

Anzac Bulletin



No. 43. (New Issue).

LONDON, OCTOBER 31, 1917.

Price 3d.

Issued to Members of the Australian
Military and Naval Forces in Great
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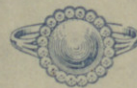
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Machine Gun Corps position.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

CABLE NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

The Flooded Murray.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

The river Murray has reached the highest point since the year 1867. Several hundred houses in the south of Albury are inundated and the river is two miles wide. Serious results are feared as heavy falls in the Upper Murray have not yet reached Albury.

Strike: Admission of Defeat.

Sydney, 23rd October.

Mr. McCristal, President of the Sydney Wharf Labourers' Union, speaking after the ballot taken and the men voting for resumption, said, "As sports we admit we have for once been beaten."

Day of Prayer in Australia.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

To-day has been appointed by the Federal Government to be observed as a day of prayer for the Empire throughout Australia.

Further Floods in Victoria.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

Further serious floods have occurred in Victoria. The Murray is 17 feet above summer level, the highest ever recorded. Hundreds of people are flooded out at Albury, and there are two feet of water in the shops. The town of Bright is isolated. The Ovens, King and Mitta rivers are also in flood. Part of Seymour is submerged.

Wreck of a Collier.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

The collier Bellami has been wrecked at New Caledonia.

Tragic Fatalities in Bushfire, Queensland.

Brisbane, 23rd October.

A bushfire at Warena station, Boulia, Queensland, was started by lightning. The station people had it well under control when the wind changed. Two men on horseback got through the fire wall, but one died subsequently. The fire overtook three others while attempting to escape in buggies, and they were burned to death.

Date of Victorian Elections.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

The Victorian general elections will be held on 15th November; nominations are due on 6th November.

Day of Prayer Observed.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

Yesterday was observed as a day of prayer throughout the Commonwealth. It is estimated that 15,000 people attended at Melbourne Town Hall, where the Baptist Church authorities conducted all-day services.

State Coal Mine for Queensland.

Brisbane, 23rd October.

The Queensland Government intends to establish a State coal mine.

Serious Damage by the Floods.

Melbourne, 24th October.

The floods in the Murray river have caused several bridges to collapse; roads have been washed out and crops submerged. The Murrumbidgee is high, and portion of Wagga Wagga is flooded.

Irrigated Lands for Returned Soldiers.

Sydney, 24th October.

A Bill has been introduced in the New South Wales Assembly providing for the widening of the main canal of the Murrumbidgee irrigation settlement at a cost of £500,000 spread over four years. This will serve an area for the settlement of returned soldiers; £250,000 would be spent in opening up good land.

Study of American Agriculture.

The Victorian Government is sending Mr. A. E. V. Richardson, agricultural superintendent, to America early next year to report regarding American systems of agriculture with a view to adopting them at Melbourne University.

South Australia's New Taxation.

Adelaide, 24th October.

The South Australian Assembly has passed the Treasurer's increased taxation proposals. Soldiers at the front are exempted up to £300. Parents secure an exemption of £100 respecting each son enlisted.

Alleged Frauds by Bills of Lading.

Sydney, 24th October.

A man has been arrested in Sydney against whom it has been alleged that he had established credits on fraudulent bills of lading for shipments of flour and condensed milk to South Africa to the amount of £24,800. He had obtained £500 in cash when he was arrested.

The Prime Minister Indisposed.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

Mr. Hughes, the Commonwealth Prime Minister, is unwell, and has been ordered by his doctors to take a complete rest.

Sydney, 25th October.

Mr. Hughes's indisposition is more serious than was thought, and may result in a prolonged abstention from active war work.

The Repatriation of Soldiers.

Melbourne, 24th October.

Senator Millen, Federal Minister of Repatriation, in submitting his repatriation proposals to a conference of large employers of labour, said that he considered a special effort should be made to place quickly returned men in jobs they knew, rather than seek to train them to unfamiliar callings. A sub-committee was appointed to deal with the Minister's proposals.

State Industries in Queensland.

Brisbane, 24th October.

The House of Assembly has without a division passed the second reading of the Queensland Government's Bill providing for the establishment of State iron works and other industries. Members of the Opposition strongly objected to the measure, one of them describing it as confiscatory.

Subscriptions to the Red Cross.

Melbourne, 25th October.

Lady Stanley, President of the Victorian Red Cross, at the annual meeting last night said the society had raised £344,000, of which £200,000 had been spent. The balance at the present rate of expenditure should suffice for the next 12 months. She specially mentioned a gift of £3,000 raised by schoolchildren's subscriptions.

Record Soldiers' Mails.

Melbourne, 25th October.

The soldiers' Christmas mail is of record size, embracing 961 bags of letters and 11,109 parcels.

The Floods Receding.

Melbourne, 25th October.

The river Murray at Albury has receded slightly. Cobram is still submerged.

CABLE NEWS—Continued.

Conscription Leagues Advocated.

Melbourne, 24th October.

Sir William Hill Irvine, a former Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, speaking at a Trafalgar Day demonstration, advocated the formation of Conscription Leagues throughout the Commonwealth and bringing pressure to bear on Parliament.

Obituary.

Melbourne, 24th October.

Mr. J. W. Anderson, owner of the Tower Hill estate Koroit, has died at the age of 77.

The Australian Trans-Continental Railway.

Kalgoorlie, 24th October.

A large crowd witnessed the arrival here of the first train from Port Augusta, with Sir John Forrest and other distinguished persons on board.

Alleged Bank Frauds in Australia.

Two Arrests.

Sydney, 24th October.

A master mariner named Ferdinand Benez and a man named Bridekirk were charged to-day with conspiracy to defraud a bank, and were remanded on heavy bail.

Education Minister as Airman.

Sydney, 25th October.

Mr. A. James, Minister of Education in New South Wales, proposes to travel from Sydney to Melbourne in a Curtiss biplane, with stops at Goulburn, Cootamundra and Albury.

Generous Victoria.

Melbourne, 26th October.

The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Sir V. Henessy, on relinquishing office, produced balance sheets showing that Victoria had raised £320,373 for Belgian Relief, £21,979 for Serbian Relief, £189,535 for the Australian patriotic fund, and £110,701 for the Button Fund used for various charitable and patriotic purposes.

The First Through Train.

Melbourne, 26th October.

The passengers by the first through train over the trans-continental railway reached Perth on Thursday. The journey occupied 72 hours, but the train was delayed 12 hours by unforeseen circumstances. Sir John Forrest said the line was one of the best he had travelled on in Australia.

Hospital Button Day, Melbourne.

Melbourne, 27th October.

The street collections for the hospital Button Day in Melbourne yesterday amounted to £4,000; another £3,000 is expected.

N.S.W. Unions De-registered.

Sydney, 27th October.

Over twenty unions in New South Wales have been de-registered by the Arbitration Court as the result of the Government's action in connection with the recent strike.

Commonwealth Purchase of Apples.

Melbourne, 27th October.

The Commonwealth Government has purchased 8,400,000 lbs. of Tasmanian dried apples at 5d. per lb., to prevent glutting the fresh-fruit market.

Queensland M.L.A. Censured.

Brisbane, 27th October.

In the Queensland Legislative Assembly a motion has been carried by 28 votes to 15 censuring Mr. W. J. Vowles for abusing the privileges of Parliament by making false allegations regarding the purchase of Wandovale station by the Government.

Seamen Refuse to Resume Work.

Melbourne, October 16th.

Victorian seamen still refuse to resume work. The Union president and general secretary came from Sydney to confer with the local men, but were defied.

Soldiers' Moratorium Regulations.

Restrictions on Landlords.

Melbourne, October 16th.

Soldier's moratorium regulations have been extended, placing certain restrictions on landlords. Cases of harsh treatment may be heard by a Judge in Chambers. House rents are not to be increased except where improvements have been made, when an increase of 8 per cent. on the amount expended is permitted. No ejection orders can be made while the tenant continues to pay rent except if ordered by Court. Owners of vacant houses may be required to let them at a weekly rental equivalent to the weekly rental received during the previous twelve months. If no rent be received for three months, the matter may be settled by judicial authority. The rentals of shops or farms the rentals of which are under £70 per annum may not be increased without the Court's permission.



Looking towards Hooge. Supports coming up to the front.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

Repatriation of the A.I.F. New Machinery Essential.

V.

When repatriation was first mooted the idea that seemed to fill the mind of the authorities was that the funds necessary would be subscribed privately. It was announced that the Government would accept anything of value. It would take Government securities, land, live stock, shares, jewellery—anything at all, in fact—and would either use the gifts directly or indirectly for the benefit of the returned men. This conception of the proper source of the fund led to the appointment of a board of trustees, comprising men who were thought to represent the Government on the one hand, and all classes of probable contributors on the other. The board so constituted was a nondescript body, without cohesive power. It was unwieldy, and, being purely honorary, and holding its sittings in Melbourne, was totally unfitted for anything but the development of a lamentable vis inertiae. No blame attaches to the board for its failure. It could never have been a success within itself; it contained the elements of its own undoing. But what work has so far been accomplished has been done under its auspices. Only a small proportion of its members took any active interest in its labours.

Government to Find £30,000,000

Now that the private contribution idea is virtually exploded, and the sounder basis of finance is now held to be taxation, and in view of the fact that the Government is pledged to find at least £30,000,000, either by way of taxation or by loans, it is fully realised that the board of trustees appointed by the Repatriation Act no longer serves any good purpose. It has been in existence for 18 months or more, and has not yet evolved a workable scheme. Nor is it ever likely to do so while constituted as at present. The Act under which it labours empowers it to spend up to £500 per man or £600,000,000 in all, on the basis of there being 400,000 returned men before the war is over. But it makes no provision for the raising of this money, and, as a matter of fact, if the board was a little more active and spent money a little faster it would soon have the Treasurer asking what it meant about it.

Two problems face the Government, and they require different solutions. The one is to see that an adequate scheme is drafted; and the second is to create some adequate machinery for the carrying out of that scheme. It would be merely to court disaster if the Government first created the machinery, and then allows the scheme to be gradually evolved out of the minds of the men charged with carrying

it out. The responsibility rests with the Government to say, not only what shall be done with the taxpayers' money, but also how it shall be done. The actual work of doing it it can leave to those whom it appoints and afterwards controls.

The Primary Difficulties.

One of the primary difficulties will be a reasonable reconciliation between the responsibilities of the Government for the prudent expenditure of the taxpayers' money and the necessity for giving the administrative body to be created as free a hand as is possible, and one as far removed as possible from political influence.

First, let the drafting of a suitable scheme be considered. This must be done by the Government, and be put into the form of a Bill and steered through Parliament. This would lay down the main principles to be followed by those who will be asked to administer the fund. Further, it would create the necessary machinery. As to the principles to be followed, these articles have given many suggestions, but as to the machinery for carrying them out so far nothing has been said. There must, of course, be a Minister responsible to Parliament and capable of defending and explaining the administration. Under the Minister, but free from any veto on his part, as long as they act within the terms of the statute, there should be three commissioners, removable only on the motion of both Houses of Parliament. They should be at least as independent as our Railway Commissioners. Under them there should be deputy commissioners in each State responsible to the central body, but having the assistance of local advisory boards, appointed in the first instance by the Government, but afterwards capable on their own motion of adding to their numbers by co-option. There should be a small but efficient paid staff to do the work that would devolve upon the central administration, and the deputy commissioners in each State should also have what assistance is required to enable them to carry out effectively the duties that would devolve upon them.

The Chief Commissioners.

The chief commissioners should be men of the highest type, and should be paid salaries commensurate with their abilities. A few thousands a year expended in this way would be true economy. Millions are to pass through the hands of these men, and where millions are at stake men who can only think in terms of thousands are useless. At the same time it should be realised that the highest duty of the ad-

ministration is not so much to keep down expenses as to get good value for whatever outlay is incurred. Any fool could keep down the bill, but it will take a very wise man to spend millions and waste nothing in the process. It should not be the object of the Government to be niggardly, but it should be one of its ever-present objectives to be prudent. A strong practical common sense should therefore be looked for in those who should be asked to administer the fund.

Board of Control.

The idea of a board to control the practical administrators is open to grave objections. It is a concept formed on the false analogy of a limited liability company. Even in connection with joint stock companies the board idea does not always work out as well as some would have us believe. Usually where the best results are attained one man dominates the board. Sometimes it is the chairman, sometimes the manager, who is not himself a member. For the most part the other directors are willing, especially where things are going well, to leave well alone. Their personal interest in the success of the undertaking prevents them from undue interference. Where there is actual interference, as, for instance, where several strong men sit on the same board, many compromises are necessary, and the control is weakened. Every man makes mistakes, but many cooks always spoil the broth. In this case the board would lack that personal interest in success that the shareholding director would have. In the case of the board of directors of a public company the objective of all is the same. The sole idea is to make profits. But with such a board as might conceivably control the administration of the Repatriation Fund there would be no such bond of interest. Probably divergent views would be represented just because they were divergent. That would lead to compromise. Where it is necessary to compromise between good and evil the result can never be satisfactory. A carefully appointed board of commissioners, which necessarily gave its whole time to the matter in hand, would only be hampered by an over-riding board of trustees, or whatever they might be called, consisting of politicians, who can never see anything except through a politician's eyes; business men, whose best thoughts are given in quite other directions; of returned soldiers, who would necessarily be partisans; besides some others who are probably either sentimentalists or idealists—the very worst type of men to deal with such problems as are here presented.

For these reasons the independent board of commissioners, somewhat like our Railway Commissioners, seems preferable to any other type of administrative control.

—“Sydney Morning Herald.”

With the A.I.F. in France.



Australian Divisional Aid Post.



An Australian First-Aid Post.

(Australian Official Photograph.)

The Strike in Australia.

We publish in brief the main incidents in the recent strike in Australia, which has now been settled.

Butchers on Strike.

Sydney, 22nd August.

The strike seems now to have developed into a straight-out struggle between organised labour and constituted authority, the strike committee's assertion to the contrary notwithstanding. Each day brings little change in the general situation, save more extensions of the trouble, and further restrictions on the use of power and light. Fifty men, comprising unionists, returned soldiers, and reported volunteers who had been employed as storemen and packers at the ordnance stores, Victoria Barracks, left their work this morning, when asked to move goods which had been carted by volunteer labour.

A great number of journeymen butchers were absent from work to-day, as the result of the decision arrived at last night not to handle black meat, but comparatively few shops had to close. The Master Butchers' Association to-day intimated that with the assistance of the pastoralists in supplying live stock, and the Government in delivering them the butchers would do their best to keep the people fed. Many master butchers are doing their own carting, and this service is supplemented by a number of motor lorries provided by the transport committee.

A system of placing orders has been arranged to enable distribution to be carried out economically and expeditiously. To date 500 slaughtermen and assistants are idle, and if the dispute involves the whole employees in the butchering trade the number will be increased to about 2,000.

Meanwhile the price of meat, as well as of other commodities, is being increased to such an extent that the Necessary Commodities Commission has notified all wholesale and retail sellers that action will be taken if prices are increased without the permission of the Commission above those ruling on August 1st.

Coal Unprocurable.

The greatest difficulty with which house-keepers and restaurant and hotel-keepers are faced is not the securing of food supplies, but the preparation of food for the table. Coal is unprocurable, and the restrictions upon the use of electricity and gas are so great as to present almost insuperable difficulty to food preparation. The consumption of gas for all heating and

cooking purposes in the city hotels, restaurants and shops is now absolutely prohibited at all hours. Electricity may only be used between 4.30 p.m. and 11 p.m. This affects all consumers. The use of gas in private houses and boarding houses is limited to periods between 5 a.m. and 8 a.m., and 5 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. The applications of many tailors and clothing firms for exemption, so as to permit the use of heating irons for pressing have been refused.

The Acting Premier (Mr. Fuller) to-night gave an emphatic contradiction to the assertions of the Strike Committee that the meat supply was being handed over to the American Beef Trust, and that the benevolent institutions had been warned not to assist the strikers' families. Mr. Fuller added that as soon as decent unionists insisted on declaring the strike off the Government would begin to rebuild the industries of the State, and in doing that it would show no bitterness and would be guilty of no vindictiveness, but would attempt to restore harmony and go on improving the general standard and conditions of the workers.

Affray at the Barrier.

Broken Hill, 23rd August.

The police had trouble with the strikers in Argent Street to-day. The strikers sought to enter the police stations, and the police charged with their batons and dispersed the crowd. A number of the strikers were arrested. Over 100 police arrived from South Australia to-day.

A Politician's Accusation.

Sydney, 23rd August.

The hearing was commenced at the Sydney Police Court to-day of a charge against Thomas Mutch, representative of Botany in the Legislative Assembly, of having used insulting words. It was alleged that Mutch at a meeting on the Domain on 10th August said:—"I regard the detectives here as nothing else but the paid men and prostitutes of the tyrannical capitalistic class in this country, who by their distorted statements and perjury convict many innocent individuals before the class-biassed magistrates."

The hearing of the case was adjourned.

Work on the Wharves.

About 1,400 volunteers were working on the wharves recently, and the cargoes of several steamers were being unloaded and

carted to stores. Three colliers, all manned with volunteer labour, are discharging coal, and three others are due shortly with further cargoes. A number of coastal vessels are busy conveying food-stuffs to Sydney. With the aid of volunteer labour the Railway Department is handling large supplies of foodstuffs. Approximately 100 trucks of meat, vegetables, and fruit were received at Darling Harbour yesterday morning, and 135 trucks of potatoes, chaff, etc., at the Alexandria yards. The tramway and railway services are both being improved daily, until the present number of trains and trams in use closely approach that of normal times.

Amazing Statements.

A number of amazing statements were made in an official summary of the strike situation, issued by the Strike Defence Committee yesterday. After suggesting that the Railway Commissioners had decided to give some of the strikers one more chance by permitting them to apply for re-employment up to Friday next, the committee went on to state:—"From delegates' reports it appears that the Government has handed the whole of the meat industry over to the American Meat Trust. New South Wales has been cut up into districts, each district is under the control of certain individuals, and the butchers have been informed that all orders for meat for to-morrow must be in the hands of individuals appointed by noon to-day, otherwise the orders will not be filled. There is unmistakeable evidence that the Meat Trust is behind the whole scheme. Reports have come to hand to the effect that the benevolent institutions have been instructed not to give relief to families of men who are now on strike. The strike is not an attack on the National Government, nor a blow aimed at constitutional rule, but the Railway Commissioners, with the knowledge and consent of the Government, have made an attack upon the conditions and shop practices of a highly trained and skilled body of unionists who for years have worked uninterruptedly, and conformed to all legal methods of obtaining modern industrial betterment. Let the Commissioners search the profession, and more particularly the managerial and commercial sections of the service, if they want to find the incompetence and ignorance that cause waste of time, material, and money, and the chronic deficit in the department.

Coal Mines Taken Over.

Sydney, 23rd August.

The main development in the strike situation to-day was the commandeering of all the coal mines in the State by the Government. A proclamation to this effect was issued this afternoon, as the result of the decision arrived at earlier in the day by the Executive Council. To-day marked the termination of the period of grace allowed by the Government for the coalminers to return to work. As the men had previously agreed not to do so, there remained nothing for the Government to do but to take such action as will give effect to the proposal to work the mines with free labour. A further proclamation calls for volunteers to work the mines. The Government gives a guarantee that no mine will be opened which is not perfectly safe, and each volunteer will be paid the award rates, enabling him to earn on an average £1 a day.

* * *

The Port Pirie Smelters.

Melbourne, 23rd August.

Speaking to-night with regard to the possibilities of industrial trouble at Port Pirie, the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) uttered a grave warning to the men who contemplated a stoppage of work at the smelters. He said: "I cannot believe that the great body of unionists at Port Pirie approve of such a mad, desperate, and criminal action, for they know that their continuation of work is literally a matter of life and death to Australia and the Empire. They are engaged in turning out lead for the munitions, upon which victory depends, and without which victory is impossible. I cannot—I will not—believe that the loyal citizens who throughout this great war have stuck to their jobs and have manfully done their bit are going to desert them now at the bidding of a lot of wild and desperate extremists whose one aim is to cripple Australia's efforts to do her duty to the Empire and to the men in the trenches."

* * *

Use of Coal.**War Precautions Regulation.**

Melbourne, 24th August.

Under a War Precautions (Coal) Regulation issued to-day persons or firms holding coal or coke to the amount of over five tons and users of gas and electricity for industrial purposes are permitted to use the same up till midnight on Thursday next. The following persons, firms, companies, or authorities, viz.:—(a) Any railway department of the Commonwealth or a State; (b) any public tramway or trust; (c) any electric light company; (d) any gas



"Kamerad!"

The N.S.W. Acting Premier (Mr. Fuller) referring to the railway strike, remarked that 12 months ago 2,000 men at the Eveleigh Works, who are now on strike, had carried a patriotic resolution declaring that any man who failed to do his duty while the boys were fighting at the front was an enemy to the country.

[From "Western Mail".]

Government Control of Coal Mines.

Sydney, 24th August.

A meeting of the Northern colliery owners was held to-day in Sydney, and the following resolution was carried:—"That this meeting of the Northern colliery proprietors record their entire approval of the policy of the Government in resuming pos-

company; (e) any public hospital; (f) any person, firm or company carrying on the business of refrigerating perishable products, (g) any flour mill, (h) any butchering, baking, or dairy produce establishment or fish store, may, until further notice, use for industrial purposes any coal or coke in their possession and such gas or electric current as may be necessary.

The Strike in Australia—Continued.

session and control of the coal mines, and plant of the State and pledge themselves to do their utmost in every respect to assist the Government in order to see that the coal requirements of the public are satisfied."

National Service Bureau.

The Director-General of the National Service Bureau (Mr. G. G. Haldane) submitted a report to the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) setting out what the bureau had already accomplished. In Melbourne, he stated, 1,300 men had enlisted. They were a very good stamp of men.

The Cost of Idleness.

As the result of the strike, 2,000 men were paid off at the Broken Hill Proprietary Co.'s steel works to-day.

The loss of wages at Newcastle through enforced idleness is estimated at £100,000 weekly.

* * *

Attempt to Force Railway Trouble. Work on Wharves Proceeding.

Melbourne, 24th August.

The strike committee of the Trades Hall Council sat again to-day, great secrecy being observed. No pronouncement as to any decision was made. The committee has assumed full control, as far as Victoria is concerned in the strike, and the members, in order to avoid the responsibility of ordering a strike, have, it is stated, directed the members of the various unions involved that they are to take "individual" action. In this way unionists are being reminded that the rules render all goods handled by National Service Volunteers "black," and that it therefore rests with them "individually" not to touch such articles.

The militant members of the Carters' and Drivers' Union who went on strike as a protest against the handling of "black" goods were idle again to-day. During the afternoon the executive of the union met and resolved to lift the embargo concerning the handling of "black" goods on the railways, and the drivers subsequently conveyed goods to and from the railway stations.

Reports received to-day showed that between 800 and 900 men were at work on the wharves. Ten overseas steamers, five sailing ships, and five interstate vessels were operated. These vessels included a Fijian trader, with a cargo of 50,000 bunches of bananas, and also a steamer from New Zealand, which has aboard 1,110,000 feet of timber. College school-boys assisted in the repainting of a Commonwealth owned steamer.

Applications were made by employers to-day to the National Service Bureau for

144 men, and of these 94 were required for the loading, discharging, and coaling of vessels. All demands were supplied. An additional 50 men were required for the Brooklyn wheat stacks. Since the bureau opened 1,341 offers of assistance have been received.

* * *

Tram Service Extends in Sydney. Volunteer Workers Still Enrolling.

Sydney, 24th August.

The tramway service is so much improved, consequent on hands returning to work, that the authorities announce that the night service will be resumed next week until 9 o'clock.

Accommodation is being provided in Taronga Park for 1,200 men who will be employed on wharves, and tents are already erected for that number. Consequent on its being taken for this purpose the public are not to be admitted to the Zoo, as the camp is on part of the Zoo grounds.

A meeting of the Amalgamated Food Preserving Union of Australia decided last night on the recommendation of the strike committee to continue work on all material supplied to them, whether white or black, and only to refuse to work if asked to undertake to work and take the place of men on strike.

The National Registration Bureau opened to-day to register the names of persons willing to take work in the coal mines for the Government. During the day upwards of 300 registered for any kind of work in the collieries. Many of these held certificates as deputies, shot firers, and waste examiners, also a few as mine surveyors and engineers.

At the Loyal Service Bureau to-day 700 women volunteered to perform any kind of work which would fill the gap in any trades affected by the strike.

* * *

Transporting Coal.

Volunteer Lumpers' Record.

It was announced to-day that the arrangements made by the Government for transporting coal from Newcastle and other centres to Sydney had been successful. A small fleet of colliers is regularly running and shifting a considerable quantity of coal. Volunteers for loading have been engaged in Sydney and the coal on arrival is unloaded by volunteers and distributed by the coal distributing board. Crews are now being engaged to place more colliers on the work, as the amount now being shifted is not equal for requirements.

A record was made to-day by the volunteer wharf labourers from Inverell in handling cargo on board the steamer Emerald

Wings. They handled 250 tons of cargo in 2 hours 50 minutes. In all previous operations on this steamer the traffic superintendent's records show that the regular wharf labourers took double the time to handle this quantity.

* * *

Strike on Government Steamer. College Boys Replace Men.

Melbourne, 24th August.

The manager in Australia of the Commonwealth line of steamships (Colonel Oldershaw) has informed the Prime Minister that the painters having struck on one of the Commonwealth vessels, 60 boys from the Scotch College had offered to take their places and had completed the work in a most satisfactory manner and in very much shorter time than would have been the case had union painters done the work.

Work at the State shipbuilding yards is likely to be seriously delayed by the strike of many temporary employees. On Thursday 150 dockers and painters, most of whom were engaged in overhauling a Commonwealth Government steamer struck, and to-day the boilermakers employed on the same steamer followed their example.

* * *

Serious Food Shortage in Northern Queensland.

Brisbane, 26th August.

A telegram from Winton states that the shortage of necessaries consequent on the railway strike is very serious. Supplies received from Longreach are exhausted, and potatoes, butter, cheese, and pumpkins are unprocurable. Flour and sugar will last three days, and the bakers cannot provide bread after Tuesday. Unless the train runs before then, many families will be without food, and the hotels will be compelled to close their dining rooms.

* * *

The Colliery Districts. Free Labour at Work.

Newcastle, 26th August.

It is expected that the Wallarah colliery will be ready to be worked by free labour to-morrow. Several thousand strikers and sympathisers assembled at Islington Park this afternoon, when a motion was carried expressing regret at the industrial upheaval, and requesting the Government to appoint a tribunal to inquire into the dispute, so that the men could return to work.

Coaling operations on a transport were started by free labour yesterday. Two colliers were loaded and probably the interstate steamers will be loaded some time next week.

THE LIARS



Some People we know.

[Drawn by J. P. Davis, A.I.F.]

Australian Flying Corps on the Western Front.

By C. E. W. BEAN.

British Headquarters, France,

October 22nd.

More than one squadron of our own Australian Flying Corps is now flying on the Western front. One Australian lad has already brought down a German. Another Australian is missing after a fight over German territory. An Australian the other day was attacked by several Germans and brought down in no-man's land. A British officer of a London regiment, seeing his machine fall, went out from the trenches alone with a view to attempting the rescue of the pilot. For the first part of the way he managed to keep under the cover of a slight rise, but the last part was quite open. Just before he reached the machine this brave man was hit, but went on and found the Australian lying in a shell-hole, wounded, but alive. The British officer crawled back with this information. Two non-commissioned officers were then sent out under a white flag, which the Germans respected. Stretcher-bearers followed, and the Australian was brought in. The British officer, fortunately, was only slightly wounded, and the Australian is recovering.

France. 26th October.

It is now permissible to state that Australians made an advance in this morning's great attack, side by side with magnificent Canadian units. The Australian share in the fighting is a comparatively minor one, being only at the extreme flank of the long Allied attack.

Canadians and Australians in Last Attack.

28th October.

The fighting over the flank where a portion of the Australian force has been engaged has been on a small scale compared



During the battle prisoners assisted in bringing in our wounded. They are here seen carrying one. (Australian Official Photograph.)

with the task of the Canadians beside them. But it has been, nevertheless, continuous and heavy. For a long time after the first attack in a drenching daybreak shower, it was uncertain what exactly had happened on this part of the battlefield. The only detailed report was that from an aeroplane which, flying low, at an early stage of the fight, saw that most of our men had not reached the patch of scattered scrub which was their objective, but were still making for it determined to reach it, and gradually arriving at the place in twos and threes. The pilot, flying very low, actually saw one brave man going on by himself, enter the scrub,

bayonet two Germans, then shot by some machine gun or other. Later in the day, the Germans turned on to this position and the neighbouring parts of the line a very fierce shellfire. The men were driven out from the position, which appears to have been occupied on Wednesday by Germans. Last night some of the ground was retaken. Canadians and Australians report that they are again together in the position.

The weather now is showery, but with long fine intervals. This morning the guns are again very active. The thunder of the artillery has been constant since dawn.

Haul by Burglars.

A Thousand Rings Stolen.

Sydney, 5th August.

Expert safe blowers broke into the premises of Maurice Goldberg, jeweller, at Newtown, Sydney, on 5th August, and attempted to blow open two safes. In one case they succeeded, but the attempt on the smaller of the two safes failed. The larger safe was rifled of its contents, which consisted of a thousand diamond and other rings, valued at £2,000, and £5 cash.

The thieves also overhauled articles which had been left in the show windows,

and stole the best of them. Entrance to the shop was effected by forcing open a steel shutter at the side of the building. This admitted the thieves to a small room at the back of the shop. They unsuccessfully attempted to force an iron door leading to the main shop, but, undeterred by this, they set to work to make a hole in the back wall. A hole was made 2ft. by 1ft. 3in.

Lonely Soldier Wanted.

The Australian Red Cross informs us that a Yorkshire girl asks if it would be possible to find a soldier in France, preferably one who has no one to write to,

who would be glad of a weekly letter, parcels, etc., which she would be very pleased to send. We willingly give publicity to this offer and will forward letters from applicants if sent to us. They should quote this paragraph.

Mrs. Fisher is leading an Australian Section of the proposed Ladies' Club for the use of wives and relatives of the officers of Overseas Forces, which is to be established at Norfolk House, St. James's Square, on the same lines as the Royal Overseas Officers' Club at the R.A. Club. Miss Buckley is associated with Mrs. Fisher in the work.



Après la Guerre.—Private Bluegreen, of the A.I.F., after two years in France, returns to his farm at One Tree Flats.

Latest Sporting Cables.

Melbourne, 23rd October.

The health of Harry Trott, former captain of Australian cricket elevens, is causing anxiety to his friends. Funds are being raised for his benefit.

The Ascot "Thousand."

Brisbane, 23rd October.

The First Division in the race for the Ascot Thousand was won by Benfuller, with Molly Kelvin second and Fairyfeet third. Betting, 7-1 against Benfuller. The result of the Second Division was Barbara Dale, 1; Limestone, 2; Truellash, 3. Betting, 5 to 2 against Barbara Dale, who started favourite.

Fred Kay has beaten Harry Stone on points at Melbourne.

Melbourne, 29th October.

The result of the Moonee Valley Cup was: Kuneteetis, 1; Polygamist, 2; Beltane, 3. Betting against the winner, 7 to 1.

W. Abotomey, of Sydney, has defeated E. J. Campbell, the billiards champion of Victoria, by 1,343 in a match of 16,000.

Sid Mendfrey has secured a decision on points over Vince Blackburn, in a match for the featherweight championship of Australia. The match lasted 20 rounds, and took place in Sydney.

GENERAL CABLES.

The Tasmanian Parliamentary Standing Committee has reported favourably on the King River hydroelectric power schemes, and has stated that a new era is dawning for cheaper mining and the handling and treatment of lowgrade, refractory minerals.

Sir A. Peacock, Premier of Victoria, delivered his policy speech at Creswick. His Government intends encouraging agricultural production as a set-off against the war debt.

The vacant railway commissionership is to be advertised in Australia, Great Britain and America.

GENERAL AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Mice Plague Abating.

Mice were still in the wheat stacks early in September, but the number has been so greatly reduced that the Victorian Wheat Commission is no longer alarmed. Precautions are being taken to prevent a recurrence of the plague next season, and the wheat will be transferred quickly to the seaboard.

Two Children Killed.

A shocking accident occurred at Buckman's sawmills, at Gulgong, N.S.W., recently. Thomas Reddish was cleaning pine logs and making them ready for the mill, when a log slipped, crushing his two young children to death.

Accountant Arrested.

Leslie Byron Morres (44), accountant, was arrested in Collins Street, Melbourne, and charged with having, while bailee of two £500 City of Melbourne debentures, of the face value of £1,000, the property of the Sutherland Home, Drummond Street, fraudulently converted them to his own use. Morres has recently been honorary accountant of the Home.

Danger of Big Fields.

It was stated at an inquest into the death of the jockey Leslie Bragg, who was killed at Canterbury Park racecourse on July 28th, that the width of the track where the accident happened was only 55 feet. Michael Mitchell, an A.J.C. stipendiary steward, said there was a danger in racing 25 two-year-olds in one race on the course. The maximum number which could run with safety was 18.

Loss of the Cumberland.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) announced that he has received, through his Excellency the Governor-General, a notification that the British Board of Trade has offered a reward of £1,000 for information leading to the conviction of the criminal or criminals implicated in the wreck of the steamer Cumberland and to the full disclosure of the methods employed in the perpetuation of the crime. This is in addition to the rewards of £2,000 offered by the Commonwealth Government and of £1,000 by the Government of New South Wales.

Conspiracy Case.

Two Men Imprisoned.

In the Melbourne Criminal Court, before the Chief Justice, the trial of three persons who were charged with conspiracy was concluded on August 23rd.

The Crown case was that Hewins and

Fenton, by representing themselves to be members of the police force, obtained £60 from Mrs. Cole, of Maryborough, for refraining to take action in a matter arising out of the registration of the birth of a child belonging to Mrs. Cole's daughter.

At the end of five hours the jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of Dent, and guilty in the case of Hewins and Fenton. Hewins admitted one prior conviction at Perth in 1907 for false pretences.

The Chief Justice said Fenton was entitled to no consideration. He was a wolf in sheep's clothing, a man who had become a constable undertaking to protect the public, and had brought discredit upon an honourable and estimable force of men. Hewins and Fenton were each sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

The Soldiers' Church of England Help Society of Queensland has started a Church of England Australian Fund for soldiers with a grant of £4,000.

Military Allotments.

Clerk Charged with Embezzlement.

Frank Hoffmann, a clerk in the allotment branch of the Defence Department, was at the Melbourne City Court on August 31st committed for trial on a charge of having obtained money under false pretences.

It was alleged that accused had made out an allotment of 5s. per day in favour of John Fairbanks, of George Street, East Melbourne, and that he had forwarded the necessary papers to the postmistress at East Melbourne for payment of the money to "Fairbanks," which was a fictitious name. In this way, it was alleged, accused had received sums amounting in all to £176.

Brisbane Sensation.

At the Brisbane Police Court on September 3rd, Norah Phillips (48), housewife, and William Couton (35), chemist, were charged with having murdered Mabel Cameron, at Brisbane, on or about May 9th, 1917.

Detective Donnelly gave evidence of arrest. When charged, he said, neither accused made any reply.

Accused were remanded.

Commonwealth Pensions.

A Huge Increase.

The liability of the Commonwealth in the matter of pensions is growing with alarming rapidity. According to returns that are made available by the Federal Treasurer the liability is already very little short of £6,000,000, and at the present rate of increase it promises to exceed that sum by a large amount before the end of the financial year.

War pensions alone now involve a liability of £1,933,798, and this sum is growing at the rate of more than £100,000 per month. In July the increase was £138,000, and last month it was £156,365. At the rate war pensions will amount to more than £3,000,000 by the end of the financial year. Other pensions are also growing steadily.

While the pensions bill is steadily increasing, maternity allowance claims continue to draw upon revenue to the extent of more than £600,000 per year. Last year the amount disbursed in these allowances was £662,035.

Sir John Forrest, replying to Mr. Kelly in the House of Representatives, said that an amendment of the War Pensions Act would be necessary before widows or mothers of soldiers killed on active service, or mothers whose husbands could not be compelled to maintain them, could be granted pensions. The positions of such mothers would be considered in any amendment of the Act.

Civil Servant Imprisoned.

Thefts from Defence Department.

Some severe comments were made by the Chief Justice (Sir John Madden) in the speculation and thieving in Commonwealth Melbourne Criminal Court recently on departments. Frederick Alfred Ernest Kingsley pleaded guilty to a charge of having fraudulently converted to his own use various articles, the property of the Commonwealth, the whole being valued at £3. Kingsley took articles while employed as a senior storeman in the Ordnance Branch of the Defence Department.

The Chief Justice, in passing a sentence of 18 months' imprisonment, said that these cases were not like ordinary stealing by a hungry person or yielding to sudden temptation. They were a class of offence which must be put down.

Bigamy and Insolvency.

Extraordinary admissions were made in the Sydney Bankruptcy Court by Alexander Charles Kenneth Buchanan, who, in the course of examination as to the causes

General Australian News—Continued.

of his insolvency, stated that although he married five years ago a woman who was still alive, he had in May last gone through the form of marriage with another woman who was a barmaid. In reply to further questions, Buchanan said the barmaid was aware of his previous marriage, and his wife had been informed he was going to marry the barmaid.

Big Fire in Sydney. Damage Estimated at £50,000.

Shortly after 6 o'clock on August 27th a fire which caused damage to the extent of about £50,000 broke out in buildings occupied by the Australian Paper Co., Ltd., and other firms at 192 and 194, Castlereagh Street, City. The contents of floors occupied by the Australian Feature Films, Ltd., were completely destroyed, and the damage to the stock, which included films, is estimated to be about £30,000. Only portion was covered by insurance. The contents of the third floor occupied by the Western Electric Co., Ltd., were damaged by water, and the remaining floors, which are occupied by the Australian Paper Co., Ltd., were also seriously damaged by water. The building was not greatly damaged. The stock carried by the Australian Paper Co. was valued at about £14,000. It was insured in various companies for £10,000.

South Australian Politics. Coalition Government's Programme.

Adelaide, 28th August.

The members of the National Coalition Government met Parliament for the first time to-day, and in the Assembly the Premier (Mr. Peake) outlined the policy for the session. He admitted that it was a gingerless programme, but the present was no time for contentious party legislation. It was proposed to fund the accumulated deficit of nearly £1,250,000 with an arrangement that, as soon as circumstances permitted, the Government would propose to pay off a proportion of the deficit each year as a charge to revenue. Among the Bills to be introduced were measures to enable soldiers and their dependants to obtain homes under easy conditions; to make special provision for the treatment of returned men suffering from temporary mental derangement, and to further liberalise the terms under which soldiers could take up land. The Government felt that it was its duty to do all it could for the widows of soldiers. Other measures arising from the war would deal with enemy property and the German names of towns and localities. In regard to works, it was proposed to extend the Salisbury to Long Plains railway to Red Hill, and to broaden

the gauge of narrow lines from Hamley Bridge to Wallaroo, from Balaklava to Brinkworth, and from Brinkworth to Kadina.

A Bloodstained Will. Relic of Gallipoli.

A relic of the battlefield was produced in the Full Court in Adelaide recently, when counsel applied on behalf of the executor of the estate of George Austin King, of the A.I.F., who was killed in the landing at Gallipoli, for an order for the administration of the will, including certain partly obliterated words. The will was found in a pay book in the breast pocket of the dead soldier, and the bullet which killed him had passed through the book, and a portion of some words in the will had been cut out by the missile, or were obliterated by blood. The deceased, a young Englishman, had accumulated considerable property. The will had crossed the ocean five times.

The Chief Justice, after examining the document, pointed out that the names and descriptions of the beneficiaries were visible, and there could be no doubt concerning what were the obliterated words. Letters of administration would issue, cum testamento annexo.

Earth Tremors at Boulder, Kalgoorlie. Fatal Fall of Rock.

Kalgoorlie, 29th August.

Early in August an earth tremor, accompanied by a terrific report, which was

heard fully a mile away, occurred on the Golden Mile, Kalgoorlie, but beyond a few falls of rock in several of the mines no damage was done.

Another earth movement occurred on August 28th, but on this occasion the consequences were more serious, a heavy fall of rock in the Great Boulder mine resulting in the death of one man, while several others were slightly injured.

The men were working in a stope at the 2,250ft. level, when a peculiar rumbling noise was heard. There was a slight earth tremor, followed by a loud report, and a large mass of rock fell from the roof of the stope and buried Jack Flannigan (61), a timberman. His voice could be heard calling for help, but all lights had been extinguished, and before anything could be done to assist him another fall occurred, covering the unfortunate man to such an extent that an hour elapsed before his body could be extricated. Several other men were struck by small pieces of rock and sustained cuts and bruises.

When lights had been obtained, it was seen that masses of rock were hanging dangerously loose, threatening the willing volunteers who commenced at once the work of recovering the remains of their comrade. Though threatened with instant death from the overhanging rock the miners set to work heroically, and at the end of an hour had removed the mass of debris which covered the remains of the unfortunate timberman.



The captured German Brigadier and Battalion Commander who would not submit to be photographed. They are here undergoing interrogation. (Australian Official Photograph.)

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Australia in the Desert.

What the Red Cross is doing for our Men in Palestine.

Faced though they are with different conditions and a different problem, Australian soldiers in Flanders, and those in England preparing to join their comrades there, will not be uninterested to learn some details of the life of fellow Anzacs whose duty it is to help fight the Empire's battles in the deserts of Sinai and Palestine. Some idea of conditions on that Front may be gleaned from the report of the Australian Red Cross Assistant Commissioner in Egypt. One notices, for instance, in the list of Red Cross goods distributed during August, such articles as bathing suits, fly-veils, fans, fly-traps, and similar adjuncts to life in a hot country. A large supply of heavy, hand-knitted socks, for which there is little need in Egypt and Palestine, have been sent to France for the use of our soldiers there.

The Assistant Commissioner notes that the new Advanced Store in Palestine has proved a great success in enabling the Red Cross to get into personal touch with the patients and give them cigarettes, sweets and reading matter as they pass through the principal Australian Receiving Station. In view of the experience gained during the last period of heavy fighting, preparations have been made to supply (when the occasion arises) hot drinks, soup and biscuits to patients when being evacuated at Rail Head; the necessary staff being sent from Cairo for the purpose. On this front, the medical units are spread over long lines of communication, so that each activity taxes their resources, and it is felt that if the Red Cross undertakes to supply a meal at the beginning of the journey it will be of practical value. All Stationary Hospitals at which patients stop, along the lines of communication are now Imperial, and the Australian Red Cross has supplied its share of comforts; woman nursing staffs are being attached to some of these units about 100 miles out in Sinai.

Australian Red Cross escorts accompanied 753 convalescents on outings in the Cairo area during August. It is noted that the Nile had been rising all the month, and that it was pouring down in a brown flood, making it necessary to reduce the number of men taken in each motor launch. A.I.F. men who have served in Egypt will not need to be told that the journey to the Pyramids is not suitable for convalescents during the hot weather.

The newly established Red Cross Kitchen at the Australian Base Hospital is proving a wonderful success in supplying special dishes to sick and wounded men. The Assistant Commissioner reports that 8,736 dishes were supplied from the kitchen in August at a total cost of £60 6s., or 1.65 pence per dish.

The Assistant Commissioner makes a strong point of the desirability of marking, as far as possible, all Red Cross issues clearly as coming from the Australian Red Cross, owing to the cheering effect it has on the minds of the patients to know that it is their own people who are caring for their wants in their time of sickness and trouble. As a further means of maintaining touch between the people of Australia and their fighting men, it is proposed to encourage and develop the taste which many bed-patients show, for such pastimes as the making of woollen articles, by sending the articles to Australia for disposal.

The Assistant Commissioner notes that some Australian Nursing Units which were sent to the Salonika front, arrived there about the time the commercial part of Salonika was destroyed by fire. The B.R.C.S. lost the whole of their stocks in the fire, so our Sisters soon felt that they were really on active service, with a diet of bully-beef, bacon, biscuits and bread. Immediately the novelty had worn off, it was important that they should be kept as fit as possible by a varied and attractive diet, and the Australian Red Cross in Egypt sent off at once 84 cases of mixed foodstuffs.



Earl of Derby (Secretary of State for War) visits the Military Offices of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in London.

Left to Right: The Right Hon. Andrew Fisher; Mr. A. T. Pinkey; Earl of Derby; Mr. C. A. B. Campion, London Manager; Lord Denman and Col. T. Griffiths, C.M.G.

The New Military Offices of the Commonwealth Bank.

The Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for War, Lord Denman, Rear Admiral Haworth Booth (Commonwealth Naval Representative), Colonel Griffiths, C.M.G., D.S.O. (Commandant, Australian Headquarters), and Mr. C. A. B. Campion, London Manager of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, were entertained at luncheon at the United Service Club on Friday, October 19th, by the Right Honourable Andrew Fisher, P.C., High Commissioner for Australia. Subsequently a visit of inspection was paid to the new Military Offices of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in the Strand, and to the principal offices in New Broad Street.

Lord Derby was particularly interested

in the special arrangements made to provide financial facilities for the Australian troops and munition workers in Europe by the Commonwealth Bank, which, it will be remembered, is owned wholly by the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is an interesting circumstance that Lord Denman was Governor-General of Australia when the Commonwealth Bank was incorporated by a special Act of the Federal Parliament, while the present High Commissioner, the Right Honourable Andrew Fisher, was then the Prime Minister, under whose aegis this, the first State Bank in the British Empire, was called into being.

TAX UPON SINGLE MEN.

Important Provisions.

A Bill reimposing the income tax of last year and providing for a tax payable in certain cases by single men and widowers without children between the ages of 21 years and 45 years, who have not enlisted, was introduced in the House of Representatives on August 23rd by the Treasurer (Sir John Forrest). The Bill provides:—

“(a) There shall be payable by every male person, whether in receipt of taxable income or not, who, on July 1st, 1917, (1) was unmarried or a widower without children, and (2) was not under the age of 21 years, and was under the age of 45 years, income tax to the amount of £10, or 10 per cent. of his taxable income, whichever is the greater; provided, further, that where the Commissioner is satisfied that by reason of the support given by a person to his dependents payment of the full amount of the tax would impose a hardship on the person the Commissioner may reduce the amount of the tax payable by that person to such amount as the Commissioner in his discretion determines.

“(b) The preceding provisions of this sub-division shall not apply to a person who satisfies the Commissioner (1) that he has been on active service outside Australia during the present war, or is a member of an expeditionary force raised for service outside Australia, but has been rejected solely on the ground of physical unfitness; or (3) that, notwithstanding that he has not endeavoured to enlist in an expeditionary force raised for service outside Australia, he is obviously unfit for any naval or military service whatever; or (4) that all his brothers of military age have been on active service outside Australia during the present war or are members of an expeditionary force raised for service outside Australia; or (5) that he is permanently incapacitated for work; or (6) that he is employed by the police or prison services of the Commonwealth or a State; or (7) that he is employed on a lighthouse; or (8) that he is a minister of religion.

“(c) For the purposes of this sub-division taxable income means the amount which is ascertained by deducting from the taxable income of that person within the meaning of the Income Tax Assessment Act, 1915-1916, the sum of £26 in respect of each dependant wholly dependent upon him, and such less sum as the Commissioner allows in respect of each dependant partially dependent upon him.”

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The touch of age may dull your shine,
Your ribbon fray and fade away,
But ah! the memories that are mine,
Of valiant men of yesterday!

Not friends who lived for minor gains,
But friends whom I have loved and known;

Dear friends who passed through three campaigns,
But passed and left me here alone.

Brave men who loved the sparkling wine,
Who friendship found in every glass,

Men who have clinked their glass with mine,
But friends must love and part, alas!

God! how I missed them since that night,
That long, long march to the attack;
We sang glad songs up to the fight,
But I was mute when I came back.

For who could sing when cold and still,
So cold in death dear comrades lay,
Stretched out upon a bloody hill,
A crimson hill of fire and clay.

Though you may dull and lose your shine,
Your ribbon fray and fade away,

Fresh through the years the memory's mine,
Of gallant men of yesterday.

Lce.-Corpl. R. J. G.

7th Field A.M.C., A.I.F.

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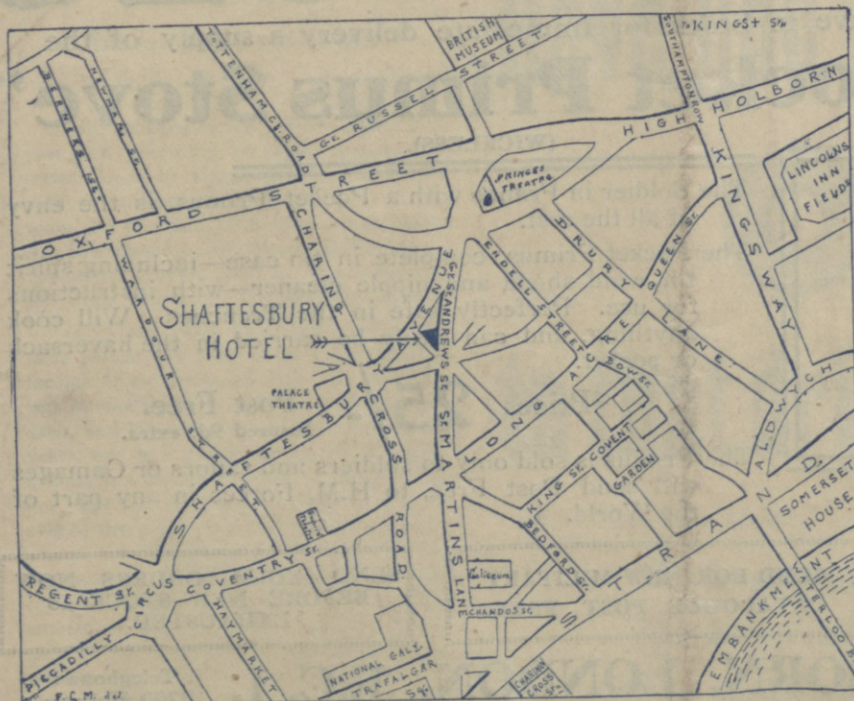
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