shows that 3,258 "coloured" persons departed from the Commonwealth.

Politicians' Prayer.

A suggestion was made in the House of Representatives by Mr. Lamond (N.S.W.) that there should be added to the prayer used at the opening of the sittings of the House a supplication for the soldiers and sailors engaged in the war. Mr. Bamford (Q.) urged that the word "deliberation" should be substituted in the prayer for "consultation," which, he said, had a flavour in Australia not peculiar to prayer. (Mr. Bamford probably had Tattersall's "consultations" in view.) The Speaker (Mr. Elliot Johnson) stated that he would be pleased to consult the Acting Prime Minister and the Standing Orders Committee upon Mr. Bamford's suggestion.

Conference of Premiers.

Reciprocity in the matter of railway passes as between the Commonwealth and the States, was agreed upon by the late Conference of Premiers in Sydney. The desirability of uniformity of public holidays was affirmed. A schedule is to be drawn up, and the matter further dealt with by the various Governments. The desirability was affirmed of a company law in each State as far as possible on uniform lines, and it was decided that the States forthwith enter into correspondence with a view to removing as much as possible of the differences of detail still outstanding. It was agreed to request the New South Wales Government to draft a model Pure Foods Act for circulation amongst the Governments of the various States. The question of prohibiting the manufacture of wax matches, owing to bush fires caused by their use, was mentioned. Mr. Holman, said the evidence in favour of abolition was not conclusive, and the subject would be referred to a later Conference. It was resolved that Public Service Commissioners should not overlook rejected volunteers applying for positions. It was agreed to direct the Commonwealth Government's attention to the practice of selling goods in transit oversea with a view to suppression. Opinion was expressed that it was desirable that uniform secret commission laws should be passed by the States. Conference agreed that military and naval pensions in respect to active service should be exempt from income tax. It was decided that interested States should make representations on the suggested exemption of mining from the Federal war-time profits tax.

Wheat growers of 1918 and 1919-20 harvests, it was recommended, should be guaranteed 4s. 4d. a bushel, less delivery freights. It was ordered that the suggested re-adjustment of Federal and State industrial jurisdiction be brought before a Conference of Ministers for Labour.

The report of the Treasurers and taxation

A Sydney Robbery.

In Sydney, on May 17th, a daring robbery, involving the loss of 78 diamond rings, valued at £850, was carried out at the jewellery establishment of Bruce and Walsh. After examining one or two diamonds in a tray of rings valued at £1,000, a young man picked up the tray and ran out of the shop into George Street. Mr. Walsh immediately gave chase, and followed the thief up a lane. The thief was joined by an accomplice, who held a door

open, and both the men ran into a building. Slamming the door, they cut off their pursuer by fastening it on the inside. In his haste the thief dropped 26 of the rings, valued at £149, in the lane, and these Mr. Walsh picked up.

officers on the question of the practicability of adopting a uniform return for both State and Commonwealth income taxes was presented. It was decided to send the report on to the Commonwealth Government, and to the Treasurers' Conference to meet in July. The date of the next World's Press Congress, which was to be held in Sydney at the earliest possible date after the War, Mr. Holman stated, had been nominally fixed for April, 1919, but would depend entirely on the war. It was stated that the State Governments should appreciate the fact that Australia had been chosen as the next meeting place of the Congress, and that the States should co-operate in affording the international delegates facilities for becoming acquainted with Australia and its people. A resolution along these lines was unanimously adopted. A recommendation that State Governments should not make up the pay of public servants who enlisted, was dropped. In explanation of the establishment of the Commonwealth Police Force, Mr. Groom, Acting Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, stated that the functions of the new force were those of inquiry into breaches of Commonwealth laws and the general execution of those laws, as well as dealing with associations declared illegal by the Commonwealth. For many years there had been a number of investigating officers connected with the Customs, the Treasury, the Post Office and the Intelligence Department of the Army and Navy. The only purpose of the recent Federal Government's action was to bring them together by special Executive minute, and organise them into one corps. Regret was expressed by the Federal Ministers that the State Governments had not been taken more fully into the confidence of the Commonwealth at the moment of the organisation of the new corps. Complete assurance was felt by the State Ministers that no attempt to duplicate the police work of the States was under contemplation. The next Conference will be held at Hobart.

In the financial years 1915-16 and 1916-17 2,822 returned soldiers were provided with temporary employment in the various departments of the Federal public service.

Courtesy to the Wounded.

Our Red Cross correspondent writes:—

"It is just three months since I stopped the one that gave me my congé," writes a wounded Australian from an English hospital. "For practically the whole of that time I have, as it were, been able to sit up and take notice, but now I am so far recovered that I can discard crutches and walk with the aid of a couple of sticks.

"After four years of war, you might think that familiarity with hospital blue would have bred contempt on the part of the British public, but you would be wrong. When I make for a 'bus or a tramcar, and find the B.P. falling back on either side to make way for me, I begin to wonder if I ought to tell them how trifling a part I have really played in the 'big stoush.' But I don't. I just feel confused and uncomfortable, and hobble in as best I can. And when the dear old ladies—God bless 'em—burrow into the depth of their hand-bags and surreptitiously smuggle into my possession a packet of cigarettes, I just accept them as graciously as a confirmed pipe-smoker can.

"But the fountain of generosity in which the public of this splendid old country seems to delight to play its part, has its springs, I think, in the Red Cross movement. Their workers set the pace—and what a pace! Ever since I fell in a heap near Villers-Brettoneux the Australian Society, which has a rather unique reputation in this hospital for doing things well, has done me ever so proud with its seemingly endless supply of minor comforts, brought latterly by cheery lady visitors, who seem bent on bucking one up, so to speak. But now that I am able to move about without outside help, I find myself fairly lionised. Theatres, concerts, river trips, and tea parties are open to me, until I almost fear that my recovery may be too rapid, and that the interfering authorities will spoil the sport by shifting me to heaven knows what remote corner of the earth to convalesce. Such a prospect, however, does not prevent my enjoyment of all the good things I am now enjoying. We in this hospital take off our hats to the Australian Red Cross!"

Generous appreciations such as the above frequently reach the Society, and are very gratifying to those responsible. The Red Cross Entertainment Committee, which our writer refers to, certainly has an excellent record behind it, and even in June, when the influenza epidemic placed many hospitals in quarantine, no fewer than 2,002 were escorted to one or other of the twenty theatres at which seats were provided, or were, among those to enjoy river trips, concerts, or other forms of entertainment.



An Australian soldier in a Coventry home under the Headquarters' Hospitality Department's arrangements. He is having a welcome change from khaki during part of his leave, wearing the flannels of his host's son, while the latter is doing his bit in France.

Soldiers and Slackers.

Much ill-feeling was caused at Maldon when soldiers belonging to a recruiting party pulled to pieces a huge "Vote No," made of large stones, and placed on the side of Mount Tarrangower. On the two days following the anti-conscriptionists built up the inscription again, and now express their firm intention of having the sign zealously guarded.

A Sensitive Horse.

Councillor George Vanstan, of Moyston, had been killing a pig on May 18th, and after washing his hands went into the stable. A horse, which was generally very quiet, immediately attacked him madly, and when he escaped its lashing feet it pawed him with his forelegs. Councillor Vanstan managed to climb over into the next stall. The horse followed him, but he was able to roll out between two horses and escape further injury.

Surplus in Victoria.

Speaking at Hawthorn, the Victorian Treasurer (Mr. McPherson) said that the current financial year would end with a substantial surplus, and that for the next financial year no further taxation by the State would be imposed. In reply to questions, Mr. McPherson added that it was known that the Ministry was opposed to further taxation, believing that the State revenue could be balanced by economies

which could be effected without impairing efficiency. When he made his financial statement in the Legislative Assembly in February, he estimated that there would be a surplus of £253,125 at the end of the financial year, as against a surplus of £3,125 estimated by Sir Alexander Peacock when Treasurer. The increase was rendered possible largely by the saving of £192,758 in the various State departments, and by other economies, totalling £217,758. It was now apparent, from the state of the finances, that his estimated surplus of £253,125 would be exceeded, but he would not say to what extent. The reduced deficit in the railway finances was primarily responsible. At the beginning of the year the loss on the railways was put down at £319,104, but this had since been reduced to £194,586.

No Beer for Invalid Soldiers.

As a protection for the inmates of the military rest camp and hospital at Mont Park, near Melbourne, an order, under the War Precautions Regulations, has been issued by the Acting District Commandant (Brigadier-General Williams), forbidding the sale of supply of intoxicating liquor to any member of the naval or military forces of the Commonwealth in any premises licensed for the sale of liquor, or within an area of 400 yards radius of any such premises. The authorities are also guarding against the carriage of liquor from a distance to within the environs of the camp.

The German Withdrawal.

By C. E. W. BEAN.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, August 4th.

The Germans yesterday were discovered to have withdrawn their line from this side of the Ancre River before Albert; also from Dernancourt. This was certainly done in order to occupy a much better line behind the river, which the enemy believe they can hold with fewer troops and with less risk in case of attack by the British. The positions on this side of the Ancre are only important for the Germans in case of an attempted attack on Amiens, as on April 5th. About a mile this side of the river is a crest near Lavieville, which the Germans attempted to reach by an attack from Dernancourt—Albert that day. That onslaught against the Australians failed. The Germans have now evacuated the lower fringe of the hill, where they then got a footing. This may be a sign that the Germans have finally given up the idea of taking Amiens. Australians in the north during the last two days found some of the German posts beyond Merris deserted. The Germans in some cases did not trouble to take in their machine-guns; in one post a wounded German was found with a machine-gun. Germans were seen by an Australian patrol in another post, but as soon as they caught sight of the patrol they left the post and bolted to the rear. The patrol went on and took a machine-gun from the deserted post and brought it in. These troops belong to the 4th German Division, which had been rested for ten weeks, and entertained by cinemas and other ways in order to refresh them. Storm troops had been broken up in order to reinforce the division. The men had been trained in methods of attack. Despite all this, the spirit of the German troops during the last few weeks appears to have declined rapidly. Men who two months ago were certain the Germans were going to be victorious have now completely changed their attitude. Three months ago German prisoners captured by the Australians showed themselves full of haughty confidence in Hindenburg. Those now taken blame the authorities for deceiving them. The reasons for dissatisfaction are the heavy losses amongst friends and relations, without chance of the results which the authorities promised; the depressing absence of food, not at the front, but at home; the failure of all the big promises about the submarine campaign, and Ludendorff's offensive. The defeat on the Marne, of which they had just heard, affected them immensely. They had lost all faith in the submarine campaign, whereby it was continually promised that the Americans would be prevented from sending an army sufficient to affect the campaign in France.

Patrol Fights in the North.

By C. E. W. BEAN.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, July 16th.

The enterprise of Australian troops in the north still continues daily. For example, two days ago, a patrol went out from the new line which had just been stolen from the Germans, and reached a point 500 yards from our new trenches. Two New South Welshmen crept out to find a machine-gun which had been firing: they discovered its position, but found the machine-gun and the Germans just gone. Therefore they went on, and ten yards away found some shallow dug-outs, in which were two Germans. They took these two prisoners and brought them back.

Shortly after mid-day another patrol of twelve New South Welshmen, under a sergeant, went out, and noticed a party of about seventy Germans approaching. The sergeant did not allow the men to fire till the Germans were directly opposite to them, ten yards away. Then they suddenly burst out upon the Germans with bombs, rifles, and machine-gun firing for all they were worth. Many Germans dropped; the rest ran with yells which were heard far back in our front line.

During the week, by this sort of enterprise, Australians in the north have captured three officers, 191 men, 33 machine-guns, and two trench mortars.

Australian infantry at Villers-Bretonneux also made an advance yesterday. The reason of the extreme quietness of the Germans and of their refusal to counter-attack is now made clear by the tremendous assault launched yesterday on both sides of Rheims.

**Australians Capture Merris,
Surprisingly Few Casualties.**

By C. E. W. BEAN.

War Correspondents' Headquarters,
France, July 30th.

The night before last the German 13th Reserve Division, which has been holding the line opposite the Australians near Merris, was relieved by the 4th German Division, which has been resting and training for ten weeks. The 4th Division, which came in as fresh as new paint, was informed that it was relieving troops worn out by incessant fighting in an active sector of the line.

Last night Australian troops captured Merris. Two hundred prisoners have come in at the moment of writing. Many of these carried in their own machine-guns, but it is too early yet to give the total number of machine-guns and trench mortars captured. This operation cost the South Australians who carried it out, so far as is known, very few casualties. Only two Australians are reported killed.

The clearing of the village of Merris

itself was first carried out by a specially-formed platoon, consisting of personnel from the headquarters of the South Australian Battalion which planned and carried out the attack. While the fighting troops, who had no time to deal with clearing the town, were establishing a new line beyond the town, the special platoon moved in through the desolate village, which was then burning. The first live object that met them was a cat. Presently they almost stumbled on a number of Germans sitting below a wall, who jumped up and put up their hands instantly, even before they were asked. Some of them tapped our men on the shoulder. "Me good kamerad," said one. Another kissed the headquarters orderly, in order to seal the negotiation.

A South Australian regimental sergeant-major came in, armed with a pipe, accompanied by one Australian orderly, also unarmed, and about twenty German prisoners, carrying five German machine-guns.

Meantime a certain number of Germans, not believing the town had already been captured, attempted to retreat from it. They said, when our artillery descended on the town, they made up their minds, "as soon as this lifts we retreat." They tried to do so, but before they managed to pass out of the town the Australians had already reached it and cut them off.

This is one of the cheapest and most successful operations in the history of the Australian Force, and is due to the cleverness and great boldness of the infantry, supported by reliable and cleverly-handled artillery.

New Seed for Farmers.

The Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales has ordered £100 worth of special seeds from Canada and America for distribution to leading farmers with a view to producing new varieties of crops.

Mining Output.

The value of the State's mining output last year (£12,564,473) showed an increase of £2,048,617 on the previous year. But for this advance the total for the whole Commonwealth would have been below that of 1916, Victoria being the only other State showing an increase.

A Woman's Tribute.

The "Melbourne Argus" of May 8th contains a touching tribute to the men who have fought and died to preserve the women of Australia from the fate which overtook their sisters in Belgium and Northern France. It is as follows:—

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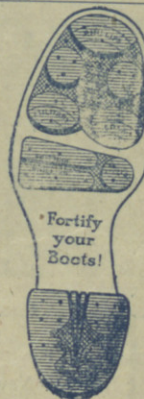
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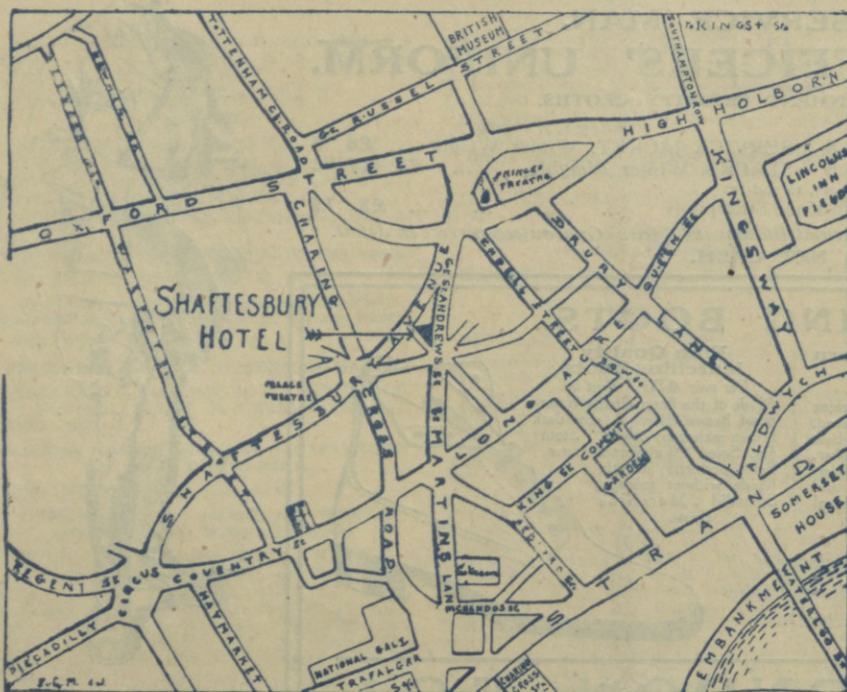
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