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SECRET

PRESS CENSORSHIP CONFERENCE

Friday, 19th April, 1918.

The Conference resumed its sittings at 10 o'clock.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are a few points that some of the delegates would like to speak to in reply to Colonel McColl's speech yesterday. We appreciate the difficulty Colonel McColl and his colleagues find themselves in in deciding upon any change, because that is probably a matter upon which they must consult with their Minister. We could not expect them to give away any considerable concessions. If it were not for that, if we were to accept what Colonel McColl and General Legge said on the question of censorship we would have reasonable ground for doubting the sincerity of the Government in calling us together. (Hear, hear.) I still like to think I am young but not that I am back in the fifth form at the Grammar School or Wesley. (Hear, hear, and Laughter.) I do not say that offensively but to show that there is some doubt in our minds that the last word has been said. Senator Pearce asked us to come here and frankly discuss and make recommendations to him and that we have done.

COLONEL MCCOLL has a keen sense of humour. I hope he will not mind some of us claiming to have some sense of humour also. When he speaks of the Censor's Office containing on its staff Journalists we would like to say, to use a hackneyed phrase, that that is so much camouflage. Colonel McColl, seeking an extra man for his staff, sends someone into the

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highways and discovers someone who has written an advertisement for a lost job - he brings him in and says "Behold! We have a Journalist." (Laughter) I hardly think that appeals to men who have had the dust of journalism on their shoulders and have been a good many years at the business. I do not want to be personal, only to illustrate my point. A particular case in point is that of a gentlemen whom he mentioned as having been on our staff as a Journalist (Mr. Hicks.) No one has a gfeater respect for Mr. Hicks than I have.. He in his earlier days was a Curate in the Church. He very properly saw thatsalvation would lie more in connection with the Press than with any other institution. He sought a connection with the newspapers and untimately came into our Office. He was wholly inexperienced as a Journalist and he occupied the position of a junior reporter. I do not know that that appeals to gentlemen in any newspaper office, but I will put it this way; if Colonel McColl in his business in the world before he became a Censor had a junior clerk in his office and some authority was created such as that to exercise discipline over Mr, McColl and that authority sought and obtained his junior clerk as the man to exercise that discipline what would be the feelings of Colonel McColl? That is our case in a nut shell. (Hear, hear.) This gentleman - a capable, able man - was a junior reporter in our office receiving something like £250 a year. He sat in judgment over men who, I know, were receiving four or even five times that amount of salary, and after all salary is the test. We do strongly object

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to its being put up to us after having ~~xxx~~ complained, as we have complained, that it is a Journalist that has done this thing. We say that he is not a Journalist, but a gentleman in training to be a Journalist. It may be put forward as a joke. Well, we are not going to refuse to laugh at a joke when we hear it. (Laughter).

COLONEL MCCOLL: I asked Mr. Hicks his status in the Argus Office, and he said "If I go back under the new regulations I will get £8 a week", and he let me know that he was paying us a great compliment in accepting anything less than £8 a week.

THE CHAIRMAN: He is a humourist then as well as yourself. (Laughter).

COLONEL MCCOLL: If your idea of ability is governed by salary you will have a poor idea of a censorship staff.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have drawn attention to this because you have obtained someone who you think, and properly so perhaps in your inexperience is a Journalist. Senator Pearce will be here at 11.15, Mr. Orchard at 11.45 and Senator Millen at 12.15. If this programme is carried out I do not see why we should not finish our deliberations by dinner-time.

MR. FRAHAM: We have all heard a certain amount of talk about the War Precautions Regulation 28 a.d. At first I did not regard it as very dangerous but I think differently since I have discussed it with General Legge and Dr. Cunningham. I will therefore move the following resolution. (Reads resolution).

A.3.

MR. TOY: May I suggest to Mr. Fraham that

we may not get this Advisory Board. May we not make some provision for consultation between the Officials and some xx representative or representatives of the Conference.

GENERAL LEGGE: I am in favour of Mr. Braham's resolution and I think I am right in anticipating the Minister's speech by saying he will welcome that Advisory Board. (Hear, hear.)

THE CHAIRMAN: An eminent citizen of Melbourne wrote a letter to the Argus which the Editor did not see his way to publish - he is sometimes put in that position. The writer then sent to another paper a copy of the letter who sent it round to the Censor who put his pen right through it.

MR. BRAHAM'S resolution (seconded by Mr. Toy) was carried in the following form: -

> "That the War Precautions Regulation 28 a.d. issued on March 13, 1918, is open to very dangerous abuse and should be amended so as to guard against such abuse, and that the censorship officials and the Advisory Board be requested to consult together with this purpose."

GENERAL LEGGE asked the Members of the Conference to let him know what they would like to do in connection with visists visits to Factories, the Cordite Factory at Maribyrnong, the Geelong Woollen Mills and other important places and intimated that arrangements could be made to carry out in any way or in any order what was desired by members of the Conference.

MR. SOWDEN suggested that a full afternoon be spent in visiting the Wireless Station and other places not mentioned in General Legge's enumeration.

A.4. X

The Honorable the Minister of Defence (Senator G.F. Pearce) attended the Conference and resumed the chair at 11.10 a.m.

DR. CUNNINGHAM: We are very glad to welcome you back into the chair, Senator Pearce,. Before I present the adopted Report of the Conference I would like, with your permission, to make a few observations. I will not exceed, I hope, my instructions which are laid out in that report, and if I should I ask any member of the Conference to at once pull me up. We want to say how very much obliged we are to you, Senator Pearce, for having called us together. A meeting of Editors of newspapers anywhere would be an important affair, but in a country like Australia ~~this~~ it is a very unique gathering and it was a happy idea on the part of the Government that we should be called together so that we may not only discuss these great questions but should have an opportunity of meeting each other, of exchanging our own views, and of realising each others point of view. From that point of view, if from no other, the Conference has been most helpful. We have had the pleasure of listening to three of your principal officers who have been compelled to be in attendance upon the Conference. I would also say on behalf of the Conference how delighted we were to hear Captain Thring, General Legge, and Colonel McColl. I hope it will not be thought to be invidious if I were to say that the explanation made by Captain Thring of the reasons why the censorship is applied in naval matters was just the explanation we wanted.

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(Hear, hear.) We are trying to do our best in our own sphere, but it is obvious, we can not know all that ought to be known and we may very frequently be working in the dark, but a communication such as has been made to us by Captain Thring shows what strong reason there is for us to accept the directions of the censorship so that we may be doing our part in saving the Empire from possible danger and catastrophe.

A.6.

These remarks if I may say so may be extended to those which General Legge was kind enough to tell us of yesterday afternoon. He pointed out the great necessity there is for consolidating our forces and using all the activities available to us to assist the Defence Department in the efforts they are making towards winning this war. I think we will all go away after listening to what we have been told by General Legge, feeling there is a responsibility and a duty upon us of which we were not fully conscious before he spoke. This Conference accepted very frankly the invitation of the Government in the spirit in which we were sure it was given and therefore we have not hesitated to debate fully these matters with the desire to bring out frankly what was in our minds. There has been no reserve and I do not think the officers present expected that we should have an hesitancy in connection with anything that might be said. We have given our views on the Administration of the censorship with the object of trying to arrive at some line of action which would in future be mutually beneficially to the Defence Department in its capacity as the upholder of the interests of the country and in the interests of the newspapers. We have not altogether been able to agree with each other but we have arrived I think, at what may be regarded as the sense of the Conference. When I say we have not been able to agree it is perfectly obvious that that must be so because we representatives here are representatives of different modes of thought. We have different ways of looking at things and of course we

B1 are not in the same political camps. I hope I will

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not be misunderstood in what I am going to say, and that it will not be taken as suggesting anything of a patronising nature, but for my own part I would like to say this - I cannot say how pleased I am to meet at this table the leaders of the Labour Newspapers. They have their grievances and we have ours and they have expressed their grievances in the way which they regarded necessary from their point of view and no one could possibly quarrel with the way they have done it. There is the possibility that it might be regarded by the Defence Department that after all the grievances against the censorship are those voiced by our friends of the labour Press. It might be thought that theirs are the only grievances but may I say Sir frankly that so far as grievances are concerned, any which they have put forward could be quite matched by grievances from our side and which are quite as strong from our point of view. We have all suffered and we all have our grievances. We feel that the newspapers generally have had in the past strong reasons for dissatisfaction with the way in which we have been dealt with and we are hoping for something better in the future. Looking at the past, and on a perusal of what has been uttered here, there is no doubt that we have had genuine grievances at the way in which the newspaper censorship has been carried out. No doubt it has been owing to a mistaken idea of duty on the part of the censors but we hope that if you Sir can see your way to read these debates you will do so and then I think you will be more sympathetically inclined to our views and may perhaps
B2 be favorable to the adoption of some system which will

work better in the future.

The first and unquestionable decision of this Conference was as follows(First resolution read). We are unanimously of the opinion that in military and naval matters there must be no question and the military and naval censors must be supreme. We feel we are all members of the community and we are equally interested in the winning of this war with the rest of the community and therefore we are not going to sympathise or take any part in any action that might in any possible way interfere with the xxxxxxxx forces of the country either on sea or land. We do not wish to do anything as newspaper men which might in any way weaken their strength, but we shall do everything we possibly can to assist in that direction. Those matters therefore are left entirely to the responsible naval and military censors to do as they think fit. We recognise that is absolutely necessary to safeguard the interests of the Empire in this war.

We realise that General Legge and Colonel McColl in discussing the operation of the censorship put the matter on right lines, and from a point of view with which we were not previously acquainted. However as I said this morning, if we are to accept the statements made by Colonel McColl (which after all were merely a categorical reply to our complaints) if we were to accept that as the final reply to our work then I think we would have good reason for doubting the sincerity of the Government in asking us to meet here, but we do not. We realise the limitations of gentlemen in their position and we realise that you
B3 Sir as Minister look to them for advice. It is in the

spirit in which you invited us to this Conference that we have made our recommendations. It is left to you now as Minister to decide how far you are able to meet us in what we propose. The unanimous expression of opinion of this Conference is that the political censorship of news is not to be tolerated. We claim that we by our experience, and with our feeling of responsibility - taking both those elements into account we claim that we are as good judges if not better than any gentlemen in an official Government position can be as to what the public requirements are in the question ofinformation, apart always from the question as to whether we are giving help to the enemy or not. Therefore so far as political censorship is concerned we do with the greatest emphasis protest most strongly against it being continued. Many instances have been given here of how that has been done and if the debates are searched numerous cases will be found which beyond all question show that the censorship has been used for political purposes. Now Sir it is in regard to those many instances mentioned in this connection that we have come to this firm and emphatic decision - that we cannot submit to that being continued in the future. When I used that term Sir, I hope it will be understood that in using such a strong expression I do not mean anything in a personal way nor do I suggest any ulterior consequences. I am only trying to express in my own language what has been said and done by the Conference itself.

Now there were two matters brough up in regard to the censorship - one the censorship question in America and the other the censorship in regard to France.

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The position at the moment in regard to France was very clearly stated by Mr. Davidson and Mr. Toy and I have a document which is official as far as I can discover which deals with the system of censorship in the United States. I think that should be a matter for investigation and enquiry and I have no doubt that Mr. Toy and Mr. Davidson are prepared to submit evidence in support of what they have said. I expect them to do so and I know they will.

I should like Sir to direct your attention to this - we are not asking to be put in the same position as those countries but we do ask you to consider what has been done in those count ries in the light of what we propose.

I may say that the newspapers of Australia have not been wanting in pat riotism, although we do not take any credit for that, as we have only been doing our duty. I think we have done everything possible to forward the views of the Government in the matter of carrying on the war. You I am sure Sir will acknowledge that, because we have never as far as I can remember, refused to publish any statement or piece of information that the Government itself desired published. Notlong ago we had a direct request from the Prime Minister that we should do everything possible to stir up the war spirit in this community with the view of stimulating recruiting. We have had General Legge in a masterly statement of the position and the requirements of the Department and he eloquently put it to us that it was out duty to help forward the

B5 consumation of those designs. Today we are to have

the Minister for Repatriation who will put before us the necessity for our throwing our whole weight into the support of the scheme for returning soldiers to their civil avocations. The Minister of Recruiting will come here also and we all know that he will say that every ounce of newspapers can put into the recruiting campaign is most anxiously desired. I may say that we feel xxxxx glad that we are able to help in this way.

Now I mentioned those facts for this reason - I want to bringhome to you Sir if I may the utterly anomoulus position in which the newspapers are placed. On the one hand we have these appeals to us to do all this work which I may say are unnecessary because we are doing it, while on the other hand we have a constant stream of restrictions and petty annoyances cast upon us. We have a feeling that we are under discipline at the same time from another section of the Government Departments which we think it is absolutely unnecessary. Where it is necessary we do not complain, but where it is unnecessary we do complain. We want you to realise Sir that we are not asking anything that is unreasonable. We do not ask in regard to these facts that if you do something to meet our attitude we will do something else- that would be making a bargain repugnant to everyone. What we do ask you to do is to take what I have said into consideration in order that we may arrive at some means of co-ordinating the ideas of the censor's staff and those of the newspapers. We have adopted here a proposal, which is the best we can arrive at under the
B6 circumstances, although it is not ideal, and it is this.

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We want you to agree to the appointment of three or four representatives of the newspapers of ~~that~~ Australia those representatives being the Editors of the three daily papers in Melbourne and a representative of the labour press whose name has been given, to assist the censorship staff. Our idea is that this Committee should be taken into the confidence of the censors and we feel as individuals we are men who can be trusted with that confidence. Then before any regulations are issued which are of general application or likely to affect us in newspaper work, that we may be consulted so that we may put the newspaper point of view. Then in any case of a grievance arising in the different States, those ~~aggrieved~~ agrieved will now that they have a chance of getting the matter adjusted if they cannot settle it in their own centre. That will give us a definite footing with the Defence Department and we will be able to go before the Minister or the Chief of the General Staff and have these matters adjusted. Of course if we get a complaint from any part of Australia and the majority of this body decides it is not a complaint which should go on, it will not go on. I am firm enough in my own opinion as to that. We do not want this body merely as a buffer between us and the Department but as a means of enlightenment for the censorship staff which I think they themselves will find of the utmost value.

I will read to you now Sir the draft report which has been adopted. (Draft report of Conference read)-

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In addition to that Sir we desire to raise the question of a new regulation which has recently been issued. I refer to regulation 28AB, and I may say that it is regarded as containing within it a possibility of a very serious extension of the censorship in a direction which we do not think it should take and which I do not think has been contemplated. If the interpretation we place upon it is correct then we feel that we are exposed to a new danger. Our idea therefore is that this regulation should not be put in force until you have had an opportunity of consulting with the suggested Advisory Committee, assuming it is to be appointed.

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: Dr. Cunningham and gentlemen - I thank you Sir and the Conference for the expression of your views in the first portion of your report in regard to the motive which prompt the Government in convening this Conference. I can assure you gentlemen that the Government regards this Conference as of extreme importance and speaking for myself I can say I have already read some of the debates and I intend to read the whole of them at the first opportunity. It is obvious unless one does that, your resolutions will not be clothed fully with their real meaning.

Now I wish to say that the Government in convening the Conference did not make the appeal to you in any way because it doubted your loyalty and patriotism. That has been sufficiently demonstrated by the general tone of the press throughout Australia, and obviously that has been

B8 of the utmost value to the community and the Government

We thought it wise however that this Conference should be held in order that we might all pull together in the cause which we all have at heart.

I desire to say first a few words on this question of political censorship, as it is called. I wish to say at once that I do not know of any intention on the part of the Government, or of any past Government to shelter itself behind its officials in regard to what is called political censorship. That is to say we do not wish to unload any of our responsibility upon our officials. That of course must always be qualified by the fact that where you have a number of officials working at a considerable distance from the seat of Government it is difficult for them always to know the mind of the Government and they may exceed its intentions. However for whatever they have done in what is called by you political censorship, the Government accept the responsibility. This term has been generally used but I think if I had an opportunity of going into some of the cases which have been mentioned that there was something more in them than political warfare.

However the main point is that you are here free speaking your opinions and I can heartily assure that the Government will give friendly and favorable consideration to all of your proposals. I just wish to draw attention however to one or two of them in order to show that they are not without difficulty. First of all in regard to your statement as to what you regard as the

B9 functions of censorship. I draw your attention to

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the last paragraph which deals with the question of the publication of matter prejudicial to recruiting. Now if the Government accepted that literally we could notin the future prevent any person from airing his views in opposition to recruiting. I can assure you that it is a fact that matter prejudicial and in opposition to recruiting has been submitted to the Censor and it is on record. There is one phrase I can remember, and which sticks in my mind as it is so common, and it is this - the workers of Australia should not enlist for the purpose of slaying their fellow workers in Europe. Surely that is not the thing and we should not be prevented from checking the publication of such things as that, but if we accept your resolution we will not be able to censor such matter which we think is prejudicial to recruiting. It would mean stripping ourselves of one of our powers for carrying on the war.

MR. LOVEKIN - I think it would be a good thing to let it go in.

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE - Then I beg to differ. Of course we can punish the people responsible but that is no use after the damage has been done. I do not think that would be an adequate way of meeting that position. If there was an enemy agent in this country and you gave him freedom to flood this country with appeals against recruiting, it would not be much satisfaction afterwards to deal with him. The position is that unless we have the power of censorship we are helpless, as we cannot prosecute until such things have been published.

B10 MR. BRAHAM - Would not that position be

met by refuting such statements.

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: I do not think so.

A DELEGATE: I do not think a paper would print such statements.

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: The best reply to that is that they have been printed. We have the paper with that statement in it.

MR. McDONALD: What about soldiers who say these sort of things when they come back.

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: They can be prosecuted, but speaking to a few people is very different to writing a pamphlet which may be circulated throughout the length and breadth of Australia.

MR. McDONALD: I think such suggestions must have already reached every man and woman in Australia and I am sure it would not be news to many of them to hear or see that.

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: Our view is that we must have the power to check enemy propaganda. This mischief is not all done deliberately, because we have people such as the society of friends who put such views forward and no doubt quite honestly. They would do the same in Germany if they were allowed but they are not, and we cannot allow them to hinder recruiting by expressing such views. There is no doubt that if the views of that society were accepted Germany would be ruling the world.

DR. WARD: What is the position in England?

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: Before they had Bll conscription they took up the same attitude as we are

now taking, but now it is allowed.

In regard to this proposal for an Advisory Committee I propose gentleman to recommend the adoption of that scheme. I should like to say in reply to the remarks made by Dr. Cunningham that I shall also recommend the Government to submit proposed regulations as well as existing regulations to the consideration of this Board. I propose to make that recommendation and I have no doubt the Government will accept it.

I note your very definite statement regarding the censorship of military and naval matters and your attitude removes that question beyond further discussion. In regard to the enemy propaganda of which reference has been made, that again is in the same catagory as the question of matter prejudicial to recruiting. When you have to deal with sedition you are up against a very dif ficult proposition and the peace propaganda is put forward in such a fashion that it would be very difficult to convict a writer of sedition. No doubt many of you, as Editors, know what the law of sedition has had to deal with, and how difficult it has been to secure convictions, and even after conv ictions were secured in notable cases, they have been debated for years afterwards. It is one of the most difficult things in law to deal with. If we take the society of friends again, we know they are the most law abiding citizens in the community, butin time of war thsir attitude to the military is absolutely fatal to the life of the nation. Therefore I say the power of prosecution

B12 is not sufficient protection for the State against

peace propaganda. You must have something more effective and the only protection we can have is to prevent the circulation of such propaganda. We have irrefutable proof that much of this propaganda emanates from enemy agents. We have proof of that in the censorship office. We have leaflets there which enemy agents have tried to smuggle into this country and we have afterwards found them attempted to be reproduced word for word in this country. Therefore without this power we could not protect the country against that propaganda.

As regard the other proposition as to the difficulties of the censorship, I am satisfied to leave that upon what you have been told by General Legge, without attempting to deal with the matter in detail. I will only say this, that you have looked at the picture from the other side and put a point of view which has not been put before. We have had it no doubt in letters of protest from individual Editors, but now it comes with the full weight of the United Press of Australia which must add great force to it. I shall certainly give consideration to all these protests in the light of the source from which they have emanated and if anything we can do to smooth out this difficulties can be done I forone shall do my best and give it my best thought.

You all must recognise the difficulties in regard to uniformity. We cannot get six censors in Australia to read the regulations in exactly the same way or look at a question exactly from the same point of view. Even with the best of intentions they

B13

may not read a regulation in the same way, and each gives what he believes to be the correct interpretation. You have met there the same difficulty that we have been faced with in these matters and I do not see how in places so far apart it is possible to get absolute uniformity.

DR. WARD: We do not expect it.

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: If you have this new machinery set up, before any regulation is brought into force you will have the opportunity of expressing your opinion upon it. You will have the privilege of expressing your views to the censors and if you feel you are being harshly treated you know you will have an opportunity of reaching the Minister.

I can only say on behalf of the Government that I thank you for the sacrifice of time you have made in coming here to consider these questions. I assure you we will give the closest scrutiny to your remarks and do our utmost to favorably consider your recommendations. I trust as a result of this Conference we shall get a better understanding and there will be fewer pin pricks in regard to this matter of the censorship (Hear Hear).

SENATOR MILLEN: I assume gentlemen you are busy men and I myself at this present moment cannot be called exactly an idle man. Therefore I shall briefly endeavour to outline for you the object of the Government's repatriation scheme and give you some general idea of our activities. If anything that I say is ambiguous or I do not give you sufficient information then I trust you will by such criticism as you think fit elicit full and clear information upon those points.

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One difficulty we had in dealing with this matter of repatriation is that it xxxxxxxx presents an entirely new problem. No set of men have ever had any experience so far with this matter and we are not following any set ideas on the subject. Repatriation embraces rather our thoughts and wishes, rather than a clear cut policy. We have to be guided by our judgment largely and it is in consequence of that a good deal of doubt exists as to what is really aimed at by the Government. A good deal of criticism has resulted from that doubt butthe trouble is that people have not yet had time to form ideas of what is right or wrong in this connection.

I might remind this Conference that the new scheme came into operation on the 8th instant and I would draw attention to the fact that in creating this scheme, we were taking a new depar ture. Usually when a Government scheme of any kind is launched there is a staff of trained men behind us, but in our case we had no such staff and we had to do the best we could under the circumstances. We had not men behind us with many years training in regard to the particular problem submitted, and remembering that fact, we have got together a staff with whom we are fortunate, but they are all untrained men. They knew no more of this problem than ourselves a few months ago. I mentioned this because it is inevitable in launching a new scheme that there will be mistakes and blunders and weaknessess will develop themselves. As to the scheme itself I want to stress this point. It was necessary to set out as our objective what we intended by repatriation. The Commission associated

B15 with myself in the carrying out of this scheme have

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accepted as that objective, or the principle on which we should work this repatriation scheme, that it involves the re-establishment in civil life of the returned soldier, and until we can be assured he is re-established, he shall receive an amount sufficient to sustain him in decency.

Starting from that, I want to say a word or two about the allowance. Knowing that principle the members here will be enabled to follow more readily the various activities and the various steps which have been taken by us in the direction of dealing with discharged soldiers, or those about to be discharged. We already have a scheme for registering these men before they leave England. At present our operations only go to that extent, and an officer on each transport gathers particulars regarding the men on the ship who are being returned to Australia and what work they require. When the vessel reaches Western Australia that information is sent on to us by mail, and that enables us to receive it some few weeks in advance of the discharge of the soldier. That few weeks I hope will be lengthened out later on when we are able to get our machinery of registration working so that we will get the information some weeks before the men embark for home. We will then be in a better position to deal with these men and we will not have the rush of men that we now have to contend with .

Now these men arriving here may be said to be two classes - the whole and the incapacitated. In regard to the men in both classes we take the

B16 view that it is our obligation to find them the means

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of earning a livelihood and until we can do so that we must give them a sustenance allowance. Of course accompanying that there is the hope that these men will take the job that is offered to them. We will not deal with them in any arbitrary way but when you tell a men you will find him a sustenance allowance until he is earning his own livelihood, you cannot allow him to go on undefinitely if he refuses a job. We must apply an automatic check and the reasonable view is that when you offer him a job he must accept it or pass off our books.

In regard to the incapacitated they of course are divided into the permanently inc apacitated and the temporarily incapacitated. First of all the Repatriation Department accept s the responsibility of finding, repairing, and renewing limbs and surgical appliances which they require. A factory for that purpose has been established here and others will be opened shortly in all the other States, except possibly Tasmania. It may be found more economical to bring men from Tasmania here to be fitted than to establish a separate factory in that State. In regard to the incapacitated, there are the permanently incapacitated and the totally incapacitated. Under our pensions act a totally inc apacitated man is entitled to the full pension, but there are many who are not totally incapacitated, although they are inc apacitated permanently, For instance a blind soldier may be regarded as totally incapacitated but some of those returned men who are blind are now earning £4 or £5 per week. When I say permanently and totally incapacitated, I mean absolutely and not

B17 relatively so. For such men we provide permanent homes

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which are as far as possible removed from the class
of such institutions ordinarily Our idea is to provide
provide these men with pleasant surroundings in homes
sufficiently near to the big centres of population
to allow those kindly visitors to call on them, as
we have no doubt they will do.

B18

Those of you who are from Sydney will kno. the plae which we are trying to secure permanently for this purpose - the very fine residence donated by Mr. Gibbs to the State Government, and overlooking the waters of the Harbour, and I think the surroundings will be admitted as being ideal for the purpose. An effort is also being made to obtain correspondingly desirable sites and builings in the other States.

In the meatnime I might say that those totally and permanently incapacitated are not being uncared for pending our finalisation of these arrangements. They are all being looked after many in the places I referred to.

With regard to a man who does not desire to go into these institution having a home and relatives able to look after him, we expect to meet the position by giving and additional allowance. That allowance is set down now at an extra 10/- with a possible allowance for rent. But that is not at all final. It is intended that each casd shall be dealt with according to its necessities. The Government have to see with regard to those men who have become complete wrecks in the service of the country that as far as possible they shall live the rest of their lives in such a measure of comfort as we can impart.

With regard to the convalescents the next class to which I desire o refer I hope it shall not be assumed that I am without sympathy for these men when I say that the convalescent Homes which have been created and evolved from the vest mtives and have been carried through with mtiting industry by the people responsible for them are exercising an absolutely

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demoralising effect upon the men who go there. That opinion is confirmed by the investigations of the Canadian Military commission and by many bodies in the old country and France who have given this matter consideration. They all agree that having these men in these homes although their physical health is restored there has a tendency to create not merely habits of idleness but to get them into a mental conditions when they regard them as always needing someone to lean upon. And it also has the result to a great extent that they come to consider that they have the right to look after more than their condition justifies. In the convalescent homes which we are creating it is proposed that when the Dr. reports that a man is physically fitted for work he will be required to undertake that measure of labour which he can perform not with any idea of getting any financial result from it but in order that the man shall not only be dealt with physically but that he shall be put in such a frame of mind that when he leaves the Institution he is able to go and take up the ordinary duties of life. Provision will be made that men who are useful to rule industries will be employed in some light agricultural or horticultural work. Those who are mechanics will be required to work in workshops. That is to say a Dr. may decree that a patient is fitted to do an hour's light work in the morning and he will be required to do it. When the Doctor says he can do 2 hours a day he will be required to do it. Of course it is all voluntary and if a man demurs there is only one thing to do. After dealingwith that man gently and patiently there must come a point at which you must say that unless he will conform to the rules of the Institution

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must wash your hands of all responsibility with regard to him. It is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that the men who are knocking about the streets today who have left these homes where they have been looked after by a number of young ladies who I venture to say do harder workin these Institutions than they do in their own homes become dissatisfied immediately they return to the only life that is open to them. I therefore suggest with the utmost emphasis that in the convalescent homes we must not only restore a man's physcical health but get him into that mental position which will enable him to take his place as one of the workers of the community.

I will now pass to anther class of men men who have been through the convalescent stage or it may be men waiting now to go into such an institution. These are all men who in some way or other have had their efficiency imparied it may by by the loss of a limb or by an injury to a limb or the general health has been disturbed to such a n extent that they cannot immediately take their place in the ranks of the industrial army of this country. We propose to deal with this men in three classes. Those who are less seriously injured or whose capacity has been less seriously disturbed we will try to place in the ordinary workshops and industries of the country as they exist today. As these men will still be wanting full efficiency it is impossible to expect employers to take them in any considerable numbers and pay them as they would be obliged to do by the laws of the country the recognised and judicially fixed wage. In order to meet that situation it is

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proposed that the Repatriation Department will supplement the amount paid by the employee bringing the income received by the men up to the minimum wage of the industry in which they are placed.

A difficulty arose there owing to the known attitude of organised labour with regard to men working in factories and so on. To meet that position I convened a conference of the Trades Hall of Australia and of the Chambers of Manufactures and although difficulties were raised I would like to say that I appreciate the spirit in which those difficulties were faced. That conference arrived unanimously at certain decisions amongst them being that they accepted the principle that the employer should pay the assessed value of the workman's labor(that value to be assessed from time to time) the Department making up the deficiency. It agreed to the appointment of committees representing the trades concerned upon which the labour and employing interests would be represented. they stipulated however and I think quite fairly, that the returned soldiers incapacitated should be be introduced under this system to any workshop in a greater ratio than one to six. The reason they gave for that and I think it is quite a fair one was that unless they did stipulate it there might be a tendency on the part of returned men to crowd into one particular industry, and as this to a certain extent meant a dilution of labour it would be rather unfair to ask one or a few industries to carry the whole measure of sacrifice. By stipulating one in six they thought that would be a fair distribution of the responsibility whatever it was that the Unions would be asked to carry.

Although that conference arrived at an unanimous decision and the delegates from the various Trades Halls undertoold to go back and recommend that

agreement to the acceptance of their respective bodies, some little difficulty has arisen in consequence of discussions in the various Trades Halls. Melboure has accepted that agreement without any alteration. Sydney has accepted it but demur to one clause. South Australia has tured nown the whole thing and the other States have sent in certain amendments. I am going to ask you as far as you can to help me overcome these difficulties. It is quite clear that unless we can arrive at an agreement with orgnised labour it is impossible to obtain access for those partially incapacitated soldiers into the ordinary workshops of the country. No employer would feel justified or disposed to take such men on these terms if he knew that he was likely to involve himself in an industrial dispute with a Union. I will give guarantess to the labour bodies that there will be no imposition and no attenpt to break either the spirit or the letter of the agreement as far as I am concerned and in view of that I am hopeful that a clearer understanding of what we are aiming at may yet lead to the general acceptance of this agreement.

The next class I want to speak about the class more sdriously incapacitated than that - men whose presence in an ordinary workshop would be of little advantage to themselves because of their injury and would be a very distinct hindrance not only to the business of the employer but to their fellow workmen. We have in a rough and ready way adopted 40% of efficiency as the maxk line between the two classes. Over 40% - men with a reasonable prospect of improming we will endeabour to draft into private establishments suc

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as workshops and factories. Those with less than that - those whom it will take longer before they can be brought to a reasonable degree of efficiency we are arranging to have trained in organised technical classes. The ordinary technical school is designed to make a complete and finished workmen in his trade but in the case of the soldier we have to alter the curriculum very considerably and instead of endeavoring to make a complete and finished workman which might take many years the endeavour will be to create men who will be operative with sufficient skill to take their place in factories and wokshops as we know them. That matter is not finalised in all directions yet but I can see my way to finality and in the meantime the work is going on. The agreement has been finalised in New South Wales The states have determined to place their rsources at our disposal to create these classes and appoint new instructors. The financial burden is being carried by the Commonwealth. Men entering these classes will receive the sustenance allowance just the same as a man who is waiting for a job which you are unable to find him. At the end of the term of these classes we also accept the responsibility of finding a job for the men and until that job is found they continue the recipient of the allowance.

There is another class even more seriously disabled - the men who it is obvious even with the aid of these technical classes have no hope of being in a satisfactory position as ordinary workmen. We are then faced with this position, we have either to give them a living allowance and let them remain in idleness for the rest of their lives or we have to devise some means

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by which they can earn some money and be lifted from idleness into some measureof activity. In ordr to do that these men being quite unfitted for the ordinary industrial institutions we propose to create special shops. We say it is better that these men should be employed and earning a third of a half of a living wage than walking about in idelness recdiving the full living wage.

A difficulty arose with regard to these shops - the difficulty of deciding what industries can be carried on with the utmost advantage or with a minimum of disadvantage in these instituitons. I great deal has been said about starting industries for returned soldiers but there is a difficulty about it. The very fact that an industry is new in Australia means that it is unknown. I applied to all the Chambers of Manufactures in Australia and they gave me the new industries which they thought worth looking into, but I could not find anyone versed in details of them, simply for the reason that they are not known. I have had to send for the Old Country for some information before I can come to a conclusion as to what are the best industries to establish. I am hopeful as aresult of of the enquiries I have made that it may be possible toessablish industiries which will have the advantage of being both useful to Australia and entirely novel.

There is a very good reason for getting something which is not already established here. If we were to atart these men making a particular product which is being made by private institutions there is the possibility of a double conflict. If a time of depression came along you would have the men in private employment making thic commodity naturally raising a

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protest that the Government subsidised institutions were depriving them of the means of livelihood. Then again those who had capital invested in industries would naturally object that their interests were being kept by by the State subsidised institution. It is highly desirable that we should endeavour to obtain for these national works some industry which may be carried on without disturbing labour interests or the interests of those who have capital invested. It is obvious that the industries will have to be industries where the work is light, and where for the great part it is carried on by machinery because the men I am now dealing with are the men whose capacity is seriously impaired. I think you will agree it is not easy to decide on what industries to have. It would be indeed unfortunate if we were to establish new industries train these men for a few years and then run into a blind alley. It is better to make a sure sound start than have to retrace our steps later on as a result of hurrying too quickly.

With regard to indentures efforts will be made to arrange with employers to complete indentures. I am speaking of apprentices who enlisted before the completion of their indentures. We shall take the responsibility of finding the return half baked apprectice an opportuntty to complete his indenture and we will insure to him the difference between the wage he would receive from his employer as an apprentice and the minimum wage of that trade. If it is not possible to place him with an employer for that purpose we will send him to a technical school and sustain him during the time he is being trained.

I need hardly say there is a very active effort being made which we hope to extend to place men looking

for work in touch with those who are seeking labour. In spite of all the efforts which will be made I think it must be obvious that there will arise periods when you will have a number of men looking for work for whom work cannot immediately be found. It is intended to try and provide what I would call reserve employment for these men; work which it will be possible for them or the Department acting for them to obtain instead of being idle. In New South Wales I have finalised agreements with the State Governments for the utilisation of Forrestry as a means to this end. That is capable of almost indefinite extensions if the men show any tendency to take up that class of work. I am endeavoring to arrange with the other states for something similar. I need hardly say that these arrangements with the States do not arise with any desire on the part of the Commonwealth Government to shirk any responsibility. In many of these matters the States have both the machinery and the experience for dealing with them and rather than that we should step in and create special Departments I think it is desirable that whilst we find the money we should as far as possible follow the existing machinery under the control of the State Government.

As you no doubt know under the Pensions Act there is a definite unalterable pension. It is proposed under the Repatriation scheme to provide within certain limitations to which I shall refer a rental allowance. With regard to the rental allowance I would say that there is a lot being said about a housing scheme not only for the widows but for the returned

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soldiers generally. The Commission has taken the view that it might be a serious mistake in view of the abnormal cost of building material to go into the general question of the housing scheme at this juncture. It might mean that within a few years' time you would have soldiers complaining that although they had been to some ectent paying into a sinking fundfor the house tthey find themselves charged with a debit which is in excess of the value of the house. We are endeavoring to work out therefore in conjuntion with Mr. Denison Miller a scheme which will have a more general application. Here we have a regulation which provides for the granting of a rental allowance in suitable cased. Widows with children will be entitled to that but a widow without children will not be unless it can be shown that through bad health or other things it is necessary to provide her with a house for herself. We take the view that many of these widows without children will be comparatively young women and we think it desirable to enable them to acquire special training if they are so disposed. It is proposed that they should receive a sustenance allowance in addition to the pension for such period as it may be necessary to train them in the calling they desire to follow.

With regard to children the provision is quite loose. We will take the responsibility for the care and education of children dealing with each case according to its merits. There are no fixed regulations dealing with that.

That brings me to a rather important aspect of the matter namely that of transport. A number

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of our boys have seen fit to take wives in the Old Country and there is naturally a demand that we should bring them out here and the Commission proposes therefore to bring out the wives of soldiers and their children who may be in other parts of the Empire. It proposes also to convey home or to anywhere else the wife of a soldier who has fallen and who has friends able and willing to look after her elsewhere. Quite a number of men who enlisted were comparatively new arrivals in Australia, and naturally the widow says that she would have preferred to go back to where she is known.

With regard to Land settlement I would only make one observation. You know that at present land settlement is being carried on under an agreement arrived at by the Commonwealth Government with the States, under which the States undertake to provide the land and to place the settler upon it and generally look after him while there and the Commonwealth Government undertakes to provide the working captial which is £500 per man. I do not want to say more than that. The thing is a little new. With speaking definitely I feel that the present system is not entirely satisfactory. It seems to me that the Commonwealth without wishing in any way to lose the active co-operation of the States has got to get a little closer in this work of land settlement. That means that we shall be met by the demand which under the circumstances is not unreasonable that we should take a more active control, that we might take a greater share of the financial responisiblity. I am prepared to aproach the matter in that spirit as I think it is fair. I am not trying to scrutinise at this juncture the work of the States. I know how difficult it is to face a new problem with many of these soldiers who come back.

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sometimes with slightly exaggerated ideas and many incapacitated for steady work.

Just a word or two about the staff. An effort was made with which I am sure you will sympathise to create this staff as far of possible of returned men. We have been very successful so far and without speaking definitely I am safe in saying that at least 90% of the staff so far appointed have been returned soldiers. While that is much to be commended it does not mean that you are always getting the most efficient man. We hope by a little training to overcome any weaknesses in that regad but if necessary it will become my duty if a returned soldier is not fitted for his job to ask him to make way for a returned soldier who is. That may mean that there will be changes in the Staff. But we cannot lose sight of efficiency, It is not so much the interests of the man who may obtain anappointment in that Department as the interests of the 300,000 men which the Department has charge of, therefore I must insist that efficiency must be our main objective.

With regard to local committees I must say that I have been very disappointed in this connection. There seems to be a wealth of ignorance prevalent on this subject. The appointment of these local committees does not means that the Commonwealth Government's responsibility shall be lessened in the slightest degree. If no local committees are formed the Commonwealth scheme will still go through , but in view of the general manifestation of a desire on the part of private citizens to take a hand in this work and

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believing also thzt the local touch and the personal touch would be of infinite value it has been sought under this scheme to create local committees which could personally supefvise and assist the soldier. The local committees are not in substitution of the Government scheme but in addition tocit - I hope I have made that clear. We will as far as we are able accept the responsibility of repatriating the soldier but if citizens in their various groups like to come and extend supplementary assistancewe will welcome it.

As I said I have met with great disappoint regarding those committees. I have been under the impression hitherto even after 3 years of war that there was a strong desire throughout Australia on the part of citizens to be active. Some little time ago through the courtesy of the press I was able to issue an appeal to existing committes who were carrying on this work to at once communicate with the Department. I do not know what the result was in the other states but so far only three committees have replied in Victoria. We wanted to seehow far it might be necessary for them to alter their constitution or to take such other steps as would bring them into conformity qith tne rdquirements of the Act. I do not think the result is better elsewhere. I propose to get into touch with the committees again and I am going to ask the cooperations of the press to try and rouse them from the apatny which has apparently overtaken them.

If we can get half a dozen working vigorously they will serve as an example to the others, but unless we do that the soldiers in many instances will be prejudiced.

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It will be hard to find a friend on the spot when they need them. No official Department that I can contemplate can have an agent in every village throughout this country and unless the committees suplement our efforts there is bound to be a great deal of avoidable hardship and inconvenience to the soldier himself.

There is another matter which has exervised my mind very much. I does not apply so mch now as it will when peace is proclaimed. What I refer to is the conditions of the large body of men at home who after warlike operations have ceased will be detained in Great Britain seme of them very many months before it is possible to return to Australia. They will of course be on military payall the itime and I have no doubt will be given generous leave. I am endeavoring to find out if it is not possible to devise a scheme by which such of the 100,000 men who will be detained there as are willing to do so may be profitably trained or employed. Candda is working in that direction but Canada is much better situated than we are. It is possible ti get from Canada to England say in afew days, but herd it is very difficult for me and yourselves to know exactly in what diredtion to look not knowing the conditions of affairs which prevails in England today. In that regard I propose to send home if necessary a special officer to get in close touch with this problem. I think it is certainly desirable if anything can be done rather than have those men remaining for some months in England in comparatively idleness.

Complaints are frequently veing voiced as to the unsatisfactory condition in which returned soldiers

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find themselves and their dependents. I say at once that many of those complaints are justified. It is almost impossible that it could be otherwise, if you take into account the numbers of men and their dependents But it is alleged that the knowledge of these cases acts prejudicially towards recruiting. I recognise that but I would also say it has a very serious effect if these complaints are in any way magnified or are allowed to appear as more general than they really are.
I would not suggest that any effort should be made to suppress those complaints but may I ask the press to consider whether there is not some reponsibility to see how far these complaints rest on fact. In the Senate recently one of my colleagues Mr. McDougall brought up quite a number of cases and they were serious. They rather impressed me when I listened to them. I asked him to furnish me with particulars and he did so.
I have had them enquired into and I admit again that there were some cases where owing to slowness of machinery or some other reason there was distinct hardship but on the other hand in the majority of cases it is not so. I gave the particulars in the House last night and out of 14 cases 12 of them (women) were receiving now higher incomes weekly than they had obtained before their husbands went to the war and they had no husband to keep. In addition to that everyone of them had received a grant from some fund ranging from £10 to £108. There is a general tendency and we all share it to listen to complaints coming either from the soldier or his dependants. They apeal to our sympathy. I ask the press to bear in mind what I have ventured to say when they hear of these matters.

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MR. BRAHAM :- Those cases were telegraphed to Sydney by the same man and we put one of our best reporters on to investigate them and we came to the conclusion that there was no foundation in them. We published a statement tothat effect.

SENATOR MILLEN :- I would not suggest where there are genuine cases that nothing should be published but I do feel there is a tendency on the part of the emotional public to accept the face value of any statements of that kind which might be made, and that attitude I submit is a little unfair both to the private institutions and to the Department which is charged with reponsibility in this matter.

I have always said that the only thing about which I will be emphatic in regard to repatriation is that you cannot say today what you may be called upon to do tomorrow. The problem is too new. I am keeping an entirely open mind and I will appreciate any suggestion the various journals may make with regard to the scheme we have launched. All I ask for the scheme is that it shall be given a fair trial. I am sure in advance of the fact that your sympathies will be with it (Applause).

MR. ORCHARD (Minister for Recruiting). To address a gathering of this kind consisting of it does of those who hold our political lives in the hollows of our hands may be viewd with equanimity by my two colleagues but to one who is just entering the arena of administrative activity it is quite an ordeal and I feel sure you willbear with me in my brief statement. I claim to be more of a business man than a politician and I cannot express my views with the same ease which characterised my two predecessors.

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In taking on the work of galvanising the r cruiting movement into life my time so far has been spent more in conferences and in the House than in getting to grips with the system as it exists, but I have made inspections of the Sydney and Melbourne Depots and I find there is gre-at room for improvement.

For instance I do not think we have paid proper consideration to the man who has come forward to serve his country when he goes up in the initial stage. For a man to come out in front of an audience of possibly 20 to 30 men "in the altogether" is repulsive to his feelings. Later on when he becomes a soldier and becomes accustomed to weekly short-arm parades he views it as quite an ordinary matter of detail. I have given instructions for a big alteration in that regard. I have instructed that there should be privacy and comfort when a man comes up to be examined. Men in the past have said that the greatest ordeal they have to pass through was when they went up for examination. If you do not show every consideration for the men in the initial stages he later on becomes a critic. It is the same when a man comes back. In my opinion you have to take him from the time he enters the hospital. If you look well after him there you rob him of a lot of criticism which is afterwards harmful to recruiting. We know that there is not much knew in the way ofgetting a revival of the people's interests but the Government have given me certain financial freedom which was denied to my predecessor Mr Mackinnon and I intend to exercise it. In the various capit we have lost the military atmosphere. The public have become apathetic to a very great extent, and with regard to the lads coming back there is a want of that military enthusiasm which is absolutely essential to the success of recruiting. We intend to hold public receptions for

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those boys. Might I ask that the Press will give full publicity as they have been doing recently to the lads coming back. They are entitled to it and their friends and relatives like it. It is an incentive to other men proving to them that the people are appreciative of what they have done.

THE CHAIRMAN :- We urged it three years ago and we were turned down by the Defence Department.

MR. ORCHARD :- I am pleased to see that this meets with your approval We intend also to give the boys send offs. There have been obstacles put in the way and arguments made against this. It has been said that it should not be done because we might let the enemy know that the persons are going away. Surely ~~they~~ if they do that kind of thing in New York we can do it here. The authorities intend to assist me in the matter of giving suitable sendoffs to the boys.

In New South Wales where we are working on a more elaborate system than here we are sending out platoons. Two hundred men are starting from Armadale on the 2nd May. They will be really under field conditions and will be accompanied by a band and a large tent in which we can give addresses and show war films. We have a search light and we will throw that all round the countryside and wake them up. We are taking uniforms with us and we are going to put men into khaki on the spot if they so desire, so that he can go amongst his friends as an example

The Government of NewSouth Wales has also very kindly consented to the proposal that an aeroplane should accompany the platoon. It will be a mind of advanced agent in the district the platoon are marching through and it will drop bombs and pamphlets of a harmless

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nature on the town. I do not think General Legge iw quite sure about this matter but I feel sire thathe will join in and follow the example of the New South Wales Government. I say that you have to wake the country up and you have to do it by spectacular effect. I believe these marches are goig to have an excellent effect. It is my intention to try and purloin the gun of the Emden to go with this platoon in New South Wales as an extra means of attracting the attention of people in country districts.

I have also been given the assistance of the big Philharmonic Societys. They have joined in the recruiting efforts in the night time. I do not think we have brought the human element into it to the extent that we might. Very often by playing on a man's emotions you will get him to do a thing which in cold blood he would not dream of doing. In New South Wales we are erecting an enlisting depot right at the corner of Elizabeth Street and Liberal Street. We are going to have the usual electric sign and a festoon of lights and there will be a lot of chance trade done there. A man will probably make up his mind to go to Victoria Barracks and enlist. Before he gets there he will change hismind. He has had a difficulty possibly in finding the place. You have an excellent position here the Town Hall, which has been lacking in Sydney. Sydney has had excellent figures but we believe we can improve those figures by the methods we suggest. In Sydney we have been 20 odd miles away from the city. We are going to alter that. We are going to bring it right into the town. I have suggested to the Military Authorities that

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we should have camp in the Domain. There are thousands of people who go to the Domain and we believe the militaryxcamp there will have an excellent effect. We have guards at the various camps. I do not see why those men every day should not change guard the same as they do at Westminister. I do not say that we are going to solve the recruiting problem by these methods but I believe we can very materually add to our present figures. We cannot allow it to die out. The people have become war weary and we have to revive their spirit. The Government for some reason have put thid work on me and I am going to try and justify their selection and the press can assist me very materially. I have been enquriring in N.S.W. into the causes which have been operating against recruiting and I have asked them to give suggestions as to how the press can assist us. By way of illustration might I point this out, that I had a meeting of agents from the country districts and the metropolitan areas and I told them the lines along which I wanted them to work. That they would have to cut out such terms as "Coward, Shirker, and Skunk." I told them the time had come when we had to use more molasses than vinegar to get the men. I heard one of our recruiting men speaking and he said "In Egypt there are 15 distinct diseases - Let me tell you what they are." After enumerating them he said "Who is going to join the Forces."

I have asked for some suggestions from the men who have been actively engaged in this work longer than I have as to how you can best assist us. These are suggestions of a friendly nature and I hope you do not think that I am endeavoring to dictate the policy of your paper but realising that this matter is

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the most important matter in Australia today, I hope you will take the suggestions in the spirit in which they are offered.

The first is that the Press in many cases have duscouraged voluntary recruiting by insisting on its inevitable failure. They discouraged it by direct statements to that effect, by emphasising the failure of attempts to attain results. Take the great effort of the recruiting ~~xxxx~~ train. The small results did not want to be emphasised. We had a march past in Sydney recently and a parade and it was a fine one. and the papers gave us plenty of space, but unfortunately they finished up by saying that the total result was two recruits. Might I suggest that in cases like that it wouldbe advisable to leave the results out.

THE CHAIRMAN :- Do it would not.

MR. ORCHARD :- You may not always get immediate results but you generally find increased numbers enlisting a few days after and possibly a few weeks after. The men engaged in this ~~xxxxxxx~~ recruiting movement have a very uphill work and they approached me on this subject before I left. And they considered that it was hard that the press should say that they only got two recruits as a result of that effort.

Take the effort that was made out in the Agricultural Grounds Sydney during Easter Week. We got one recruit actually on Good Friday out there, but a few days after men who were not prepared to come out on the platform in front of thousands of people did go out to the Barracks and enlist there. That was due largely to the atmosphere we had created during Easter Week at the show grounds.

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DR. WARD :- Do you not think it was a very impressive thing to not merely Sydney but to all Australia to be told that in 3 consecutive days at that greatest of all agricultural shows where there were 285,000 people present and there was a vigorous recruiting agency at work during the three days, you only got two recruits. I think that fact has roused Australia.

MR. ORCHARD :- I quite admit that was a desirable example of the apathy of the people but it is open to argument as to whether it is desirable to emphasise that fact.

DR. WARD :- Do you not think you stirred up the minds of the people all over the Commonwealth. and The fact/the shame of it are as familiar in other States as in New South Wales. Surely that is to your advantage. What we want is to get the whole of those communities to feel that we are not doing our duty just now and to get a specific instance like that - extremely vivid in its circumstances - must surely tend to waken them up. You will get the men if we can waken them up but you will not unless you do.

MR. ORCHARD :- Following on that same line of argument the men engaged on this work say that you do minimise their efforts by using ~~exprmxat~~ depressing headlines such as "Another bad week's enlistments." They say that also has its bad effect.

DR. WARD :- There is one thing I would like to mention and that is the continual publication of the young Australians who have been killed.

THE CHAIRMAN :- That helps .

DR. WARD :- It rather tends I think to put in the minds of the public and women especially the idea of death and to make an impression that is out of all proportion to the actual fact of death.

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MR. SCHULER :- I rise to a point of order. We are not discussing this matter now. We are listening to Mr. Orchard.

MR. ORCHARD :- Publicity is everything in the recruiting movement. I am reminded of the wonderful success of the War Loan. Why was it a success? Because there were experts included in the Publicity Department. They had the best brains concentrated on thateffort. I believe you have amongst you men who will compare favorably with the journalists of the world as far as publicity matters are concerned and you can give me assistance by a publicity board to boom recruiting in every respect. I believe that if we cannot solve the problem the Chief Justice has put to us of getting 30,000 men straight away and also a montly supply of 4,500 men we can show a very marked improvement on the figures we are showing at present.

I would like to refer now to the insurance scheme. The men who have been enlisting in N.S.W. lately have all been insured for £200. Men enlisting afterwards will say "The men who enlisted in the month of April were insured for £200." and that is going to make it difficult later on. If the monied people of Australia will fall in behind us and contribute this money so that we can insure those men it is going to make recruiting easier.

MR. SOWDEN :- We are doing it for all men in South Australia, those who have gone and those who are going.

MR. ORCHARD :- I am very pleased to learn that. America started off by insuringher men from the beginning.

SENATOR MILLEN :- She gave the men less pay and devoted the difference to an Insurance Fund.

MR. ORCHARD :- Of course Australia had the advantage of the experience of other nations when she came in . W could not make this reprospective now. It would involve an enormous amount of money. I belidve it was suggested by the prime Minister that there should be a Board of publicity in the various States to assist the Recruiting movement . I sincerely hope that one of the results of this conference will be that you will devolop the idea of the formation of these boards throughout the States. That will assist verymaxxx materially.

Referring to meetings unless you have tactful men and discreet men I am inclined to think that they do more harm than good. We are endeavoring to exdrcise some insp ection over the men we place on the platform now and I believe it will have good results. I believe the Commonwealth dan do better with regard to married men and the separation allowance and the allowance for children. With regard to deferred pay 12 months after a man enlists we are giving 4½% on his deferred pay. OneOof the big complaints of returned men has been the delay in forwading effective statements from the other side. The Government are inquiring into that and I believe we will wipe the complaint our shortly.

The problem is toget more men and as far as I am personally concerned I am not going to remain in Melbourne in the house listening to or endeavring to make speeches. It is my intention to get right round the States and to find out the weak spots in the administation of the organisation and as far as it lies in myppwer I am going to try to improve it. I confidently ask for your cordian co-operation in the very difficult task which has been allotted to me (Applause).

MR? KNIGHT :- I would like to ask Mr. Orchard does the Government propose to send these

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bands, guards, and so on to the Race Course to touch the eligibles there or does it propose to leave the race courses alone as it has done inthe past. You will find more eligibles there than anywhere else in Queensland.

MR. ORCHARD :- As you no doubt know we have issued a War Regulation which will enable us to go into picture shows and theatres and I think the suggestion about the race courses is an excellent one as it opens up a wider field. Why should they be exempted. If it comes within my sphere without reference to the Cabinet the suggestions shall be carried out. If it does not come within my sphere I shall certainly do my best to induce the Cabinet to have it carried out.

THE CHAIRMAN :- I am sure that I am speaking for you all when I say that we are highly indebted to Senator Millen and Mr. Orchard for the addresses they have given us this morning. For my part I will certainly give the utmost attention to what has been said and I am sure all of you will.

GENERAL LEGGE :- I would like to make a few remarks on the subject of general service enlistments which is very much misunderstood. I do not think Mr. Orchard agrees with me on the subject and I want to tell him what the reason for it was. I put it up to the Minister and got the Minister to approve of it and the reason was that we were getting few recruits and the majority of theserecruits wanted to be in the A.I.F. without any risk of being killed.

MR? ORCHARD :- I would not say that.

GENERAL LEGGE :- I say the majority of them. I know the numbers of those who wanted to get into the jobs where the risk of killing is no more that the average

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citizen of London runs. That is to say there is a chance of bombs in the ~~front~~ back area but they do not want to get into the front area. We want to keep the A.I.F. going and we can get four men for everything else but Infantry to one who was willing to go into the Infantry. That is not a fair thing. Is it fair that these men should have the credit of being patriotic and going to serve if they will not take the Infantry.

MR. ORCHARD: Is it not a fact that in every case on the other side where the men in the Artillery and Light Horse have been asked to volunteer for the Infantry they have done so..Did it not occur in Egypt where 80% of the Light Horse volunteered for the Infantry.

GENERAL LEGGE: They did then certainly but that was a long time back. It is a ~~fx~~ different story now.

THE CHAIRMAN: How does this concern us.

GENERAL LEGGE: It is on recruiting. I want to get in one more point namely, that we want equality for everybody. In this recruiting business men have been allowed to express a preference for a particular arm of the service they would like to join but they are told or should be told that they enlist for general service. That has been in force for a long time. I succeeded in having an order issued that all men should be made up in general service reinforcement groups of one hundred and fifty, that they should then go to Europe and be allotted to whatever arm needs them taking into account their preference if it is possible to do so. My reason for that was

that here in Australia men were getting into special Arms such as the Flying Corps, Artillery, Engineers and so on and they were going it by influence. That is what I am up against. After all the officers who do the allotments in our camps are only human and they have not had great experience and they have been pulled this way and that way by influence. I said that I would get rid of that and that they would all go on the same footing to Europe and the G.C.O. of the A.I.F. and his officers could do the allotting when they got there and thus do away with this influence.

MR. ORCHARD: There are men in Australia today who are prepared to go into the Light Horse and Artillery and they will not go into the Infantry. Why should we turn those men down. I am not a military man but I should say that as a result of this western offensive we will want men for every Arm of the service.

MR. KNIGHT: I propose that the best thanks of this Conference be tendered to General Legge, Colonel McColl, Captain Thring, and the Censors Staff under their control for the manner in which they have met Delegates and the information imparted by them, also the Conference accords its appreciation of Mr. White the Secretary of the Conference for his untiring efforts to promote the success of the gathering, I would like to add that the Secretary be asked to officially write to Mr. H.D. McIntosh the Managing Director of the Sunday Times, Sydney, conveying to that gentleman the thanks of the delegates for his generous treatment

of them during their stay in Melbourne.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

MR. BRAHAM: I think we ought to express our appreciation of the clerks who did this mass of typing for us and I would like to say it has been very well done.

The resolution was ~~xxx~~ carried unanimously.

DR. WARD: I propose a vote of thanks to our Chairman Dr. Cunninghan for the very admirable service he has rendered to us in the chair. It has not been the "Argus" sitting in the chair it has been one of the most experienced members of our profession.

MR. SCHULER seconded the motion.

MR. MACDONALD supported the motion which was carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN returned thanks and then declared the proceedings closed.

C.28.

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