

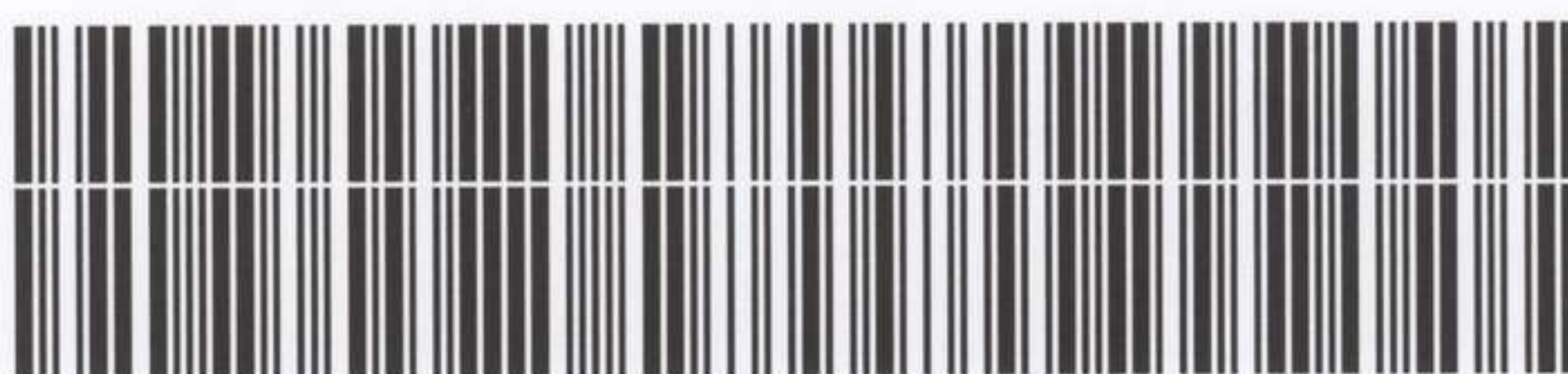
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Repatriation & Demobilisation

Item number: 30/1/8 Part 7

Title: Repatriation and Demobilisation, AIF

May 1919



AWM4-30/1/8PART7

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

Branch 3A.

FOR

May 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

(SA) C. E. Burke
Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

(SA) C. C. Reddy
Lt Colonel

WAR DIARY.

80

Month ending 31st. May 1919.

Branch 3.D.

Section 3.D.2.

EMBARKATION
QUOTAS.

During May 784 Officers and 15132 O.R's arrived from France for Depots in U.K. en route to Australia, making since January a total of 2396 Officers and 52917 O.Rs (being Quotas 1 to 57 inclusive)

Table "B" attached shows the position of the various quotas as on ^{31st}~~5th~~ May 1919.

59 Off. 1069 O.Rs being en route to Depots in U.K., on that date.

EARLY REPA-
TRIATION.

132 Other Ranks were notified for early repatriation during April. Table "C" attached gives details of numbers and units concerned.

EDUCATION
BRANCH.

During the month copies of correspondence passing between the Director of Education and the Assistant Military Secretary were dealt with in the usual way.

E. C. Danvers
Capt.

Section 3.D.2.

31st. May 1919.

QUOTA MOVEMENTS AS ON 31st. MAY 1919.

BRANCH 3.D.2
SECTION 3.D.2for WAR DIARY
Month ending 31/5/191

Numbered ordered.	Units concerned.	At Divisi- onal Camps.		En route		Arrival in U.K.	
		Off.	O.R's	Off.	OR.	Off.	O.Rs

Total at 30th. April last Quotas 1-40. incl.

41 to)
57 incl)

1612 37785

784 15132

58	1st. & 4th. Divs.	41	838		
59	Mixed Units	18	231		
		59	1069	2396	52917

31st. May 1919.

E. O. Francisco
Capt.
3.D.2.

STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF OTHER RANKS ORDERED FOR EARLY REPATRIATION TABLE "C"
 FROM FRANCE FOR MONTH ENDING 31/5/1919.

Branch 3.D.
Section 3.D.2.

For War Dairy month
 Ending 31/5/19.

	Corps Group.	1st. Div.	2nd. Div.	3rd. Div.	4th. Div.	5th. Div.	3rd. Echelon.	TOTAL.	REMARKS.
Month of May		18	28	10	33	12	31	132	
Previousn Totals	274	307	354	238	313	230	178	1894	
Progressive Total.....	274	325	382	248	346	242	209	2026	
Total University students.....	31	15	17	21	11	13	13	121	

1st. June 1919.

W. D. Danisco
 3.D.2.

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MINUTES OF CONFERENCE HELD ON 21.5.19.

Present: Director-General, D/Director-General, D.M.S., A.I.F.
 Director S.D. Brig.-General McGlinn, Cdr. Parker,
 Col: Whitham.

1. Commander Parker produced a statement showing the certain and probable transport sailings during May, June and July (Annexure A).
2. Director-General pointed out that it would be difficult to fill all the accommodation allowed on the present strength returns.
3. General McGlinn stated that all Quotas up to No. 31. (inclusive) were allotted to named transports.
 On the question of providing more personnel to fill accommodation, stated that by end of June he could find 200 from Staffs of Depots.
4. Colonel Whitham stated that, not counting quotas, France could provide only a few hundred during the early part of June. Did not think he could find 1,000.
 The strength of the Havre staff is 1766. It was stated that, after Quota 59 sailed there would still be 35,000 A.I.F. in Europe. Director-General doubted the accuracy of this estimate.
5. Director-General directed General McGlinn to commence at once the reduction of Staffs in Depots U.K. Also directed Col: Whitham to take similar steps regarding France. About 5000 - 6000 must be produced immediately after Quota 59 embarks from Havre.
6. D.M.S. stated that there were 397 sick in England, many of whom would be fit to leave by transport, early in June.
7. Director-General asked how many Australians in British Army desiring repatriation could be produced. Could Winchester Depot provide 5,000?
 D.B.G. to enquire into this.
8. Director-General informed Commander Parker that endeavours would be made to fill all ships up to end of June by due date (Annex. A, up to para f inclusive).
9. Director-General asked how many of A.I.F. now in France (excepting Quotas) could be released by end of June Col: Whitham said he thought all except Graves Detachment.
10. Col: Whitham stated that there were 750 A.I.F. prisoners in France.
11. Director-General diverting to matter of finding men to fill transports, said position now the reverse of what it had been during February - April, when the difficulty had been to find shipping for the men; it is now likely to become difficult to find men for the shipping.
12. D.M.S. asked for details regarding Medical personnel to provide attendance for personnel on S.M.S.

Director-General said that all but say 1000 on N.M.E. should be cleared by end of this year.

13. Director-General instructed D.D.G. to approach W.O. with a request that a pool of 5000 Australians in British Army be formed at Winchester.

(Note: This was done on 22.5.19 but W.O. do not seem to have anything like 5000 of this category serving or demobilised).

14. Director-General raised the question of the closing of Weymouth Depot.

D.M.S. and General McGlinn each to make a further report on this point.

15. Director-General raised the question of providing further Family Ship accommodation, and later, instructed D.D.G. to issue orders to S.D. that any suitable ships on the lists for June and July were to be conditioned as Family Ships, where this could be done without dislocation and delay to the programme as a whole.

C.H. Foon

Brig.-General.
D/Director-General.

23.5.19.

Repatriation & Demobilisation Dept, A. I. F.

Distribution:

- D.G. 1.
- D.D.G. 1.
- 1.D. 1.
- 2.D. 1.
- 3.D. 1.
- H.Q., A.I.F. (B.G i/c Admin:) 1.
- D.M.S. A.I.F. 1.
- H.Q., A.I.F. Depots in U.K. 1.
- Liaison to Min: for Defence 1.
- Commander Parker 1.
- Col: Whitham 1.
- War Diary 3. ✓

DEMobilISATION PROGRAMME, MAY-JUNE 1919.

a. Vessels of April programme sailed in May:-

China	1,117	
Leicestershire	1,029	
Devanha	1,226	
Orontea	1,277	
Soudan	<u>1,433</u>	6,087

b. Vessels of May programme sailed or sailing in May:-

Kaiser-i-Hind	1,516	
Karoola	559	
Zealandia	1,059	
Wahaha	457	
Borda	1,820	
Port Napier	1,538	
Ypiranga	1,136	
Durham	821	
Hector	2,071	
Bremen	654	
Rio Paro	755	
Rio Negro	755	
Aeneas	1,225	
Beltana	<u>1,566</u>	15,952

c. Vessels of May programme still in doubt:-

Port Darwin	1,090	<u>1,090</u>
Probable May total	-	<u>23,129</u>

d. Vessels shown in estimate of 7th May as probably sailing in May, but actually sailing in June:-

Somali	early	1,456	
Madras	"	1,313	
Themistocles	"	1,433	
Miltiades	"	<u>1,338</u>	5,540

e. Vessels of May programme sailing in June:-

Konig Friedrich			
August.	early	397	
Konigin Luise	"	1,602	
Windhuk	"	530	
Bwakopsund	"	1,067	
Ormonde	mid	1,626	
Prinz Ludwig	"	790	
Frankfurt	"	1,213	
Prinz Hubertus	"	841	
Friedrichruh	"	1,340	
Norman	end	950	
Oxfordshire	"	<u>1,300</u>	12,166

f. Vessels scheduled for June and expected to sail in June:

Mahia	early June	1,310	
Port Lyttleton	"	990	
Main	mid June	1,600	
Chechnitz	"	1,540	
Macedonia	"	1,795	
Persia	end June	1,420	
Cyita	mid June	1,500	
Malta	"	1,300	
Wiltshire	end June	1,750	
Burma	mid June	1,380	
Takada	end June	1,450	
Karmala	mid June	<u>1,610</u>	17,655

g. Vessels scheduled for June but doubtful as to sailing in June.

Boorara	end June	900	
Port Hacking	"	880	
Mazara	"	1,020	
Somerset	"	976	
City of Exeter	"	1,050	
Norvada	"	1,150	
Cawdor Castle	"	<u>1,000</u>	<u>6,976</u>
Possible June total		-	<u>42,537</u>

h. Vessels scheduled for June and sailing in July:

Port Melbourne	1st week	1,250	
Argyllshire	"	1,800	
Margha		1,000	
Delta		1,320	
Shepstone Castle		1,000	
Berwick Castle		<u>1,000</u>	7,370

21st May 1919.

Probable July Sailings.

Regular Australian Liners.

Others.

Pert Melbourne	1,250	Margha	1,000
Argyllshire	1,800	Delta	1,380
Demosthenes	1,200	Chopstow Castle	1,000
Kanowna	1,100	Berwick Castle	1,000
Ulysses	1,780	Lancashire	1,300
Ceramis	2,250	Derbyshire	1,000
Bakara	600	City of York	1,050
Baranbah	750	Kasair	1,643
Aescanius	1,470		<hr/>
Anchises	1,470		9,341
	<hr/>		
	13,590		
	<hr/>		
	9,341		
	<hr/>		
	22,931		

4th June 1919.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLOSING OF HAVRE DEPOTS,
AND TRANSFER TO ENGLAND OF A.I.F. PERSONNEL IN FRANCE,
ON AND AFTER 10th June, 1919.

1. The Australian Base Depots, Havre, will cease to receive incoming personnel on and from 10th June 1919, and the Commandant will proceed forthwith to transfer all quotas, drafts and Depot Staff to the A.I.F. Depots, U.K. for repatriation.
2. To achieve this object, all stores, records and equipment will be disposed of at once. This should be completed and the Depot closed by 24th June 1919.
3. For the purpose of receiving and transferring to U.K. all personnel marching in to Havre on and after 10th June, Major Fussell will form an "Australian Staging Camp" at the site of the present Depots.
4. The staff of this Camp will consist of Major Fussell, as O.C., and an Adjutant, an Assistant Adjutant, a Quartermaster, a Medical Officer, 10 N.C.Os and 35 Other Ranks, to be selected by Major Fussell from personnel at present at Australian Base Depots, the Commandant of which will give Major Fussell every assistance in this direction.
5. The "Australian Staging Camp" will be a formation independent of the Australian Base Depots, and a separate Command under the Repatriation and Demobilisation Department. It will not take over any Records of the Australian Base Depots, and its own Records will be reduced to a minimum, consisting mainly of a record of its marchings in and marchings out.
6. The Australian Section, 3rd Echelon, will despatch Australian personnel in France as it becomes available on and after 10th inst, to the Australian Staging Camp, and the Australian Staging Camp will in its turn make the earliest possible arrangements with the R.S.O. Havre, for the speedy shipment of such personnel to Southampton en route to A.I.F. Depots, U.K.
7. The procedure for cleansing, return of equipment, medical inspection, and all other routine procedure formerly carried out by the Australian Base Depots, will be reduced to a minimum, and where possible, dispensed with in the Australian Staging Camp, the main function of which is to transfer personnel ~~received by him~~ to England at the earliest possible moment.
8. Each draft despatched from the Australian Staging Camp will be numbered consecutively, commencing with X1 and immediately prior to its despatch O.C. Australian Staging Camp will wire "Salaustra, Tidworth", "Embarkment, Southampton" "Australian Liaison, G.H.C., Wimereux", "Demobment, London", "Australian Section, 3rd Echelon", as follows:-

"Draft...consisting of.....Officers
".....Other Ranks embark Havre for
"despatch Salaustra athours today".

9. The existing system regarding Nominal Rolls will be continued.

10. On and after 10th inst, AIF Depots, U.K. will keep Australian Staging Camp and B.S.O., Southampton, posted with instructions as to the destination of prospective drafts.

11. When the total strength of Australian Base Depots has decreased to about 200 of all ranks, and the Depot can be closed, the personnel will be marched in to the Australian Staging Camp for transfer to A.I.F. Depots, U.K., and will come under the Command of the O.C. Staging Camp. The Australian Base Depots will then cease to function.

12. The O.C., Australian Staging Camp will make all local arrangements for giving effect to the object to be attained by him, which is to receive personnel remaining in France on and after 10th June, and transfer same to A.I.F. Depots, U.K., as simply and swiftly as can be done.

C. A. Frost *Blo*

Lieut.-General.
Director-General of Repatriation and
Demobilisation, A.I.F.

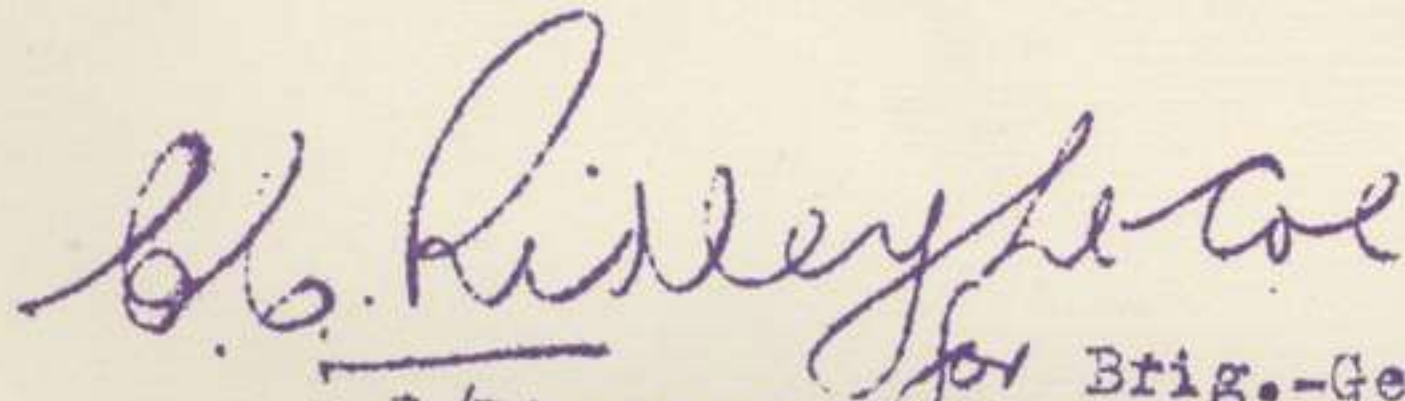
Copies to:-

- D.G.
- D.D.G.
- H.Q., A.I.F. (B.G. Admin) (2)
- G.O.C., A.I.F. Depots in U.K.
- A.I.F. Liaison, G.H.Q. Wimersoux.
- Commandant, Australian Base Depots, Havre.
- Major Fussell, Australian Base Depots, Havre.
- D.M.S., A.I.F.
- B.S.O., A.I.F. Havre.
- B.S.O., A.I.F. Southampton.
- ✓ War Diary (3)

CIRCULAR MEMO NO. 23.AUSTRALIAN MATERIAL FORCE.DEPARTMENT OF REPATRIATION AND DEMOBILISATION.14th. May, 1919.

Numerous requests have been received at the A.I.F. Kit Store, Hammersmith, London, from Officers about to embark for Australia for their baggage to be delivered to the port of embarkation or forwarded to be placed on board transports.

All Officers are to be informed that it is impossible to give effect to such requests, and that Kit and Baggage stored at the A.I.F. Kit Store must be collected by them or arrangements made personally for its disposal before they return from leave prior to embarkation.



for Brig.-General,
D/Director General,
Dept. of Repatriation & Demobilisation, A.I.F.

Distribution:-

"B" Aust. Group	10	copies
3rd. Echelon (Aust. Section)	10	"
Demob. Liaison G.H.Q.	2	"
Aust. Base Depots Havre	20	"
H.Q., A.I.F.	3	"
D.M.S., A.I.F.	1	copy
H.Q., A.I.F. Depots in U.K.	30	copies
Director-General	1	copy
D/Director General	1	"
Branch 1.D.	3	copies
" 2.D.	3	"
" 3.D.	3	"
" 4.D.	3	"
" 5.D.	3	"
War Diary	3	"

war diary

91,2

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF REPATRIATION AND DEMOBILISATION.

ALL UNITS IN A.I.F.

The following will be promulgated to all ranks;

- (a) Notes of a recent Lecture by Mjr. M. B. Ryan, Australian Repatriation Officer.
- (b) Copy of letter written to the Press by Secretary to High Commissioner for Australia.

Sturmond

Lieut.-General,
Director-General,
Dept. of Repatriation and Demobilisation.

HOUSES FOR A SHILLING PER ANNUM.

WHAT AUSTRALIA IS DOING FOR HER RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Australia shows practical appreciation of her soldiers and sailors services by a scheme of generous repatriation benefits which are designed to specially care for all those who are disabled by wounds or sickness, and to again qualify as wage earners those of her sons who have served their country.

The Australian Soldier's Repatriation Act is a sober and solid attempt to restore, as far as possible, the returned soldier to his pre-war status in business or profession, and in the case of the incapacitated man to provide him with an income whilst engaged in any instruction necessary to this end.

Blinded soldiers, as their plight requires, are to be specially cared for. Provision is made for them in various ways, but in addition to any other benefits they may receive under the Repatriation scheme, they will be provided with a home up to a value of £700 and with facilities for augmenting their income. The premises will be at the disposal of the beneficiary for as long a time as he may wish to occupy them at a "peppercorn" rental of 1/- per annum. Upon the death of a blinded soldier, the widow and other dependents will be treated in regard to sustenance and other benefits in the same way as a widow whose husband has died as a direct result of war wounds.

HELPING MEN TO HELP THEMSELVES.

Tools of trade, professional instruments and other articles of personal equipment up to the value of £10, by way of gift, and £50, by loan, are available for approved applicants who require them for the exercise of their trade.

A married soldier incapacitated to the extent of being unable to engage in his usual employment, or a soldier who prior to enlistment was dependent upon a business which he owned and conducted may be advanced a sum up to £150, and in special cases, up to £250, to purchase a business plant or stock to enable him to re-establish himself. Provision is made for widows in necessitous circumstances, with children, and totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers, for furniture, by gift, up to the value of £25, and by loan up to £35 are made to soldiers where it can be shown that such provision is necessary to their establishment in civil life. Alternative provision is also made for those who are no longer able to assist themselves, by the establishment of hostels where the inmates may spend their days in pleasant surroundings and be assured of skilled attention. Hostels have already been secured in Sydney and Melbourne and others are to be established in remaining capital cities.

For widows with children a living allowance on the following scale is provided:-

Widow with one child, inclusive of pension	-	51/-	per week.
" two children	"	54/6	"
" three "	"	58/-	"
" four "	"	61/6	"
" five or more	"	64/6	"

FOR THOSE DISABLED.

Soldiers and sailors whose disability renders them incapable of following their pre-war occupation will be educationally trained for some other trade or profession, which their disabilities will allow them to follow, and maintained by the Government. Until the returned soldier has been placed in civil employment he will, unless the fault is his own, be entitled to an allowance of £2.2.0. per week for single men, £2.12.6. for married men, and 3/6 weekly for each child, up to a total of £3.6.0. He will be paid this subsistence until he is again qualified and employed. Any pension which he may be in receipt of by reason of his disability is not now taken into consideration in the compilation of his Government allowance, which is based on the minimum wage of his new industry. To find suitable employment for returned men, all the States are considering large programmes of public works involving an expenditure of approximately £23,000,000.

A wide scope of opportunity is opened to stockmen and agriculturalists. It is anticipated some 20,000 soldiers will desire to settle on the land. A holding will be provided for each, and advances ranging up to £500 will be made for the purchase of machinery and stock. In addition the soldier and his family will be entitled to sustenance until his land becomes productive. The provision of land under this scheme, the construction of railways to open it up, and the advances for stock and machinery are calculated to involve an outlay of £40,000,000.

HOUSES FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Special facilities are provided for returned soldiers for securing substantial houses of their own. They will be required to repay the capital cost of the house, in instalments ranging over a period of up to 37 years in the case of a stone, brick, or concrete house, or up to 20 years in the case of a wooden building. These repayments will go into a sinking fund, on which interest will be allowed, and if a soldier pays into this sinking fund 1% per annum for 37 years he will find at the end of that period that he has completely paid off his debt. For a £600 house, a working man now has to pay anything from 18s. a week upwards as rent without any prospect of ever becoming the owner of his house. Nor can he, as a rule, hope to save enough to pay the deposit which is the first step towards securing a house of his own, even if he should discover a philanthropic vendor who would give him 37 years in which to complete the purchase.

Under the Government Repatriation Scheme a returned soldier may secure for £600 a house that would probably cost him £750 if purchased privately. He requires no capital and his weekly payment is 13s. 6d. which covers interest on capital and sinking fund. In 37 years the home is his own, or, if he is of a thrifty nature, he can clear his home of debt in a correspondingly shorter time, for he is always at liberty to make extra payments to the sinking fund, and the Commissioner will allow 5% interest on any such extra payments.

FOR WOMEN ALSO.

These advantages are extended to all members of the Australian Imperial Forces who are married or about to marry, to nurses as well as soldiers, to the widows of fallen men, and to widowed mothers of soldiers who have lost their lives.

One important provision is designed to prevent speculation. The difference between the rate charged to a soldier under this scheme

and the rate at which he could obtain the money from an ordinary banking institution, spreads over 37 years, represents a capitalised value of £150. If a soldier was free to transfer his home, with its obligations and advantages there would be many civilians eager to offer him £50 or £100 for the privilege of stepping into his shoes, and the offer of this money might be a sore temptation to a soldier. The War Service Homes Act provides, however, that for five years, no transfer can be effected except with the consent of the Commissioner. Nor is a soldier permitted to let a house obtained under this scheme unless he can satisfy the Commissioner that there are special circumstances to justify it. The scheme aids at providing soldiers with 'homes' and all its terms are conditioned by that word.

The Commonwealth Government assumes a liability of £50,000,000 in giving effect to this scheme.

(COPY.)

10th April, 1919.

Dear Sir,

A telegram from your Sydney Correspondent, which appeared in your issue of the 24th ultimo has been brought to my notice. Your presentation of it is headed "Land Profiteering" and "Australian Soldiers Poor Outlook" and it contains certain statements, chiefly with regard to the operation of the scheme for the Repatriation of Australian troops, which are incorrect and likely to mislead interested persons, and to cause disaffection or a feeling of unrest among Australian troops waiting to be returned to their own land.

The statements to which exception is taken are:-

- (a) That men with money are compelled to pay heavy prices for inferior land on which they are not likely to succeed.
- (b) That many have abandoned their holdings to swell the ranks of the unemployed.
- (c) That men without money are practically unable to obtain land of any sort.
- (d) That "The Government Policy" is to purchase land at fancy prices and re-sell at similar prices to soldiers.

These statements of such a sensational character are unsupported by the facts. All the information at the disposal of this office indicates that they are misleading and inaccurate.

Australia early foresaw and has displayed the utmost activity in tackling the large and difficult problem of repatriation. To cope with it the Government has created a large organisation which is now in full running order. Many thousands of returned soldiers have been satisfactorily settled and most comprehensive measures taken for classifying the troops, educating, training, and placing the incapacitated, supporting and pensioning them and their dependents, when necessary, and for acting similarly towards the younger men whose recent years have been passed in military instead of vocational exercises.

Of the 70,000 men already returned to Australia a large percentage has been successfully placed on the land in the several States, and provision for the necessary capital has been made up to a maximum of £500 in each case.

A review of repatriation for the nine months which ended with December of last year gave the following results:-

There were 33,546 registrations for employment; 26,557 positions found; 6,693 registrations for vocational training. The advances for gifts and sustenance amounted to £358,304; for loans £133,922; and for general assistance £11,781.

The above figures relate only to a part of the Repatriation effort in Australia. The value of the land allotted by the States or reserved for future allotment amounts to millions of pounds.

On the last advices, Victoria has spent £1,092,563 in the purchase of land for re-settlement.

The Queensland Settlement Committee had allotted 210,961 acres and had 416,415 immediately available. Of the men returned to this State by the end of 1918, 830 had been provided with living areas on the land and blocks for from 1700 to 1800 more were ready for settlement.

In New South Wales at the end of 1918, 1,016,243 acres of Crown land and 299,559 acres of resumed land had been made available. The cost was £1,562,253 of which £475,055 had been expended as follows:- Advances to soldiers £107,330; land acquisition for preparation, and purchase of implements £298,792; purchase of sheep £50,504, or cattle £18,429.

In South Australia 300 men had been placed on the land; 2,050 applications for homes in city areas and country towns had been dealt with; advances had been authorised for 975 soldiers or widows at an average of £549.9s.10d.-a total cost of homes already provided and immediately available being £655,758.

In Tasmania 380 applications had been received, of which 210 had been approved, and 200 men settled, mostly in dairying and orcharding.

There has been no relaxation of effort by the Federal and State Governments in respect of Repatriation, and the outlook of the Australian soldier for beneficial treatment on his return cannot be said to be either "Poor" or adversely affected by "Land profiteering." In fact, there is no class of soldier in the war for whose welfare more careful provision has been made.

Before the passage into Law of the Federal Repatriation Act, the Minister's estimate of the cost of the scheme was £32,000,000.

In the course of its operation so far, the figures show that 12 per cent of the number of men returned have gone on the land.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) E. A. BOX.



16
95
54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

5th May, 1919.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 22.

77. Reference General Instruction No. 2, Annexure " B " :—

The utmost care is to be exercised in the compilation of A.I.F. Forms 534, as they are the starting point of the Repatriation Department's task of establishing the soldiers in civil life in Australia.

It is necessary that the information on these forms should be the latest in the possession of the men, and that it should express their desires during the voyage out to Australia.

Officers commanding troops on troopships returning to Australia will be instructed to give every facility to homeward-bound troops :

- (a) If it is so desired, to alter the form already made out.
- (b) If necessary, to withdraw the original form and substitute a new one.
- (c) To have forms completed in respect of those men for whom no previous forms have been placed on board.

78. Arrangements have been made for instruction in Irrigation and Pig-farming, in the United States, of a limited number of members of the A.I.F. who desire to obtain experience in these industries, and regulations governing applications are promulgated herewith (Annexure " A ").

J. Hutchinson Lieut.-General,
Director-General, Dept. of Repatriation and Demobilisation,
A.I.F.

W.L.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 22.

ANNEXURE A.

Vide Para. 78.

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1. Arrangements have been made for the instruction in Irrigation and Pig-farming, of a limited number of members of the Australian Imperial Force who desire to obtain experience in these industries in the UNITED STATES.
 2. The training will be carried out at Agricultural Farm Schools, and will include :—
 - (a) Pig-farming on modern lines.
 - (b) Irrigation for Farm purposes.
 - (c) Agriculture in various branches.
 - (d) Experience with Irrigation Companies.
 3. The period of instruction will be for a period of either twelve or six months, at the option of the applicant. The following are the conditions :—
 - (a) Full military pay for the rank held by the student.
 - (b) Subsistence allowance at £10 per month.
 - (c) Fees (£3 per half year) will be paid by this Department in the case of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men. Officers will pay their own fees.
 - (d) Steamer fares to AMERICA and railway fares to the School Farm, together with any necessary railway fares during the training will be paid by this Department.
 - (e) Free issue of uniform and clothing will be made as follows :—

All Ranks: Two suits of Overalls.
Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men: One suit of Uniform.
 - (f) Students will be repatriated direct to AUSTRALIA on conclusion of the training.
 4. Students will be selected from those applicants who have already had experience on the land, and who intend to take up the work on return.
 5. Each applicant who does not own or occupy suitable land in AUSTRALIA must give an undertaking that he will take up farming pursuits, of the character for which he has been trained, on return to AUSTRALIA.
 6. Applications must be made on A.I.F. Form 540 (Special). This is merely the present Form 540, with the following endorsement on the back, to be signed by the applicant :—
 - (a) I hereby certify that I am the $\frac{\text{owner}}{\text{occupier}}$ of the following land in AUSTRALIA.....
.....
 - (b) Not being the owner or occupier of suitable land in AUSTRALIA, I hereby undertake that at the conclusion of the Course I will return to AUSTRALIA, and take up farming pursuits of the character for which I shall have been trained in AMERICA.
 - (c) I am prepared to place the knowledge and experience gained in AMERICA at the disposal of the Commonwealth or State Governments.
.....

Regtl. No.
Rank
Unit
Date
- Witness (must be an officer).....
Name
Rank
Unit
Date
- One of the above paragraphs (a) or (b) is to be struck out.
7. Applications must reach this Department by 31st May, 1919.



54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

14th May, 1919.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 23.

79. Regulations under which a limited number of members of the A.I.F. will be selected for instruction in Dairying and Agriculture in Denmark, are promulgated herewith (Annexure "A").

Johnston Lieut. General,
Director General Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation,
A.I.F.

W.L

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 23.

ANNEXURE A.

Vide Para. 79.

1. Arrangements are being made for a limited number of members of the Australian Imperial Force to proceed to DENMARK for a period of about four weeks for the purpose of obtaining information and instruction in dairying and agriculture.
2. The instruction will be given by the members selected visiting Agricultural Colleges and Farms, where the following subjects will be dealt with :—
 - (a) The Danish Dairying Industry.
 - (b) Danish Co-operative Egg Export.
 - (c) Breeding of Red Danish Dairy Cattle.
 - (d) Cultivation of Agricultural Seeds and Development of Improved Strains.
 - (e) Plant culture in DENMARK.
 - (f) High-class Agriculture.
 - (g) Co-operative Creameries.
 - (h) Afforestation and cultivation of lands.
 - (i) Bacon industry.
3. The following are the conditions :—
 - (a) Full military pay of rank of selected applicant.
 - (b) Living expenses to include accommodation at hotels, 2nd class rail fares, etc., will be paid by Department.
 - (c) Steamer fare to and from DENMARK will be paid by Department.
4. Selection will be made from those applicants who have already had experience in dairying and agriculture, and who intend to resume that occupation on return to AUSTRALIA (and who will give an undertaking to do so).
5. Applications must be made on A.I.F. Form 540 (Special). This is merely the present 540 with the following endorsement on back, to be signed by applicant :—
 - (a) I hereby certify that I have had experience in dairying in AUSTRALIA as follows :—
(FULL PARTICULARS TO BE SUPPLIED.)
 - (b) I hereby undertake that, at the conclusion of the Course, I will return to AUSTRALIA and take up dairying pursuits of the character in which I shall have received instruction in DENMARK.
 - (c) I am prepared to place the knowledge and experience gained in DENMARK at the disposal of the Commonwealth or State Governments.

.....
Regtl. No.....
Rank

Witness (must be an officer).....
Name

6. Applications must reach this Department by 10th June, 1919.



54, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

22nd May, 1919.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Department of Repatriation and Demobilisation.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 24.

80. Regulations governing the granting of additional leave to certain classes of personnel employed in the Administrative and Demobilisation Services of the A.I.F. who, by reason of the nature of their military employment, have been denied the privileges of early repatriation, extended leave, non-military employment, and the like, are promulgated herewith under Annexures "A" and "B."

Sturton Lieut.-General,
Director-General, Dept. of Repatriation and Demobilisation,
A.I.F.

W.L.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 24.

ANNEXURE A.

Vide Para. 80.

-
1. In order to provide a measure of compensation to certain classes of personnel who, by reason of the needs of the Administrative and Demobilisation Services of the A.I.F., have been denied the privileges of early repatriation, non-military employment, extended leave (other than disembarkation leave), and the like, it has been decided to grant to such personnel an additional period of disembarkation leave, over and above that to which they are entitled under existing regulations.
 2. This grant of additional leave will apply only to personnel remaining "at duty" in the A.I.F. after July 31st, 1919, but will not apply to any such personnel who
 - (a) have enlisted in the A.I.F. subsequent to December 31st, 1915;
 - (b) have returned to Australia since original enlistment;
 - (c) are members of the Permanent Military Forces of the Commonwealth;
 - (d) have been or are to be granted "leave for non-military employment" or "extended leave" prior to embarkation.
 3. The period of additional leave to be granted, as above, to qualified personnel, will be as follows:
 - (a) To all who remain "at duty" after July 31st, 1919: Fifteen days.
 - (b) To all who remain "at duty" after September 30th, 1919: A further fifteen days.
 4. The term "at duty" in this Regulation applies to all personnel legitimately employed in some definite capacity in connection either with the Administration or the Demobilisation of the A.I.F., but shall *not* apply to—
 - (a) duty on transports proceeding to Australia;
 - (b) personnel remaining abroad who are merely awaiting embarkation, and are not actually employed while so waiting.
 5. All additional leave granted by virtue of this Regulation includes subsistence allowance at the rate of 3s. per day.
 6. No member of the A.I.F. will become entitled to such additional leave except on production of a certificate, in the form of A.I.F. Form No. 663 (Annexure "B") signed by one of the following authorities, viz.,
 - General Officer Commanding, A.I.F.
 - Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, A.I.F.
 - Commandant, A.I.F. H.Q., London.
 - General Officer Commanding, A.I.F. Depôts in United Kingdom.
 - Assistant Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation, A.I.F., Egypt.
 7. The above-mentioned authorities, when issuing certificates authorising members of the A.I.F. to additional leave, will forward to this Department Nominal Rolls stating in full the particulars of the certificates issued by them.

ANNEXURE B.

Vide Paragraph 6, Annexure A.

CERTIFICATE

FOR

ADDITIONAL DISEMBARKATION LEAVE.

1. This is to certify that the bearer

Regt. No.

Rank

Name

Unit

is entitled, under General Instructions No. 24, to 'an additional period of.....days' disembarkation leave.

2. He enlisted in the A.I.F. on.....
3. He has not returned to Australia since that date.
4. He is not a member of the Permanent Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia.
5. He has not received leave for "non-military employment."
6. He has not received "extended leave" under General Instructions No. 4, paragraph 20.
7. He has been employed abroad on duty after....., and had not embarked for Australia on that date.

Signature

Appointment

Date

A. I. F. Education Service Journal

Vol. I.

MAY 15, 1919.

No. 5.

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No. 5.

Some Thoughts on Education in Australia.

By H. T.

Ultimately, one's views on Education are determined by one's views on life, and the nature of man, and the other riddles that we humans have been attempting to solve for some thousands of years. It is fatally easy, too, to be crushed at once between the Scylla of the "Classical" and the Charybdis of the "Modernist" protagonists, or to be piled on the rocks by listening to the siren call of those who ask "What is the practical use of this or that?" The Education Ulysses to-day will have just as many adventures to survive as his famous ancestor. But, without going through all the stages of the Odyssey, and without being called upon to plot one's course too minutely, it is permissible, perhaps, to indicate one or two stages in Australia's journey that seem to the writer to be capable of improvement. These suggestions must of necessity be general in form, and based on dogmatic generalisations. There will be a margin of exception to all these, but, it is believed, not more than a margin.

1. *First of all, then—elementary education.*—It is admitted that, as a matter of organisation, the State School Systems of Australia stand comparisons with the best in the world. But the following are quite visible defects:—

- (a) Classes are, as a rule, much too large. It is impossible for a teacher to get real personal touch with members of a class numbering much over thirty, and ultimately it is personal touch that matters far more than anything else. This is particularly so in the younger classes, which are often the most crowded;
- (b) A parallel defect is the status and pay of the teacher. Teaching is a profession calling for as much skill, as much insight, and as much training as any other of the professions. It is much more important than any of the others, for it touches *all* of us *all* the time over a space of many years. Happily, we see the Doctor, or the Dentist, or the Lawyer at rare intervals. We see the teacher all the time. His status and pay—and brains—should not be less than theirs;

- (c) There is a tendency to overcrowd the curriculum in the elementary schools, and the introduction of too early specialisation is partly responsible for this. Exceptions excepted, the only specialisation that should be permitted in State primary schools should be in the direction of domestic economy for girls—cooking, nursing, dressmaking. The time for specialisation should be later. What is wanted in primary schools is a good general grounding, with an increased emphasis on the truism that it is better to do one thing well than two superficially. In particular, the treatment of English Literature and History can be very considerably improved;

- (d) So far as there is any organised teaching of five- and six-year-old children, it is in the Infant Schools, which are generally part of our larger State Schools. These should be separated in management and dealt with quite differently from the other Primary Schools. They should be allowed to receive infants from three to six years old. The teachers should be experts, specially trained in Kindergarten work, and should be primarily observers rather than teachers. The child should be encouraged to develop his own individuality, and very lavish equipment somewhat on the lines of the apparatus developed by Madame Montessori should be provided. It is increasingly acknowledged that the foundations of a human being's life are laid during the first five years of that life.

2. *Secondary Schools.*

- (a) There should be a much greater development of technical schools—carpentry, fitting and turning, agriculture, and so on. Three or four years—from fourteen to eighteen—devoted to sound technical training would be invaluable to the nation. The latter half might well be combined with outside experience. The whole course would take the place of the apprenticeship, which has, unfortunately, become the exception rather than the rule in so many trades. The result would be an added interest to the tradesman in the *quality* of his work.
- (b) On the girls' side technical schools should teach dressmaking and designing, household management, the elements of nursing, shorthand and typing and so on.

(c) On the non-technical side there should be an intensive rather than an extensive treatment of subjects. Modern languages should be pushed at the expense of Ancient. The mental training is very little less. The practical result is very much more. And if there is to be a League of Nations there will be no bond so strong as mutual knowledge between nations, no tie so great as mutual sympathy, no cement comparable to mutual business. In addition, too, a plea is put in for a much more thorough treatment of Literature and of World History, treated as far as possible from original rather than derivative sources.

3. *University Education.*—The matters that suggest themselves here are:—

(a) A development of the hostel system. Living together and talking together are much more important than merely listening to a Lecture or taking notes together. That is not a matter of argument, but a matter of experience, against which a priori reasoning is powerless. Inseparable from a development of the hostel system would be a development of the tutorial system, which is the only real method of teaching.

(b) Many more facilities (including money) should be provided for original scientific research. The Universities must give a lead to the larger business houses and manufactories in this respect. There should be continuous and properly paid research in all branches of manufacture, of agriculture, of medicine, and so on. Australia must not be content for ever to borrow the results of the rest of the world, a long time after, and at a great price.

(c) Besides being the home of the few, the Universities must realise their functions as the servant and the guide of the many. Night classes, Extension Lectures, tutorial classes (on the Workers' Educational Association model) must be greatly increased. Man has a real appetite for mental just as great as his appetite for physical food. Bolshevism (which is simply anarchy) is the result of the neglect of *either* of those appetites. Adult education is one of the pressing problems of the future. The last few months' experiment in the A.I.F. has amply demonstrated that. To get 20,000 (out of 70,000) men in France to attend organised classes, in spite of continual movement, onerous duties, the reaction from war and other great difficulties, is more than an achievement. It is an astounding revelation for those who have eyes to see. To obtain the full fruits of a real democracy in Australia this demand for adult education will have to be recognised—and met.

4. *Experiments.*—Although the excellence of the Australian educational organisation has been frankly admitted, there is a curious absence of originality. There is (so far as the writer knows) no frankly experimental school in the sphere of education in Australia. All the principles in force are borrowed from the educational organisations of other countries. There have been no writers in Australia like Jung, or

Freud, Montessori, or Homer Lane. There have been no schools like the Perse School. There is much more latitude in methods of teaching, much more room for experiment in a dozen schools in and near London than in all Australia. There is certainly nothing in Australia comparable to "The Little Commonwealth," whether that be regarded as designed for criminal children only or—more truly—as an experiment in child psychology generally. There ought to be room for all these and more in our great, enlightened Commonwealth. Ultimately, it is a matter of money—and of imagination. The interest on the war debt alone would give Australia money and to spare for all the educational experiments necessary—as well as an efficient education system. Imagination is a more intangible and perhaps a rarer possession—particularly in legislators. For that reason the imagination will probably have to be supplied by the few Directors and similar highly placed individuals in each Service. The legislator can never hope to do more than select the one or two administrative heads—and vote the money. Probably the most important administrative post in the State is just that of Director of Education. He must have far more than administrative ability, although that is necessary. He must have far more than teaching experience—often having gone through the whole educational mill will be the worst rather than the best recommendation. The ideal Director must, above all, have vision, and the faculty of choosing the right men to give material form to his vision.

* * *

The above remarks have been written somewhat at random and no attempt has been made to sketch a perfect educational system. There are two reasons for that—no perfect system is possible, and in any case one must start on present facts, mould a little here, stretch a little there; but that is all. Most children learn in spite of their teaching. The true principle is freedom for self-expression together with the provision of the necessary material from which the child can choose. The sub-conscious mind of the child is so very much an unknown country that only the more fortunate of us can ever do more than see a little into its obscurity. There is a whole world of knowledge just being opened up about all this, and the indications are that we shall pay greater and greater importance to it. But on a consideration of the Australian *system* of education as distinct from the principles that underlie education generally, I am convinced that in the immediate future the Universities have a great part to play if they will take it. They must tackle the problem of adult education by providing the facilities. They must go down to the masses and raise themselves above the reproach—however unjust—of being the preserve of the few. If they do not undertake the task it will be forced on the Governments and will then be dealt with probably on a much too utilitarian basis by those who themselves have neither the time nor the ability to carry the Lamp of Knowledge without desecrating it. And in some respects that would be worse than no advance at all.

Lessons Learned on English Farms.

Lieut. J. M. Routson, 6th Batt., reports on experience gained by him while on non-military employment in Monmouthshire, for the purpose of studying "High-Class Stock-Breeding," also the methods adopted in "Raising Stock," "Treatment of Soil," and "Agriculture in General":—

Treatment of Soil.—One of the first things that appealed to me greatly was the scientific treatment of the soil adopted by the farmer of this locality, and the amount of care he employs in dealing with his land.

That he makes a close study of it is true, and the productiveness of the soil is largely due to the treatment meted out to it by the farmer himself.

Here we find men on comparatively small holdings in a sound financial position, and the number and quality of stock of all kinds goes to show what can be done on land where proper and scientific treatment is applied.

Chain Harrowing.—This is comparatively new to Australians, and only in very isolated cases is this method of treating grass-land applied in Australia.

Chain harrowing is carried out in early spring. The implement itself consists of a steel sheet or plate in front, with hook chains dragging behind. The steel plate in front levels the surface of the ground, distributing deposits of manure, mole-hills, etc., and filling up any and all marks and small holes made by stock during winter months. The hooks of the chains scratch the surface of the earth, allowing the air and sun to get at the roots of the plant.

The effect from this treatment is surprising, and one notices almost immediately a change in the growth of the grass.

This method of chain harrowing, in my opinion, could be successfully adopted by the farmers of Australia.

Slagging.—Slagging the ground is also very largely carried out. It is a dressing of slag given to the grass-land. Slag is obtained from the iron and steel works, and is, I understand, the refuse from the furnaces. Up till some twenty years ago its value as a fertiliser on grass-land was generally unknown, and it remained heaped up at the works in great mounds. Now it is regarded absolutely as one of the best dressings that can be given to grass-land.

It is a very fine substance.

The dressing is given in the autumn, three or four cwt. per acre being used.

It is used also on grass-land that has become rank and inclined to sour. I noticed on meadows where slag had been used last autumn that the stock grazed very readily and were in splendid condition.

Selection of Stock.—"What you put down his throat is half the breeding" is an old saying, partly true and equally false. But here the English farmer does not do things by halves. Having first prepared and treated his ground, he exercises great care and judgment in selecting his stock. Monmouthshire and Hereford are noted for their Hereford cattle, and



BRIG.-GENL. G. M. LONG (Bishop of Bathurst).
Director of Education A.I.F. from the Inception of the
Service until April, 1919.

farmers generally take great pride in their herd, as an ill-bred beast eats more than a well-bred one, and a well-bred beast sells readily at all times. I attended a sale of cattle at Raglan, and noted that keen competition existed for pens of well-bred Herefords.

Cropping.—Cultivation is not carried out, of course, on such a large scale as in Australia, but the yield per acre is considerably higher, this being due largely to the manner and system employed in cultivating. Here they work greatly on the rotation system. Before fallowing the ground in early autumn, they generally treat it with a dressing of lime, 3 or 4 cwt. per acre. This is ploughed under. The winter crop of wheat is sown in November, no artificial manure being used; but in early spring the wheat receives a top dressing of sulphate of ammonia, about 1 cwt. per acre. The average yield from this crop is forty bushels per acre. This crop of wheat is followed by a crop of barley, and next by a root crop, or beans, and then by oats. Clover seed is sown among oats when the latter are well up and above ground. When the dressing of sulphate of ammonia is given, the crop is harrowed immediately.

Winter Feeding.—Winter feeding of stock is extensively carried on with both cattle and sheep. This system is rather foreign as far as the stock-growers of Australia are concerned. Sheep and lambs are generally fed in the fields, the fodder consisting of oats and oil-cake, mixed together, and placed in troughs; $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 lb. per sheep per day, according to the severity of the weather, is found sufficient. I saw these sheep at the end of winter (Oxfords) and they looked well and in good condition. They were a good, strong frame sheep. One taken from the flock killed and dressed weighed over 90 lb. This shows what a little extra good feeding means during a severe English winter.

Cattle, particularly the young stock, receive great care during the winter. Calves are not hand-fed. They are allowed to remain with the cows (after calving in the spring) during the summer and on till October, when they are taken in and housed for the winter. They are placed in a large stable and remain until the following May. Water is laid on in troughs, and their fodder consists of a mixture of crushed oats, pulped roots (mangolds), and chaffed meadow hay. They receive about 15 lb. of this mixture per head per day. A small amount of meadow hay is given in addition. Clean straw is given as bedding each day. This stable is not cleaned out during the period, but at the end of the winter the whole quantity of manure is removed and spread on the cultivated land. Other cattle are given meadow hay, carted out into the field.

Here, I found, the greater portion of the stock is young. No old beasts are kept, as young stock is growing into money; but after a certain age they are on the decline and it does not pay to keep them.

Pte. C. W. Withers, a Victorian sheep-farmer, had a similar experience at Newport Salop, in Shropshire. He was on one farm of 500 acres and another of 200 acres and was struck by the rotations, the winter feeding, the manuring and chain harrowing of pasture, and the depth of ploughing, 7 in. Of wheat $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels and of oats 4 bushels per acre were sown, with 4 to 5 cwt. of superphosphate in each case. He also saw flax growing for fibre and seed, 5 cwt. of super. an acre being used, and is determined to give it a trial at home.

After seeing Herefords and Shorthorns side by side he is satisfied the former is the better fatterer up to two years old, at any rate. He saw some good dairy farms in Somerset, carrying up to sixty cows, shorthorns mostly. Some stud Shire horses struck him as being eminently suitable for crossing in Australia if only freights and disproportion in value were less. He had arranged to buy five Lincoln rams, but had to "cry off" when he found freight and insurance alone would be over £20, with feeding and attendance and all other charges extra.

Lieut. H. Bartram reports having seen an Ayrshire herd near Glasgow bred on milk pedigrees for five generations, the present dams giving nearly 1,000 gallons per year. A notable feature of this herd was that large teats had been secured by selection. In Wiltshire he saw a working farmer with a herd averag-

ing 700 gallons, the Australian average being 300. On another farm he saw twenty-two cows, some of which had been in from six to eight months, giving sixty-seven gallons of milk a day. He thinks it a good thing that Australians should visit the farms here to realise the importance of hand-feeding. Moreover, much machinery is used that is never seen in Australia. Almost every farm has a grinding machine and a pulper. Their milk yields are double ours. Holsteins are giving tremendous yields and bringing tremendous prices. Those interested should see the British Friesland Society. As much as £2,000 had been paid for a heifer, and in Cheshire £5,000 had been refused for seven up to three months old.

British Hospitality.

With several thousands of men enjoying educational leave, there is naturally great diversity in the conditions they find awaiting them in the "places" to which they are allotted. Many of the men now gaining experience on English farms are cheerfully sharing the discomforts to be found in the home of the farm labourer. Such was not the case, however, with Sergt. G., of the A.V.C., who was granted leave to study pure bred stock on a farm in Wales.

This is the story of his experience on which he is now tempted to call his non-military "enjoyment." Arriving at a palatial country house, he was cordially welcomed by a delighted old gentleman, who patted him on the shoulder, took his arm, and escorted him round the conservatory and the stables and the other appurtenances of "The Farm." A horse was put at his disposal: "That's yours while you are here; tell the man to saddle him when you want him." And presently a valet came for the keys of his bag. "The bedroom allotted for my use," said the Sergeant, "was so big that I got tired walking from the bed to the silver wash-basin. I didn't carry dress clothes in my kitbag, and it made a fellow feel a bit embarrassed, therefore, when the time came to parade for dinner." Presumably the embarrassment was renewed next morning when the valet came to help him dress.

There were races that day. "You'd better join us." The Sergeant did. "Help yourself to cigars. Are you right for money?" In short, he was not allowed to put his hand in his own pocket for anything, and had a few good wins into the bargain. That night at dinner there were, besides the host and hostess, Lord and Lady Somebody, the Rector and his lady, an English colonel—and one "Digger."

In the circumstances, the last-named thinks that he could easily have endured a month or two in studying the points of wonderful prize cattle upon the estate, but unfortunately his sojourn was terminated by the early departure of the family for the South of France as soon as the annual bull sales were over.

In pursuit of further information about cattle, Sergeant G. has now gone to a farm in Scotland—with a bag well-stocked and prepared for all eventualities.

The Experiences of a Battalion Education Officer.

All was ready for the opening of the school. Bustling about, the E.O., a few hours in advance of the troops, rescued a few forms from a hastily evacuated Fritz dump, and improvised a few others. As he left the building the strains of the Battalion band could be heard, and along the snow-covered road the men swing through the village that was to be their new home. That afternoon those who had enrolled were marched to the school, but—it had gone, and gone in earnest, for it was bitterly cold and firewood was scarce. That is why the men stood up for three weeks to receive their instruction. I remember a wit saved the situation, for he said, "Well, we can't have our cake and eat it," and amidst laughter another replied, "Nor our forms and burn them."

The first thing I did on arriving at the Battalion was to get permission to examine the nominal rolls of the unit. It was interesting work, for it proved to be a gauge in judging what latent talent there was to call upon. I waylaid a business manager. We had a chat. Yes; he was interested in education and thought the idea an excellent one. Good enough! He became a lecturer in "Salesmanship." A bank clerk was seen next. He had never lectured in his life, but he was an N.C.O. and smilingly repudiated the impeachment that he lectured the men daily. His pupils later in "Book-keeping and Business Principles" followed his lessons with great interest. Then I chatted daily to the men, and after asking all and sundry, selected one to take French, who spoke the language fluently. By the friendliness of the "Diggers" with the girls of the village later, his success received practical demonstration.

Two derelict four-cylinder motor engines left by Fritz—also in a hurry—and it matters not how obtained—made the Motor Mechanics class a live one, with an enrolment of 110 students. Four school teachers took the elementary subjects, so we were fully staffed, and our great friend all through, the Padre, took the Shorthand class. With such encouragement the E.O. faced with enthusiasm the men of the Battalion and, if I remember rightly, these are some of the expressions he used in his address. "If you wish to be happy in the coming months—the dreariest months of all—keep your minds occupied. Your instructors are your own pals; they fought with you; they lived with you; they want to help you and they deserve your help—by your attendance. Privates will instruct Officers and N.C.O.'s and we are working on the co-operative principle of helping one another."

We started with 120 students and kept up these numbers until the amalgamation of units, when we lost our identity. Obstacles? Why, yes. But a good cause is worth fighting for, and many as they were they gradually disappeared.

Later a Joinery class was started, and whatever articles a man made he could keep. I saw standing in

a new sentry-box one day a man who had helped to make it: blinding snow was being whirled about, but by the labour of his own hands he had secured himself protection from the elements. Nor must I forget to mention the Boot-making class, for judge of my surprise to find last week that a man who, two months ago, sought instruction, had himself become an instructor on the Corporal proceeding on quota.

There came a day when the Battalion was divided into an Education Company and a Labour Company, and the best news to all those pursuing studies was that the students were excused fatigues. Each day the Education Company was marched to the classrooms, where they entered either the Commercial or Elementary classes. Smoking was allowed and questions from the students were always encouraged. With the exception of the Trades and Crafts classes, *i.e.*, Joinery, Boot-making, and Motor Mechanics, the men were expected to take a complete course of either Elementary or Commercial subjects. This proved very successful from the point of view of organisation, for as the whole of the students were marched to the classrooms by an Officer, they entered either the Elementary or the Commercial classrooms. This resulted in high percentages being maintained throughout. A lecture on Bean's "In Your Hands, Australians," was followed by a request from the students that it should be taken chapter by chapter, and illuminating discussions followed.

The Debating Society, attended as a parade by all students, proved beneficial, inasmuch as it acted as a safety-valve by which men could freely express their views or grievances.

The visiting lecturers did not arrive as often as was at first expected. A syllabus was prepared, and up to the time of writing over 50 lectures have been delivered by members of the unit. Their delivery has resulted in the finding of much talent, and the majority of the speakers have never lectured before. So successful did they become that finally the whole unit attended, officers and men, and listened to five lectures a week. The topics were very varied in choice, including such subjects as "Native Customs of New Guinea," "Personality," "Bismarck and the Present War," "Employer and Employee," "Australian Traditions and Future Ideals," "Child Psychology," "Life on a Transport," "Ancient and Modern Society." They would, perhaps, be better described as "talks" than "lectures," but they were all followed with the closest attention.

The standard obtained in the various subjects has been either successful or negligible, according to the standard laid down by the critic. We never set out to cram, but we did educate in the highest sense. The students in the class in book-keeping could each manage successfully to keep the accounts of a small store on the approved lines. The arithmetic was practical and adapted to the usual commercial transactions of everyday life. A man who worked amongst timber was taught to obtain the number of superficial feet in consignments or prices of the same. The English class was taught to write and speak good English. The boot-making class filled the need of a

man who desired to do his own repairs in the future. As a result of the lessons in motor mechanics quite a number of the students have filled vacancies in the Motor Mechanical Transport Company and, with the practical work obtained there, will have a trade on their return to civil life.

Were I to be asked, however, what has been the greatest value of the Unit Classes, I should unhesitatingly say that it has made the men very much happier than they would have been in this period of monotonous waiting. I have carefully watched and noted the effects on the two types of men, those whose minds have been occupied and those who, outside their fatigues and drills, have had too many leisure hours, when they have found it difficult to fill in the time pending demobilisation.

Our Men at Work.

An Officer of the Agricultural Section, who has spent a week visiting properties upon which our men are working, writes:

The result has been most encouraging. Certainly there have been some misfits. A few of the men have not made the best of opportunities offering. Some of the farmers and stockholders have not treated our men with the consideration which one would desire. But on the whole the reports have been most satisfactory. *The men are making good.*

Those of us who knew the "Digger" expected that he would make good. And without a doubt he has done so. It is amusing to meet him in an out of the way part established upon a typical English property. In many cases he is already part of the concern. He talks of "our rams," or discusses with quite a personal interest how such a bull is a "dead cert" for the Royal at Cardiff.

"How is the lad doing?" I asked one big breeder in the North. "'Mac' is splendid," was the reply; "it is just a treat to see the workman-like way he goes about his job." "He goes on June 13," said another farmer of his man, "and we'll miss him very much." In many cases quite a strong personal relation has been established. The open-hearted "Digger" has gone home to the heart of many a farmer. They are learning that the average Aussie is the "right stuff" as well as a "first-class fighting man."

And the men are learning much that will be of great value to them in the years to come. Said a back country man who intends settling on a small block of safe country: "These three months have been all kinds of use to me. I am learning the essence of intense culture." Said another: "My idea when I left Aussie was to buy more land; now I'm inclined to sell half I own and work the rest properly." Another lad, whose father owns much good stock, volunteered the information that "We don't know the first principle about feeding for weight." Not that these men intend to slavishly follow the English farmer. Many are

caustic in their criticisms of some of the antiquated ways. But most of them realise quite clearly that in the matter of high-class stock breeding, intense culture, and big turnover these "old-fashioned farmers" can leave us standing. "These men know their game to the last move," said one. "He's a shrewd head," said another, almost with reverence.

Yes, it will have a great effect, this experience our men are gaining on these English farms. It is going to teach them the value of quality in breeding. "I'm out to improve my stock," said almost every man I met. There are not enough good stock in Australia, nor are there enough sound judges of a good animal. Our men are learning how much there is to learn. And when once that frame of mind is acquired, the acquisition of knowledge is relatively simple. The standard of our live stock will improve as the result of this A.I.F. adventure.

But more important still is the lesson being driven home to many of us, that the law of increasing returns applies forcibly to Australian agriculture. That we do not want more acres, but we need more money and labour on the same farm. Too many farmers thought their highest ideal was to dispense with labour altogether. Now we can see how we can spend much more per year with profit. We are realising that many a good farm at home is being wasted for the want of suitable labour—that we can spend three times as much and almost double our income. And this is a big lesson to learn for a young country like Australia. We have pioneered well. But we have only pioneered; now we must develop. We have blazed the trail, now we must build the road. There is plenty of spade work ahead, but it is good to get a vision. We can do great things in Australia on the land, but we must put more effort into the acre. We want more men, permanent, well-paid farm hands, settled in comfortable cottages; or as an alternative, smaller farms more intensively worked. It is fortunate that so many of our men have had the opportunity of studying intense agriculture at the moment when we are at the parting of the way.

One other, and the most important, thing the lads have learned in this, as in other farming out schemes, is to know his cousin the Englishman more intimately. Much harsh criticism has been the outcome of crass ignorance in the past. True, we all have our funny little ways. Many of us mistook the Englishman's reticence for something with an uglier name, even as they thought we were mostly of the "Buster Bill" type. But now we are finding we are much alike and share very many things in common. "When I left Assuie," said a man to me to-day, "I was the last word in insularity." But during the last five months much prejudice has been broken down. "These people are as right as a bank, when you get to know them," said a lad to me. "We did not know the true Australian before," said a farmer.

Yes, one of the important outcomes of what was undoubtedly an adventure is going to be a better understanding, which is the only reliable basis for goodwill and the only sound foundation for a lasting Empire.

Early Difficulties in France.

The following account by the Education Officer of a mobile Artillery Brigade shows some of the material results achieved by the Education Service in France, and gives a very clear idea of the difficulties that confronted the Education Scheme for a considerable time after it was put into operation:—

When education began in our Brigade in the middle of December—an Education Officer was then appointed—the task seemed almost hopeless. We were then resting after having done six days of our “March to the Rhine.” Two more days were ahead of us in the near future before we could reach the Charleroi area, and perhaps things would be better; of this fond hope we were soon disillusioned. The Brigade was scattered over three villages about two kilos. away from one another. Winter and snow cut out any idea of having central classes whither all eager students would flock of an evening.

Three sets of school halls were wanted, involving three problems of lighting, heating, etc., and, most important, three sets of Instructors; and we were Artillery, our equipment, horses, harness, and guns still with us. Battery Commanders already had great difficulty to allot work and regimental duties without causing friction, so anything in the shape of relief from duties and fatigues for students was out of the question.

No textbooks were on hand and no writing material, and there was little hope of getting any in less than a month, and we all realised that a month in the Demobilisation period was too much to waste. Otherwise the very men who were most entitled to the benefits that education could offer would not get it; that is the early enlisted men.

There was only one thing that enabled us to overcome these difficulties, and that was the whole-hearted enthusiasm of the men who had the necessary training to instruct. We had seven graduates in the unit, five qualified teachers, and the same number of really good instructors in Commercial subjects. These men set to work thinking out their courses. It was all thinking not a line of a textbook or note to help. What work these fellows did! In their spare time, too. It is hard to realise the difficulties for a man who had not looked at, or even thought of, a subject for two or three years, yet had to instruct in it.

The first thing to do was to get an Education Office established. It began with our E.O. and a clerk. The C.O. was an ardent enthusiast for education, and soon we got our first privilege, i.e., a unit organiser was appointed in each Battery; he was free from other duties and responsible solely to the Education Officer, who visited and addressed the men of each unit on a muster parade and pointed out how every man could be helped by the Education Service and how necessary it was to take advantage of the facilities offered, and

firstly to register with the Unit Organiser, stating what was wanted. The men did register, and practically a complete organisation of the Brigade was made in this way; and the Education Office was a very popular home for “Diggers” with grievances, desires for improvement, and wishes of all sorts, in those days. Our E.O. aimed high and said he could help every man, no matter what he wanted. Unfortunately, there are some who are still waiting for the promised help, but the system justified itself inasmuch as many, very nearly all, who applied have got something, many getting the very thing they wanted. These Unit Organisers went around and found out the class of man who could instruct, and by our system of registration our E.O. knew where the greatest demand lay.

We started off with classes in one village and hoped that perhaps the men of other units would come up there to hear them. Unfortunately, unlike the students of old, the “Diggers” did not flock from all quarters of our area to hear us. It rains sometimes in Belgium and sometimes even snows; odd times you get duties, more often yet get “dug in” by Madame’s fire—all these things militated against our neighbours attending classes not held in their own village. But we did hear remarks that one village was “getting a better spin” than another; why weren’t they getting classes? Now that was just the spirit we wanted, and the next week a good programme was arranged for the second village.

The third village was less fortunate; it was further away, had fewer instructors, and the difficulties of lighting were much greater. Eventually the good old battling instructors made a start, still with no textbooks, in the third village. An instance of what textbooks meant to instructors was afforded in January. The book-keeping instructor reported one morning that he could only carry on for about four more lectures without books. Accordingly he was told to cut out one of his lectures each week and to keep the class going with “beaucoup” homework. Two days later the E.O. was assailed in his office by a deputation of four from the book-keeping class—a strong organisation—demanding why they had to forego their Saturday lecture. A sweet smile graced our E.O.’s face. Four textbooks had arrived that morning and one was on book-keeping, so he graciously acceded to their demands and granted permission for the class to go on with three lessons per week.

As for material. A local vendor sent to Brussels and provided us with slates, pencils, and chalk; these were paid for from regimental funds. A small number of notebooks was purchased for sale to students in classes—such as book-keeping—and to those students who wished to take notes. So difficulties were solved.

Later new lectures were put on. A strong Debating Club was commenced and outside lecturers imported. Unfortunately, these last were never a success with us; they never seemed to turn up. Two schemes were just in formation when, unfortunately, the Brigade was amalgamated with its original Division. The nucleus of a library was just being formed and an

effort was being made to centralise higher classes in the Brigade. The advantages of this would have been :

- (1) Freedom from duties.
- (2) Centralisation of men of nearly equal knowledge.
- (3) The possibility of doing a completed course.

What has it all achieved?

- (1) A few fairly completed courses done :—

Farm accounting	...	2 complete courses.
Book-keeping	...	10 complete courses.
French	...	7 complete courses.
Arithmetic	...	4 complete courses.
- (2) A feeling of satisfaction amongst the men that the Military Authorities were doing much for them under great difficulties.
- (3) Knowledge spread, rather scappily perhaps, but the best that could be done, when men missed intermediate lectures through regimental duties, leave, or demobilisation of equipment.
- (4) Introduction of a large body of men to subjects of which they never thought themselves capable of acquiring knowledge. This is, in my opinion, the greatest advantage the Education Service afforded, as it worked in the unit classes. In many a man's mind the seed of learning has been sown, and he has been taught to think a little more clearly, perhaps, on the question "What can I learn?" In all, about 300 men passed through our classes, touching on various subjects for the two months we were working. This is quite apart from the Debating Club, attendance at special lectures that were given during that time, or tours done of local industries, and such like.
- (5) We have brightened up a few minds dulled by the monotony of military life on Active and General Service.
- (6) Lastly, we must not forget the large amount of work done in a unit by the Education staff in getting the right men placed in the workshops in France, in Army Schools, transferred to Technical Units, sent home to Australia or over to England to complete studies or to take up employment of an educational nature. About 150 men have been placed in this way in our Brigade.

A By-Product Industry.

Lieut. H. D. Hill, A.E., reports after three months' leave granted him for non-military employment in studying by-product coking, that every facility to learn was given him and the manager of the works placed his laboratory at Mr. Hill's disposal to carry out work in connection with his study in chemistry. In order to see as many types of ovens and by-product processes as possible, he visited four works besides those at which he was placed and several collieries to see special mining features. He attended lectures on refractory materials at Newcastle. Although large quantities of coal are coked in New South Wales, until quite recently little or no attempt has been made to recover the valuable by-products. There appears to be no reason, says Mr. Hill, why methods similar to those in use here should not be applied in Australia, and experience gained in this country of by-product coking should be of great value to an Australian.

Agricultural Section.

General authority for the granting of long leave for the purpose of undertaking educational courses or work with the view of gaining special experience, was given late in December, 1918. Negotiations were at once opened with the principal Agricultural Colleges and Stock Breeders and Farmers' Associations throughout the United Kingdom. The details of our proposals were made widely known, but it was found difficult to make any definite arrangements for the placing of large numbers of men by correspondence only. Replies were of a uniformly encouraging tone, farmers and others throughout the country seemed willing to help, but personal interview in most cases seemed necessary to clinch definite arrangements.

During February, therefore, six travelling officers were temporarily employed, and as a result of their attendance at sales and markets in the chief farming districts of Scotland and England, their interviews with farmers and visits to Educational Institutions, opportunities were opened up in every part of the United Kingdom, offering valuable experience and instruction in the principal branches of Agriculture.

The total number of officers and other ranks who have actually proceeded to non-military employment of this nature is 1,800.

In addition, openings have been found for an equal number, and men are marching through at an average weekly rate of 150.

Care is taken to ensure, as far as possible, that men who are given the opportunity of gaining experience in this country know sufficient of their respective branches of the industry to avoid drawing false conclusions from English practice.

This disposition of the men already placed on farms and at Colleges, etc., may be roughly summarised as follows :—

1. Stock and mixed farms	...	...	850
2. Dairy farms	...	...	150
3. Agricultural colleges	...	...	80
4. Technical colleges (wool courses)	...	...	200
5. Experimental stations	...	...	2
6. Forestry	...	...	25
7. Orchards	...	...	50
8. Market gardens	...	...	75
9. Poultry and bee farms	...	...	40
10. Woollen mills	...	...	130
11. Agricultural tractors	...	...	20
12. Agricultural machinery works	...	...	80
13. Overseas produce markets	...	...	20
14. Channel Islands	...	...	70
15. Butter and cheese factories	...	...	10

Dealing with each of these groups seriatim, the following remarks will explain what has been done and the further developments which may be expected.

1. The total includes, of course, a large number of men who are simply doing labouring work, those with relatives to assist, and those who prefer regular work to the monotony of Depot life. At the same time there is a considerable proportion who are making a

thorough study of British methods, especially in the various branches of animal husbandry.

Valuable experience has been already gained by some in assisting with lambing and witnessing the very high percentages secured by careful attention and feeding. In the fattening of cattle, too, much can be learnt on almost any farm (especially in the North) as to the value of rational feeding.

There are among these men, too, a smaller percentage of really keen and able stock breeders, prominent farmers at home, who are now living, in many cases as guests, on some of the leading stud farms of this country. It has been found possible to introduce any member of the A.I.F. especially interested in a particular breed to the leading herd masters of that breed, and our people are now studying the particular types of stocks they have bred, among the foundation herds, in not a few cases also with the definite object of selecting stock for importation into Australia when opportunity offers.

2. The same remarks as in the former group apply here, and the bulk of the men "farmed out" will, it is expected, go to these forms of employment.

3. Of the teaching institutions communicated with, some were found to have closed their doors pending more settled conditions—*e.g.*, Cirencester Agricultural College and Bangor University School of Agriculture. Others were so overcrowded as to be able to take only one or two A.I.F. men—*e.g.*, South Eastern Agriculture, Harper Adams Agricultural College, and Cambridge University School of Agriculture. In Scotland, however, some valuable courses have been arranged.

(a) North of Scotland Agricultural College has organised a special Animal Husbandry course, at which 25 A.I.F. students are now in attendance. This course will include supervised visits to the leading studs in Scotland and to the two great shows, the Royal Agricultural Society's in June and the Highland and Agricultural Society's in May.

(b) The West of Scotland Agricultural College, Glasgow, has admitted a small class of our men to the Dairy School for the Summer term. These men have been specially selected and are for the most part employed as dairy experts in their respective States' Agricultural Departments, and it is their intention to sit for the National Diploma of Dairying, and in some cases for the National Diploma of Agriculture in addition, before the conclusion of their stay at the College.

(c) Edinburgh University has offered to take upward of 60 students for special courses during the Summer, and of these the first class of 30 has already commenced work at Edinburgh. The subject of this course also is Animal Husbandry, and the Edinburgh Show and leading herds in studs in the district will be visited.

(d) Leeds University has organised a special advanced course in Breeding (especially as

related to wool production), Wool and Textile industry. This is a six months' course and a class of 25 specially well-qualified students has been sent to Leeds and commenced work on April 28.

4. Technical College Wool courses have been in great demand throughout the A.I.F. It has been found impossible to cater for the almost universal request for wool classing instruction. Several special courses have been arranged, however, and men with experience either in the shearing shed or wool room at home have been given preference in selecting classes.

(a) Bradford Technical College has agreed to take a series of classes of 50 men each for a two months' course; the second of these assembled on April 7. The initial course, just dispersed, was in every way satisfactory. The students are enthusiastic in their appreciation of the instruction received, and the College authorities were apparently agreeably surprised at the standard of efficiency and keenness shown by the men. Visits to some of the larger mills of Bradford formed a prominent feature of the course.

(b) Halifax Technical College takes a similar series of classes of 20 students each. The first course was completed in March with equally gratifying results, and the next assembled towards the end of April.

(c) Galashiels Technical College has taken a class of 30 men for a three months' course similar to the above and embracing a series of visits to local woollen mills. This course opened on May 1.

(d) Finally, at Leeds University a class of 25 students specially interested in the manufacture of woollens has recently commenced work on a three months' course dealing particularly with textile industry.

5. Two graduates in Agricultural Science have been placed for special work—one as an assistant to the Soil Physician at Rothamsted Experiment Station, and one as assistant to Mr. Beaven, the well-known barley breeder of Warminster, Wilts.

6. Forestry experience is of two grades. Two duly qualified forest officers are taking a special course under Professor Schlich at Oxford, and from there make visits to the established forests of this country. Other men with less high qualifications have been attached, by courtesy of the Interim Forest Authority of the Board of Agriculture, to the officers in charge of the principal forests throughout the United Kingdom.

7. Orchard experience in this country is, of course, of very limited value from the Australian fruit-growers' point of view. However, employment has been found for a number of men on plum, apple, and small fruit properties.

8 and 9. Experience in these minor branches of agriculture has been fairly generally asked for, and a number of men are gaining very useful experience. Of these may be quoted the cases of men who intend to import high-class poultry and who are now working

on large utility-poultry farms, and of others who have been given the chance of studying the mushroom, early tomato, and commercial flower growing industries.

10. The demand for "Bradford" experience has been met to a certain extent by placing men as regular workers or learners in mills both in the Midlands and in Scotland. In this way a volume of special information and experience is being acquired which should be of no small value in the industry at home. It is ex-

The opportunities are plentiful, but curiously enough only a small demand has been made for this class of experience.

12. Some of the leading agricultural machinery companies have taken our men for experience in their factories or assembly depots; notably the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Machine Co., where a class of 40 officers and O.R.'s are at work; the Lister Co. also have taken a class of 25. These include many men



WOOL CLASSING, GREENHILL HOUSE, SUTTON VENY.

pected that this class of experience will be offered to a much larger number of men within a month or two, especially as the classes graduate from the Technical College courses above mentioned.

11. Men for this class of work have either been sent to farms where tractors are employed or to a school for tractor drivers conducted by the Ministry of Food. This Department also offered employment for qualified tractor drivers.

who have actually "experted" in shearing sheds employing these machines, and others with less experience who desire to take up such work on return.

13. A class is being formed to be stationed in London, under proper supervision, to study the markets for produce arriving from overseas. So far the first wool saie has been attended, and the Islington and Smithfield Meat Markets, fellmongeries, and tanneries visited. Later it is intended to witness the unloading

and sale of Australian and other overseas fruit shipments and to carefully study the system of handling and blending of wheats imported from the chief wheat-growing countries of the world.

14. A special course of training and experience has been arranged by the representative of the Ministry of Labour in conjunction with the Royal Jersey Agricultural Society in the Channel Islands. The men are to be conducted on tours of inspection of the leading studs of the Islands and to visit the numerous county shows, and stock judging competitions are conducted. At the same time the men are living in the best environment to gain experience in the most intense form of farming, including commercial floriculture, early potato and tomato raising and, of course, dairying.

It is anticipated that at least 150 men will be given these opportunities, and already 60 are resident on the Islands.

15. There has been difficulty in arranging for butter factory experience, owing to war restrictions on churning. However, a few men have been sent to Ireland for this purpose, where they have been set to work in co-operative factories through the agency of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

Agricultural tours have proved a useful means of meeting the requirements of men unable or unwilling to delay their repatriation for a lengthy period. Of these, three of a fortnight's duration have already been conducted. Each of these was attended by a class of 25 officers and O.R.'s, and other minor excursions have been arranged.

The procedure is to attend an important stock sale in a selected locality and thereafter to visit the principal stud farms in the district.

In this way some of the best properties in Scotland, the Lower Midlands, and Home Counties have been inspected. A great deal of interest is excited by these visits, and they have been the means of setting up personal friendship in some cases between stock breeders of our own country and this. Everywhere the greatest courtesy and generosity have been shown by British farmers, and they are apparently struck by the keenness of our men and their appreciation of the quality of the stock and methods of breeding and handling they have witnessed.

This form of activity it is hoped to continue throughout the Summer, and in this connection mention might be made of arrangements which are in hand with a view of sending a large number of men to attend the Royal Show at Cardiff in June.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that as far as possible an attempt is being made to give all men who are likely to be called upon to act in a teaching or public capacity at home the best possible facilities for gaining experience in the work on which they specialise; and it is impressed on all men who are put in the way of gaining special knowledge, that an obligation rests upon them to make the best use of such knowledge for the public good on return to Australia

Mining and Metallurgy Students.

The reports received of the work being done by the men gaining technical experience and training continue to be very satisfactory, both from the standpoint of the individual and from that of the firm or institution with which he is working. Particular mention is made by all concerned of the keenness, ability, and general conduct of the men placed by this Section.

A special tour of inspection was made during the month by Major E. N. Mulligan, D.S.O., who is now in charge of the Technical Section, of the the Cornish tin fields, where we have officers and men placed at the following: East Pool & Agar Co., Ltd., Camborne School of Mines, Penpoll Tin Smelting Co., Ltd.

There are only a few mines now working in the Cornish field, better methods both of tin concentration and underground mining are being introduced, and our men placed there are gaining very fine experience.

The East Pool and Agar Mine treats 250 tons per day containing tin and wolfram, and in the concentration makes a very good separation of the two materials. A striking feature of this field is that it is estimated that a recovery of only 70 per cent. of the tin content is made owing to the fineness of the tin oxide. For years much experimenting has been done and an attempt made to save some of this 30 per cent. loss. At the present time one of the men placed by the Technical Section is engaged in very interesting experiments on behalf of a prominent English mining firm in an attempt to solve this problem.

The Penpoll Tin Smelting Co. produces about 600 tons of metallic tin per year and buys ore from all parts of the world. Ore from the Malay States, Australia, and Peru may be seen being smelted here.

The Camborne School of Mines is favourably situated for the teaching of mining, being in the busiest part of the Cornish field. Our men here are receiving good training.

A further tour was made comprising the following places: Frodingham, Saltburn, South Shields, and Sheffield.

At Frodingham a very low grade body of iron ore is being mined, and the iron content of this ore is as low as 25 per cent. The body is overlaid by about 20 feet of sand. This is stripped by mechanical means and the ore body worked by open cut methods. The fact that the iron ore consists of limestone carrying 25 per cent. iron makes it possible to work such a low grade proposition advantageously, as a smelting mixture is automatically obtained. Our men placed here are getting fine experience on the metallurgical side and in plant erection, as in this field a very large outlay is being made in the erection of new plant.

At South Shields we have men placed for experience in coal mining. The chief company here is the Harton Collieries, which owns a large number of mines, some of which are worked on very up-to-date principles, especially in the use of electricity.

At Sheffield we have students at the University doing the Metallurgy of Iron and Steel. The course here is very fine. The student has a very capable staff at the University, and he has also access to the various large steel industries in the district. One officer is here with Thos. Firth & Son, makers of high-grade steel in a large way. He is on the staff of Dr. Hatfield, who is Consulting Metallurgist for Thos. Firth & Son and John Brown & Co., makers of armour plate. Every facility is being provided for this officer, and the experience he is obtaining on the staff of such an expert as Dr. Hatfield is unique. The laboratory is most up-to-date, and complete investigation of all classes of steel is made here by a very competent staff.

In all cases it was found that everything was being done to train our men in their old pre-war professions, and at the same time to make their lives as congenial as possible while this is going on.

Australian Corps Central School.

The Australian Corps Central School, Rue, France, opened for educational work on the 11th of January, 1919; the examinations finished on the 26th April, 1919; the school will close on arrival in Australia.

The school was established with a view to preparing men of the A.I.F. for (a) Matriculation, (b) Accountancy Exams., (c) Teachers' Grade Exams., (d) Civil Service Qualifying Exams., (e) the competitive entrance Exams. of the Civil Service.

The number on the roll at the commencement was 476. During the course a great many were withdrawn for early repatriation or for non-military employment. The number of students on the 30th April was 352.

The instructors numbered 20, with in addition a Superintendent of Studies in charge. Of the 20, five were officers, three were warrant officers, and twelve were sergeants.

Classes were held in the following subjects: English (Sen., Jun., and Com.), Latin (Senior and Junior), Greek (Senior and Junior), French (Senior and Junior), German (Senior and Junior), Mathematics Senior (including Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Mechanics), Mathematics Junior (including Arithmetic, Algebra, and Geometry), Commercial Arithmetic Junior, History (Senior and Junior), Geography (Senior and Junior), Final Accountancy (including Bookkeeping and Accounts and Auditing and Final Law), Intermediate Accountancy (including Bookkeeping, Auditing, Trustees and Commercial Law), Junior Bookkeeping, Shorthand (Advanced and Elementary Theory, and Speed Tests), Business Principles.

Each class had five periods of instruction a week, a period running to 50 minutes.

The examinations began on the 14th of April and finished on the 26th of April. The instructors set the papers, which were printed in England. In the conduct of examinations every necessary precaution was taken; they were run on exactly the same lines as any

other public examination. No case of dishonesty was reported. The behaviour of the candidates was all that could be desired. The results were as follows:—

Subject	No. of Candidates	Passed	Failed
English—Senior	81	70	11
English—Junior	21	20	1
English—Junior Commercial	60	36 (full) 12 (partial)	12
Latin—Senior	22	21	1
Latin—Junior	7	5	2
Greek—Senior	3	3	0
Greek—Junior	4	3	1
French—Senior	42	31	11
French—Junior	26	22	4
German—Senior	3	3	0
German—Junior	1	1	0
Arithmetic—Senior	71	64	7
Algebra—Senior	73	43	30
Geometry—Senior	70	52	18
Trigonometry	24	20	4
Mechanics	11	10	1
Arithmetic—Junior	64	51	13
Algebra—Junior	19	18	1
Geometry—Junior	16	11	5
Arithmetic Junior Commercial	21	18	3
History—Senior	67	63	4
History—Junior	57	41	16
Geography—Senior	11	11	0
Geography—Junior	58	48	10
Final Accountancy (including Accounts and Auditing)	22	13 (full) 6 (partial)	3
Final Accountancy (Legal Sec.)	4	4	0
Intermediate Accountancy (including Accounts, Auditing Trustees, & Commercial Law)	91	47 (full) 12 (partial)	32
Commercial Law (excluding Intermediate Accountancy Candidates)	13	8	5
Junior Bookkeeping	40	28	12
Shorthand (Advanced Theory)	8	8	0
Shorthand (Elem. Theory)	15	9	6
Shorthand (Speed Tests—various)	7	2	5
Business Principles	12	12	0
TOTAL . . .	1044	826	218

Of the 352 students in attendance, only 12 failed to sit for the examinations.

In the majority of subjects the pass standard was fixed at 50 per cent.; but in Accountancy the standard adopted was that which holds in Australia, viz., 65 per cent.

As the school is to be repatriated as a Unit, the work will continue until arrival in Australia. Those who failed in the April exams. it is hoped to bring up to the pass standard. Those who passed will proceed to a higher grade in the subjects of their course, e.g. (a) those who are fit to enter on a University course will receive instruction in the subjects of the First Year (Arts, Law, and Education); (b) the successful candidates in Intermediate Accountancy will proceed with the work of Final Accountancy; (c) those who intend to enter the Civil Service will be coached with a view

to sitting a competitive examination in Australia; etc., etc.

The Superintendent of Studies reports: "The work of the school has more than fulfilled my expectations. I was extremely fortunate in having a highly qualified teaching staff who spared no pains in making a success of the scheme. The students, in spite of serious handicaps, particularly in the early days of the school, got down to work in a manner which deserves all praise.

"The school has proved one thing: that with men of the A.I.F. of the type that attended Corps Central School a short intensive course of instruction will produce remarkably good results."

The Superintendent of Studies is Lieut. R. S. Wallace, Professor of English Language and Literature at Melbourne University.

Lectures.

Lectures are one of the many activities of the Education Service of which the value cannot be measured by statistics. During a recent week the total attendance at the 48 lectures in the depots in England was nearly 18,000, but such figures give little indication of the benefit accruing from this method of instruction and entertainment. Apart from its direct instructional value, a lecture acts as a mental stimulant for men having little else to occupy their serious attention and provides many a topic for subsequent impromptu discussion and debate.

The experience of the civilian lecturers who have visited the Australian camps and depots is that there is no more responsive audience than a body of Australian soldiers. Their criticism is spontaneous and emphatic. They are quick to appreciate merit and equally ready to express disapproval of mediocrity. They seldom fail to appreciate the point of an apt quotation, while a subtle allusion, particularly if it be pointed with humour, meet with a ready response. One noted English lecturer who recently visited Sutton Veny writes: "It was my first visit to an Australian camp, and I brought away with me an unforgettable impression of the troops I met, with many of whom I had long conversation after my lectures; they left me with a sense of their manliness and high ideality, which I shall never forget."

Nearly all successful lecturers have remarked upon

the number of questions arising out of the addresses that are put to them by the men, as indicating the keenness with which they are followed. The choice of subject is a matter of secondary consideration, so long as it provides food for thought and reflection. Historical, literary, and philosophical subjects are as much in demand as subjects of practical or descriptive interest. Provided that the lecturer has something of value or of interest to impart, and can handle his subject effectively, mere style or eloquence counts for little, while pure oratory without substance behind it is at a discount. The one thing the Australian soldier will not tolerate is the lecturer who makes the fatal blunder of "talking down" to him.

Failures have fortunately been few. Since the Armistice more than a hundred civilians, including noted English lecturers and educationalists like Dr. Lionel Taylor, Canon Masterman, Professor Nunn, Mr. Henry Hudson, Dr. Currie Martin—to mention a few amongst many names that might be cited—have spoken to our men in the various camps and depots. The services of competent women lecturers were also requisitioned, and the six women who faced camp audiences all met with a hearty reception and were eminently successful. In addition, sixteen A.I.F. lecturers were selected from the ranks and are now giving the whole of their time to lecture work among the quotas in U.K. depots, while sterling service has been rendered by a very large number of volunteer lecturers in the various units.

The constant movement of the quotas travelling by stages towards the home-bound transports makes continuous classes increasingly difficult to maintain. Under such conditions lectures are a more suitable method of education, and even they are difficult to arrange at times. Engagements have frequently to be cancelled at the last moment when a quota unexpectedly marches out to join a transport and a new quota marches in to take its place. In the main, however, the demand is being met and our men fully appreciate the advantages they are deriving from the work of the civilian and A.I.F. lecturers.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

With the arrival of quotas from the 5th Division, the work of No. 5 Group at Weymouth has increased. The special schools—Motor Mechanics, Carpentry, Oxy-Acetylene Welding, Light Forging, and Saddlery—are being speedily filled.

Enrolments in A.I.F. Education Classes on May 5th, 1919.

	LAND PURSUITS	TRADES	COM- MERCIAL	ELE- MENTARY	UNI- VERSITY	GENERAL	TOTAL
A.I.F. Depots in U.K. ...	278	312	475	579	84	3,043	4,771
Agricultural Training Depot, Sutton Veny...	636	—	—	—	—	—	636
Survey School, Southampton ...	—	—	—	—	78	—	—
Headquarters, London ...	—	57	88	21	9	6	181
	914	369	563	600	171	3,049	5,666

Owing to progress in demobilisation returns from France have ceased.

Lessons in Forestry.

Spr. Stephen L. Kessell, who is doing a course in forestry, reports:—

I left Oxford on the 19th ultimo for Tintern, in Monmouthshire, in company with a party of Oxford Forestry students, under the guidance of Sir William Schlich.

The large party found accommodation in the picturesque villages scattered along the beautiful Wye valley and met each morning at various places, according to a prearranged schedule of excursions which covered thoroughly the 3,000 acres of Crown Woods, in the vicinity. These woods were acquired from private ownership by the Crown in 1901, and the Forestry authorities have pursued more vigorously the previous owner's policy of converting the old coppice woods into coniferous high forest.

Before leaving Oxford, Sir William Schlich detailed the main physiographical and geological features of the region, and also outlined the Working Plan under which the woods are at present being managed; so that when in the forest the local woodman explained the treatment of the actual area under observation, and then the professor showed how it fitted into the general scheme of management and either criticised the treatment or called for comment. This method of obtaining practical experience by tramping through the woods and observing the mistakes of others is a very pleasant and genteel process, but hardly compares favourably with the Australian scheme, whereby the student is required to go into the State forests and work eight hours a day as a forest labourer.

The Tintern Woods, however, are very instructive in that they show the English method of tackling one of the most pressing problems in Australian Forestry at the present time—viz., the conversion of badly tended hardwood areas into well-managed coniferous forest yielding a regular output of valuable softwood.

Although there have been many mistakes made, and much of the planting and especially the mixing of species appears most erratic, owing, no doubt, largely to the experimental planting of exotics chiefly from North America, there are many valuable lessons to be learnt.

Perhaps the most important lay in the careful utilisation of the timber already on the area and the judicious tending of stools even after planting, so that the most valuable species, in this case oak, was made to raise still another crop of coppice which served the two-fold purpose of nursing the larches and helping them to form canopy early, and also providing a crop which would probably more than pay for early thinnings and the tending and protection of the plantation during early youth.

As the market for small hardwood coppice, from about 2 to 4 in. diameter, was very limited, a small turnery was established in the neighbourhood of the forest, where sticks which we would despise as firewood in Australia are rapidly and economically turned

into table and chair legs without any previous drying or subsequent treatment other than storing in an airy shed before staining.

In Australia we are burning millions of cubic feet of better timber in order to clear land for Forestry, and either importing similar small articles ready-made from Scandinavia, or sending to America for the timber from which to make them.

Another noticeable feature was the evident haste with which they seek to reform the leaf canopy over any clear-felled area, so that the soil may have the uninterrupted benefit of a good forest floor of decaying humus. In Australia, where the agents of weathering are so much more active, instead of taking greater care of the forest floor, it is, unfortunately, a common practice to burn over the area and leave it exposed as long as possible after each rotation. But as scientifically trained men take over the management, such mistaken ideas must gradually disappear, and it is only by actually seeing the great importance that practical men in other countries attach to the theories one reads in text-books that it is possible to realise their great economic value in practice.

A member of the A.I.F., who is taking a forestry course in the Forest of Dean, writes:—

“There are nine members of the A.I.F. at Dean—five of whom come from New South Wales, two from Victoria, and one each from West Australia and Queensland.

“The course is an excellent one. Our instructor has been on the Continent a good deal and speaks much of the methods in Southern France and Saxony, where, he holds, they have the best system of forestry working in the world.

“I can now recognise any English forest tree by looking at the bark or branches, and can tell fairly well by the wood all the principal hardwoods, such as oak, hornbeam, ash, beech, elm, sweet chestnut, etc., and the coniferous timbers, such as Scotch pine, larch, Douglas fir, and spruce. Of these latter timbers I consider that the larch and Douglas fir would thrive well in our Australian climate, and they are fast growers, which mature earlier than other conifers. The time will come when we must plant soft woods, and these I feel sure will be the kind adopted as being most suitable. They are growing them over 60 years' rotation in this forest, but they would develop much more quickly than that in our country, where there is a much longer growing season. In time it will be absolutely necessary for us to grow our own soft woods instead of importing at the rate of £10,000 a day and sending all that money out of the country when we could be growing equally good specimens for ourselves.

“I have also done considerable nursery work since I came here—transplanting young trees and preparing the seed beds for sowing, and also planting out in the forest young trees four years old in rows 5 feet apart and 5 feet between each tree. In this way I have learnt planting out, sowing of seed beds, and raising of seedlings.

“Recently we spent a specially interesting day visiting different plantations, covering about 18 miles from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. The most interesting plots

were at Abbotswood, near Cinderford. There all varieties of trees are growing on most suitable soil and making rapid progress. The Lawson cypress is a beautiful tree, both as a forest tree and for ornamental purposes for parks and public gardens. It would thrive well in Victoria, and at 14 years is a well-grown tree here, upwards of 30 feet high. The cedar is also grown here as a fine park tree, and when grown thickly produces a splendid forest tree up to 150 feet in height.

"Our working day commences at 6 a.m., when we set out for work, which we reach at 7.30, and then work till 9. At that hour we have our breakfast, which is brought with us, and then work till 1 p.m., when we lunch. Afterwards we work till 4.30, and reach home in time for dinner at 5 p.m."

Dental Education.

In accordance with the general scheme instituted to provide officers and other ranks of the A.I.F. with special educational and vocational courses prior to repatriation, the following arrangements are in operation for those wishing to further their knowledge in dentistry.

For dental officers a refresher course at a recognised school of dentistry in the U.K. (Officers are granted leave with pay of rank and 6s. per day subsistence.) Or at the School of Dentistry, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. The officers selected for this latter pay a fee of 100 dollars for the course, but are granted the following privileges: (i.) £55 towards payment of passage to Australia. (ii.) Pay of rank for a period of 50 days to cover normal period of return to Australia. (iii.) In addition, pay of rank, plus 6s. per day subsistence, for a period of not exceeding 60 days while attending the course. (iv.) Where necessary, an advance from deferred pay account of the officers concerned may be obtained prior to embarkation.

Authority was given for the return to Australia of all members of the A.I.F. who were dental students and who had completed their third year of training. All such applicants were granted early repatriation.

For dental mechanics three schemes are in operation:—

1. Attachment to A.I.F. Dental Units either in the Field or in U.K. This was adopted for other ranks who were not in the Dental Service and who were desirous of training in their pre-war occupation.

2. Non-military employment was granted to mechanics to enable them to receive tuition in the higher branches of their work from dentists in U.K.

3. Leave with pay of rank and subsistence of 6s. per day to attend a course of instruction at a dental school in U.K.

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING DEPOT.

The number of enrolled students at the Agricultural Training Depot, Sutton Veny, is now 636. Progressive classes on all subjects are in progress, and keen interest is being taken by all ranks. Every advantage has been taken of the improvement in weather conditions for outdoor work.

The Australian Red Cross.

The following account of Red Cross work in connection with homeward bound transports is the result of actual experiences of the writer, whose duties bring him in touch with the subject.

The various transports concerned are hospital ships, hospital carriers, troop ships, troop family ships, munition workers' and family ships and war workers' ships, each class requiring attention of a special kind.

The Red Cross supply to a hospital carrier, with an average of a thousand men, about three hundred cases of comforts. Besides these, a kit bag is handed to each man, containing:—

2 suits pyjamas, 1 shirt, 1 pair socks, 1 tooth powder, 1 pair deck shoes, 3 handkerchiefs, 2 cakes soap, 1 shaving soap, 1 stationery packet and pencil, 1 flannel drawers, 1 undershirt, 1 hat.

The smokes work out at about 35 cigarettes per man per week and a quarter pound of tobacco, so that no man should go short on his return voyage of any comfort in the way of special foodstuffs, clothing, recreation, or smokes.

A hospital ship is provided for in the same way generally as a hospital carrier, but there are additional items for special cases, such as air beds, air cushions, and other medical comforts. Mental cases are dealt with quite separately and have their own special consignment in charge of the Mental M.O.

On troop ships special Red Cross goods are placed for use in hospital in case of sickness.

On the family ship similar stores are sent for the same purpose, but with additional items for the use of women and children (including special provision for infants, not forgetting books, games, etc., for children), and we often hear grateful reports from returning mothers. On a recent family ship the Red Cross placed over 200 cases of special comforts for use on the voyage.

Munition and war workers' transports are supplied on a similar but modified scale, and the wants of the children are not overlooked.

How do we know that a hospital carrier is about to sail? A.I.F. Movements and Quartering Branch Demob. forward a list of ships which are to sail about a certain date from a stated port, and the probable number of invalids. With this list also there will be perhaps a dozen more ships of the "assorted" class, as before described, which may be marked to sail the same month, but from ports hundreds of miles apart. Our shipping list states Tilbury—London. The first step is to select a member of the A.I.F. ("Digger") as the Red Cross Representative for the voyage.

His duties are many, and keep him fully occupied during the whole voyage, as he is in charge of stores, etc., under the S.M.O.'s control. He carries the honorary rank of sergeant.

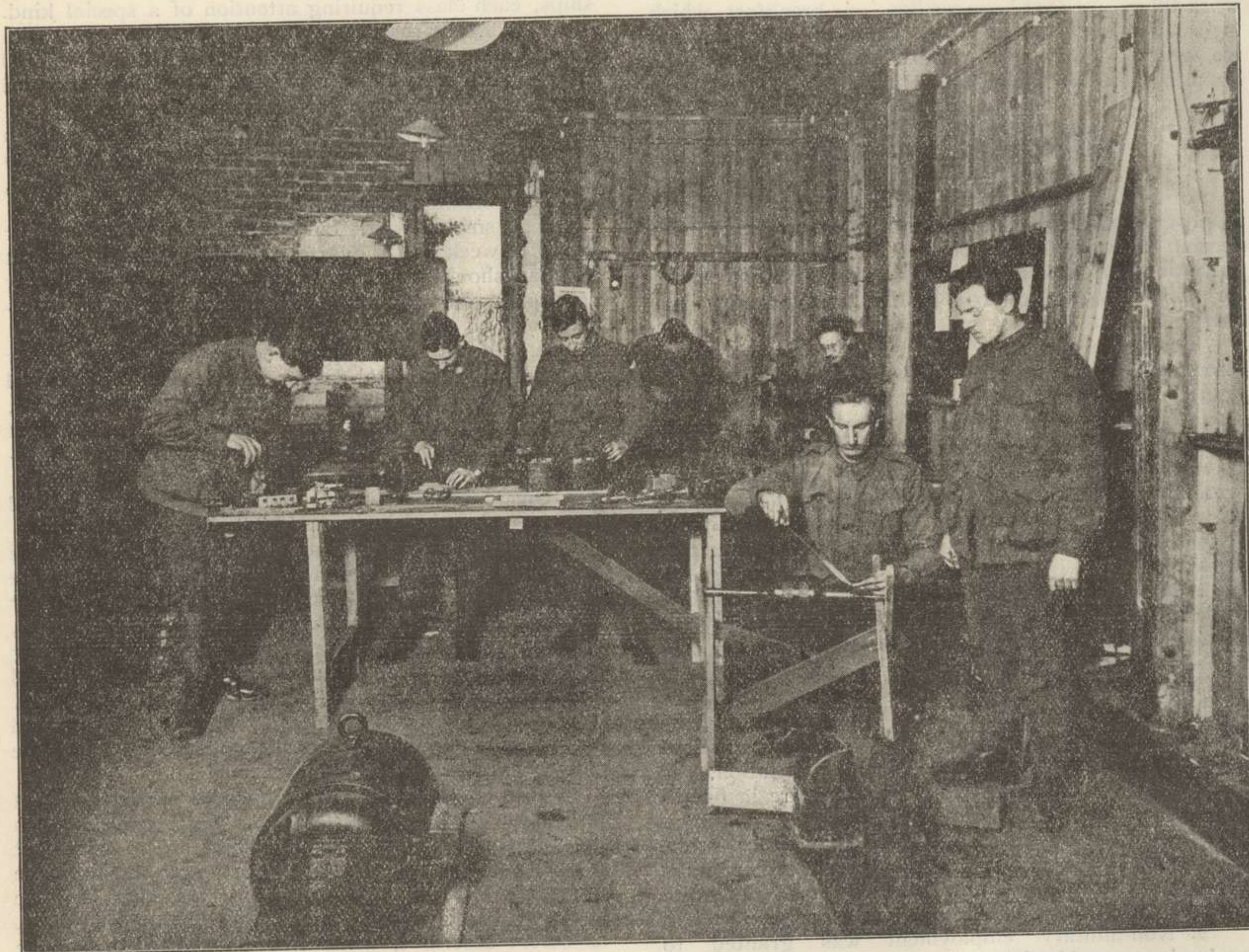
We also appoint a representative as Searcher on each transport, to still carry on our endeavours right up to the last to trace any that still remain "Missing"—hoping that amongst the returning troops someone may yet be able to give us information in this respect.

The next step. Our requisition for the Red Cross stores is made out and sent to our Depot at Old Bailey. Our Sergeant sees that these cases are packed and numbered, which may total three hundred for the thousand men. The Sergeant is instructed to proceed with the goods to the ship.

Before placing stores on board, the kind eye of the Customs official must be obtained, as most of our goods are bonded. If you place them on board without Customs approval you may be told to unload on the

Let us now take a glimpse at the work on an invalid ship. The number of men, first stated at a thousand, is found to be increased, then finally, a couple of days before embarkation, may be decreased, as in a case quite recently where, owing to an alteration at the last moment, we had to recall from a hospital carrier at Liverpool two hundred kit bags

The embarkation port is, say, Liverpool, and Weymouth the entraining Depot. A boat roll has been made out for transport. Officers and men are in-



ELECTRICAL CLASS, WESTHAM, WEYMOUTH.

wharf for inspection. Then you look for a gang—and you *do* look—to load, and as the ship is a hospital carrier, no cargo is carried, so the stevedore gang—such as they are have to be “dug out.” When all are safely on board and checked O.K., our store room is locked and Customs sealed. Sergeant then reports to the S.M.O., who signs all papers and forwards us receipts for our goods, which are now entirely under his control, and hands over any surplus with a full account and invoices at Melbourne.

formed that they are to leave the Depot at 4 a.m., a nice time in the middle of the English winter, but tide and time wait for no man, and the Liverpool tide is no exception. This early start means up all night, and with a good meal, probably at midnight, the train will run in two divisions with half an hour's lapse between. Leaving at four in the morning means due at Liverpool about two in the afternoon, eight to ten hours in the train without refreshments. To obviate this, the Red Cross come to the rescue, and the train

is pulled up at Birmingham. Each man is then supplied with an abundance of hot coffee, tea, cakes, and other delicacies. The train usually remains half an hour, or until every man is satisfied. The staff of St. John's Ambulance grandly assist us in this work.

The train now pulls up at Riverside Station, Liverpool, alongside the ship, and the men embark while a local band keeps up the happy thoughts of dear old "Home," assisted by the conjoint kindness of the British and American Red Cross, who have more refreshments awaiting the boys. Once on board, they are soon seated down at their first mess on their homeward transport. The happy looks and merry laughter speak for the contentment surrounding them, and finally the writer hands over all Red Cross care to the S.M.O., and often with a large lump of "Home sickness" in his throat, leaves the ship.

For the amputation and mental cases, where the patients are unable to care for themselves, a special train or part of a train is allotted, direct from London to Liverpool (not via Birmingham), and by the kindness of the railway authorities, in compliance with a request from the Red Cross, corridor carriages and a cooker are attached, so that these invalids can be handed refreshments en route. The foodstuffs, etc., are all prepared at Red Cross H.Q. and taken to the train, where two of our energetic ladies will take charge and work the train right through to Lime Street, Liverpool. Coffee, tea, cakes, sandwiches, etc., are served out as required, and the men are loud in their praises and thanks. With regard to the mental cases, the S.M.O. in charge was more than satisfied, as it occupied these special cases in such a way that the journey was not tiresome. At Liverpool, British Red Cross ambulances await the trains and convey the men to the ship, and our lady representatives accompany them and finally see all in their various cots aboard. Here they meet the men that travelled via Birmingham, and before the ship is out of sight of land the Red Cross begins again in the distribution of kit bags, and so continues the care for the boys until Melbourne is reached.

DEBATES.

All groups in England are now composed of quotas only, whose stay is short, and the Education activities of the Depots become more and more devoted to the organisation of quotas for work on transports and in arranging lectures and debates.

At No. 4 Group (4th Division), Hurdcott, every evening is utilised. During one week there were eight lectures and two debates, at which there were crowded attendances. These debates are conducted by the Education staff and arouse great interest and much thought. The total attendances at these debates and lectures in this one group for the week was 8,000.

At No. 2 Group (2nd Division) at Sutton Veny a model parliament has been in operation on strictly parliamentary lines, under the control of one of the A.I.F. lecturers. Lively debates have resulted.

3rd Division Agricultural Schools.

Education in agriculture in the A.I.F. has not been confined to the Agricultural Training Depot at Sutton Veny. For instance, since November 1st, 1918, in all 103, all ranks, have passed through the four agricultural schools of the 3rd Division, and their appreciation of the work of those instructing them is shown by practically every man who had done one course at the school applying to do a second. Valuable service was rendered also by the artificers in the Divisional Training Workshops, where the students spent their mornings on practical work. Among the subjects on which lectures were given were poultry, wheat-growing, home butter-making, bees, fruit-growing, manuring, irrigation, co-operation and finance, pests, sheep and wool, maize, silos and silage, lucerne, wool-scouring, wool-pressing, viticulture, diseases of cattle, dairying, horse-breeding, horse judging, origin and formation of soils, soil organisms. The fourth school assembled at Rambures on March 24th, 1919, with a total of three officers and twenty-nine other ranks, and carried on with that number until April 2nd, when one officer and sixteen other ranks were despatched to Sutton Veny Agricultural Training Depot. One O.R. was recalled to his unit, leaving two officers and twelve O.R.s attached to the school, work being carried on until April 12th, when the school was finally dispersed and all ranks returned to their units.

Students at Wool Sales.

On April 2nd a party of students from the Agricultural Training Depot at Sutton Veny visited a firm of wool-brokers, obtained four sets of catalogues from them, and were taken down to the show floors. The display of wool was poor, but on that account all the better for instructional purposes, as the instructors were able to point out faults in classing and re-lotting. In the afternoon the party attended the sale at Coleman Street, City, and saw the same wool sold.

A second party went through similar procedure at another sale two days later, when the show of wool was much better and in great variety, affording a good idea of how wool should be got up. The students were told how the wool was to be sold, and informed that it could not be sold for less than a minimum price put upon it by the Government. Differences between wool sales in England and those in Australia were pointed out.

Lieut. E. S. Leitch, who was in charge of the party, reports that they were very well treated by all the brokers, who were always ready to help in every possible way; and the students took a great interest in everything they saw, the trip being of very high educational value.

Education in Hospital.

On January 16th the sphere of the London Education Office was extended to include Southall Hospital (No. 2 A.A.H.), whose patients have each had at least one amputation.

Three instructors were appointed to undertake the work in connection with classes held at the hospital. They dealt with English, Mathematics, Accountancy, Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Drawing, and Design, and within four weeks (namely, on February 13th) each subject was being studied by an enthusiastic group, the numbers being 6, 19, 8, 32, 11, and 10 respectively.

Prior to the advent of the Education Service, the Australian Red Cross Society, to whom the A.I.F. owe so much, had built a workshop at Southall and arranged instruction in various trades and crafts for the men who were unable to return to their previous callings. Carpentry, Bootmaking, Electric Wiring, and Mechanical Engineering had been taught, and excellent work was done. The Red Cross co-operated heartily with the Education Service, and provided £53 towards increasing the stock of tools and equipment available for instruction in trade classes. Several new trades were added, namely, Sign-writing, Watch and Clock Repairing, and Oxy-Acetylene Welding. The Watch and Clock Repairing class, however, barely came into existence, for the two students who began had only been at work a fortnight when they learned that their names were on a boat roll. That was fatal, as is usually the case in similar circumstances. Why is it that the mere knowledge of approaching departure causes such excitement that the student takes no further interest in anything else? The Sign-writing class, on the other hand, prospered, and eight men completed the ten-weeks' course; but at that point the instructor was shipped to Australia. The Oxy-Acetylene Welding class has proved the most successful. Sixteen men have received instruction, eight of whom are still continuing.

As an example of the way in which opportunities have been seized whenever possible, Cinema Operating may be cited. Twice weekly the hospital was entertained by means of "pictures," and patients were taught to work the machine. Four men have turned out to be very efficient operators, and two of these are now engaged by outside cinemas.

Other former patients who have taken advantage of the provisions regarding non-military employment are engaged as Tailors, Bootmakers, Sign-writers, Motor Engineers, Linesmen, Tractor Driving, Poultry Farmers, Electrical Engineers, Masseurs, and many others. Of these, some have been granted until October 31st, in order that they may acquire a high degree of efficiency in their particular trades.

The special nature of the work at this hospital deserves attention. Some of the instructors have done really excellent work in encouraging bed patients, and in giving bedside instruction. Most of the patients are wonderfully cheerful, and reveal keen and in-

domitable spirits; but some have for a time sunk beneath their misfortunes, and the Education Service has been able to do something towards reviving their interest in life.

When the work of the Education Service was taken up at Southall on January 16th, the patients and male staff numbered over 1,200. They now number 400. The total who have attended one or other of the classes numbers 212. During the latter half of February and the former half of March the daily attendance averaged 128, but, owing to the rapid way in which demobilisation has proceeded, the daily attendance now averages only twenty-five. The classes may shortly have to stop altogether, but already they have fully justified their existence.

Education on Transports.

Soon after the A.I.F. commenced demobilisation it was realised that valuable educational work could be done during the voyage of troops to Australia. At the beginning of the year suggestions were put forward as to the nature of the work it was proposed to carry out, and at the beginning of February these had met with approval, and the scheme was then drafted and issued in the form of General Instructions No. 15 on 25/2/1919, but prior to that date a start had already been made with the work.

General Instructions No. 15 made it clear that a great deal of time should be given on board ship to educational work, and stated that not less than four hours per day were to be devoted to it. To ensure that instructors were available on transport, each quota leaving France had included in it an educational staff composed of one education officer and up to ten N.C.O. instructors. The quotas waiting in depots in United Kingdom also had N.C.O. instructors promoted and this made it possible for a quota education officer to make sure his staff of instructors was complete before embarking.

At the same time, arrangements were made in London for the despatch to each transport of quantities of educational books and equipment. The supply of books in England was limited and it was necessary to procure large quantities from America.

At present a satisfactory supply of books at the rate of about one per man is being placed on board transports. Books dealing with 30 subjects in their various aspects are being placed on board in a proportion which experience has shown to meet normal demands. The vast majority of the books can be purchased by the troops on board at cost price, and the remainder, generally books of higher price, a few only of which can be obtained, are being placed on board to form a Reference Library from which all may borrow, but not buy.

These reference books and such text books as are not sold, along with other educational equipment, are returned to England for future use on transports.

In addition stationery, nearly all of which is note books and pencils, is placed on board and is issued by Ship's Education Officer to students as required.

Whenever deck space allows, the Ship's Education Officer is provided with an office, so as to facilitate his work.

Blackboards, chalk, and rulers are being placed on board, and arrangements are being made for chests of tools and other similar equipment for the use of technical classes.

Arrangements have been made with A.I.F. Comforts Fund to place lanterns on board troopships for the purpose of demonstration during lectures.

A Belgian Appreciation.

The *Journal de Charleroi* of April 9, 1919, has a long article entitled "Australians as Apprentices." It describes the visit of a Belgian journalist to the "Workers University" now partly occupied by our students. The writer of the article was particularly struck by the rapid progress our men had been able to make. Most of them knew nothing about their present technical occupations when they began to attend the classes. He was astounded that men who for three years had been accustomed only to handling their rifles had so quickly become expert in the use of many tools of the most complicated trades. Carpenters, pattern-makers, upholsterers took about a week to be competent in assembling parts. In about three weeks they were able to work to a design. It was the same in the blacksmith's shop. A few men there had a certain knowledge of the trade when they began, but some were utterly ignorant, yet it was a scene of great activity in which many different kinds of work were being successfully done. The Director remarked:—

"The truth is that they bring to their work a keenness and pertinacity which never flag, whether they are only boys or middle-aged men, for both sorts are to be found in this Section."

The writer expresses his amazement when he heard that the Australians had entered the workshops only on January 10—they were so thoroughly at home there and so expertly at work. He passed on to the foundry, the motor shops, the chemistry lessons, and those in the steam engine, where he found 30 pupils. He thought that at least a great deal of time had been devoted by all concerned to produce these results, yet he learnt that the students work only in the afternoon and for three hours. The explanation lies in the great concentration of which they are capable, and as an example of this he quotes that that very morning the Australians had undergone an examination in electricity, which justified all the other praises he heard of them. He thought perhaps the Australian compulsory Education System might account for this. All these men between their seventh and fourteenth year had received a proper basis of education for later development. Altogether there were 350 Australian soldiers in these trade classes, and the office contained tables of attendance and diagrams showing the pro-

gress made in each branch. The attentiveness of the students is indicated in the following picture:—

"A sergeant stands at the blackboard, on which he is making sketches. On the benches are commissioned officers and privates together. When the visitors entered not a head was turned, so great was their attention and so sustained."

The steam-engine lessons are supplemented by frequent visits to factories and by further lessons in internal combustion engines and motor work. The writer thinks that what is being done by the A.I.F. should have some important effects upon Australian manufacturing industry.

The article ends with compliments to the men who are just as eager in fitting themselves for the works of peace after having fought like noble and valiant defenders of right and liberty.

Australians at Dalmeny.

A party of about thirty men of the A.I.F., making a round of representative herds and studs in this country, visited the Earl of Rosebery's home farm at Dalmeny, where they were received by the factor and farm manager and shown round some of the fields, seeing two different groups of shorthorns and Aberdeen-Angus cattle. They then had a look through the Aberdeen-Angus byres, and a couple of bulls were brought out for inspection. Mr. James Cameron, of Glasgow, explained the points of the two animals and the breed generally. At the shorthorn byres two nice groups were taken out for inspection, including the 3,100 gns. "Marigold" bull, which stood first in the February class, where he was purchased for export. The company devoted a good deal of time to the piggery, and typical specimens of large and middle white and Berkshire pigs were taken out for examination, including the large white "Kitchener," which weighs in lean condition about 8 cwt.

EDUCATIONAL LEAVE.

The number of applications for leave for educational purposes (non-military employment) received by the Education Service now total 10,362, of which 6,972 have been recommended. Of applications for extension of leave 383 have been recommended. The figures for the different sections are as follow:—

	Received	Recommended	Extensions
Universities ...	551	457	38
Technical ...	4,950	3,168	189
Agriculture ...	4,861	3,347	156

Scottish newspapers have been devoting considerable space to the visits to studs of the party from the A.I.F. which recently toured Scotland. The Glasgow "Herald" alludes to the Australians as "men intellectually very much alive and keenly interested in agriculture." The men themselves are enthusiastic in appreciation of Scottish hospitality.

Houses for a Shilling Per Annum.

WHAT AUSTRALIA IS DOING FOR HER RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Australia shows practical appreciation of her soldiers' and sailors' services by a scheme of generous repatriation benefits which are designed to specially care for all those who are disabled by wounds or sickness, and to again qualify as wage-earners those of her sons who have served their country.

The Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act is a sober and solid attempt to restore, as far as possible, the returned soldier to his pre-war status in business or profession, and in the case of the incapacitated man to provide him with an income whilst engaged in any instruction necessary to this end.

Blinded soldiers, as their plight requires, are to be specially cared for. Provision is made for them in various ways, but in addition to many other benefits they may receive under the Repatriation scheme, they will be provided with a home up to a value of £700, and with facilities for augmenting their income. The premises will be at the disposal of the beneficiary for as long a time as he may wish to occupy them at a "peppercorn" rental of 1s. per annum. Upon the death of a blinded soldier, the widow and other dependents will be treated in regard to sustenance and other benefits in the same way as a widow whose husband has died as a direct result of war wounds.

HELPING MEN TO HELP THEMSELVES.

Tools of trade, professional instruments, and other articles of personal equipment up to £10, by way of gift, and £50 by loan, are given to approved applicants who require them for the exercise of their trade.

A married soldier incapacitated to the extent of being unable to engage in his usual employment, or a soldier who prior to enlistment was dependent upon a business which he owned and conducted, may be advanced a sum up to £150, and in special cases up to £250, to purchase a business plant or stock to enable him to re-establish himself. Provision is made for widows in necessitous circumstances with children, and totally and permanently incapacitated soldiers, for furniture, by gift, up to the value of £25, and loans up to £35 are made to soldiers where it can be shown that such provision is necessary to their establishment in civil life. Alternative provision is also made for those who are no longer able to assist themselves by the establishment of hostels where the inmates may spend their days in pleasant surroundings and be assured of skilled attention. Hostels have already been secured in Sydney and Melbourne, and others are to be established in remaining capital cities.

For widows with children a living allowance on the following scale is provided:—

Widow with one child, inclusive of pension, 51s. per week.
 ,, with two children, inclusive of pension, 54s. 6d. per week.

Widow with three children, inclusive of pension, 58s. per week.
 ,, with four children, inclusive of pension, 61s. 6d. per week.
 ,, with five or more, inclusive of pension, 64s. 6d. per week.

FOR THOSE DISABLED.

Soldiers and sailors whose disability renders them incapable of following their pre-war occupation will be educationally trained for some other trade or profession, which their disabilities will allow them to follow, and be maintained by the Government. Until the returned soldier has been placed in civil employment he will, unless the fault is his own, be entitled to an allowance of £2 2s. per week for single men, £2 12s. 6d. for married men, and 3s. 6d. weekly for each child, up to a total of £3 6s. He will be paid this subsistence until he is again qualified and employed. Any pension which he may be in receipt of by reason of his disability is not now taken into consideration in the compilation of his Government allowance, which is based on the minimum wage of his new industry. To find suitable employment for returned men, all the States are considering large programmes of public works involving an expenditure of approximately £23,000,000.

A wide scope of opportunity is opened to stockmen and agriculturists. It is anticipated some 20,000 soldiers will desire to settle on the land. A holding will be provided for each, and advances ranging up to £500 will be made for the purchase of machinery and stock. In addition the soldier and his family will be entitled to sustenance until his land becomes productive. The provision of land under this scheme, the construction of railways to open it up, and the advances for stock and machinery are calculated to involve an outlay of £40,000,000.

HOUSES FOR RETURNING SOLDIERS.

Special facilities are provided returned soldiers for securing substantial houses of their own. They will be required to repay the capital cost of the house, in instalments ranging over a period of up to 37 years in the case of a stone, brick, or concrete house, or up to 20 years in the case of a wooden building. These repayments will go into a sinking fund, on which interest will be allowed, and if a soldier pays into this sinking fund 1 per cent. per annum for 37 years he will find at the end of that period he has completely paid off his debt. For a £600 house a working man now has to pay anything from 18s. a week upwards as rent, without any prospect of ever becoming the owner of his house. For can he, as a rule, hope to save enough to pay the deposit which is the first step towards securing a house of his own, even if he should discover a philanthropic vendor who would give him 37 years in which to complete the purchase?

Under the Government Repatriation Scheme a returned soldier may secure for £600 a house that would probably cost him £750 if purchased privately. He requires no capital and his weekly payment is 13s. 6d., which covers interest on capital and sinking fund. In 37 years the home is his own.

Or, if he is of a thrifty nature, he can clear his home of debt in a correspondingly shorter time, for he is always at liberty to make extra payments to the sinking fund, and the Commissioner will allow 5 per cent. interest on any such extra payments.

FOR WOMEN ALSO.

These advantages are extended to all members of

tution, spread over 37 years, represents a capitalised value of £150. If a soldier were free to transfer his home, with its obligations and advantages, there would be many civilians eager to offer him £50 or £100 for the privilege of stepping into his shoes. And the offer of this money might be a sore temptation to a soldier. The War Service Homes Act provides, however, that for five years no transfer can be effected except with



COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL SUBJECTS, MONTE VIDEO CAMP.

the Australian Imperial Forces who are married or about to marry, to nurses as well as soldiers, to the widows of fallen men, and to widowed mothers of soldiers who have lost their lives.

One important provision is designed to prevent speculation. The difference between the rate charged to a soldier under this scheme and the rate at which he could obtain the money at an ordinary banking insti-

the consent of the Commissioner. Nor is a soldier permitted to let a house obtained under this scheme unless he can satisfy the Commissioner that there are special circumstances to justify it. The scheme aims at providing soldiers with "homes," and all its terms are conditioned by that word.

The Commonwealth Government assumes a liability of £50,000,000 in giving effect to this scheme.

American Experience for Australians.

Arrangements have been made for the instruction in irrigation and pig-farming of a limited number of members of the Australian Imperial Force who desire to obtain experience in these industries in the United States.

The training will be carried out at Agricultural Farm Schools, and will include modern pig-farming, farm irrigation, agriculture, and experience with irrigation companies.

The period of instruction will be for twelve or six months, at the option of the applicant. Full military pay and subsistence allowed, together with steamer fares to America, will be paid. Free issue of uniform and overalls will be made, and students will be repatriated direct to Australia on conclusion of the training.

Students will be selected from those applicants who have already had experience on the land, and who intend to take up the work on return.

Each applicant who does not own or occupy suitable land in Australia must give an undertaking that he will take up farming pursuits of the character for which he has been trained on return to Australia.

AUSTRALIANS AND THE WOOL TRADE.

An interesting feature of the scheme for the repatriation and replacement in civil life of members of the Australian Forces, says the *Manchester Guardian* of May 14, has been an intensive course of instruction in matters relating to wool textiles at the Bradford Technical College. The value of the expert knowledge which will reach the Australian sheep farmers as a result of the movement was highly commended yesterday, when Brig.-Gen. W. R. McNicoll visited the College for the purpose of inspecting what had been done and addressed the students. About 200 Australian soldiers have taken the courses.

General McNicoll said that students who had returned to London had been almost extravagantly enthusiastic about the benefits they had received at the College, and he and his colleagues had been so much impressed that they had come from London to see for themselves. It was impossible to calculate the benefits that Australia would derive from so many soldiers getting into touch with a great wool centre like Bradford. Many of them before they came to England thought they knew all about wool, but they had learned a great deal that was new to them as the result of their stay at the hub of the wool universe. As a result of the wide knowledge and experience in the College and in the mills of the city, from a wool point of view, the whole of the Australian sheep and wool-growing industry must necessarily climb upwards.

Accommodation on "Family" Ships.

An interesting description of life aboard "family" ships carrying Australian soldiers home with their English wives and children was given by Chaplain Lieut.-Colonel Dexter, D.S.O., M.C., D.C.M., at the Australian War Chest Club recently.

There are approximately 11,500 wives and children of the A.I.F. to be accommodated, and this number is increasing at the rate of 150 weekly, so rapidly are Australian soldiers marrying English girls.

In view of the long voyage and the number of newly-born infants, special precautions are taken to ensure the comfort and welfare of the passengers. Australian nurses and extra stewardesses travel on the ships, whilst such necessary features as feeding-bottle sterilisers and baby "cots" or "kicking-pens" are installed. Amongst the babies' dry rations provided by the A.I.F. authorities are sweetened condensed milk, dried milk, Bengers', Allenbury's, Cow-and-Gate, and other patent infant foods, oranges, special oil emulsion, cod liver oil, feeding bottles (four per infant), rubber teats, and scales for weighing babies.

No effort is spared to make the voyage a healthful and happy one. In addition to plenty of good food and accommodation, concert-party costumes, a piano, organ, gramophone, and a duplicating machine for the production of an ocean newspaper is placed on each outgoing family ship.

DEMOBILISING UNIT LIBRARIES.

With the breaking up of the Australian Corps in France, the Reference Unit Libraries which were issued to all the Divisions and to Corps Headquarters have been returned to the Central Library, London. The staff there is busily engaged in taking these books back into stock.

In addition to the Unit Libraries, each Divisional Branch Library had a certain number of text-books on hand, and a number had also been re-bought from the A.I.F. students who had completed their courses of study. These are also being taken back by the Central Library, and as soon as this is done, the Branch Libraries in France will cease to exist.

The reports received from the Education Officers who have been in charge of the Reference Libraries show that the books have been used very freely by the men, and it is intended to increase the number of these libraries in the Depots of the United Kingdom as soon as the affairs of the Divisional Libraries are finalised.

A.I.F. students in London should note that there is a Branch Library at 10, Regency Street (near Horseferry Road), where text-books can be bought or reference books obtained on loan.

At Dartford Hospital.

During the past three months a large amount of very useful educational work has been accomplished at the 3rd Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Dartford. For the greater portion of the time the number of patients has been over 1,000 and the staff (Australian personnel) over 300, but has latterly declined to 400 and 200 respectively. Owing to the floating nature of the patient population only a few educational classes could be started. Those held within the Hospital were Short-hand and French, the former of which was commenced three times, and in each case a high standard of work was reached.

A lecture of an educational character was delivered each week in the lengthening hours of daylight until a lessening constituency made it advisable to discontinue them. The attendance varied from 80 to 200 and much interest was shown.

Most of the Education Officer's time, however, was occupied in assisting and advising men in the direction of obtaining non-military employment. Nearly 200 applications on Form 540 and for leave, etc., have been completed and forwarded.

The value of education work in hospital lies not only in the direct results achieved, which in themselves are considerable, but also in giving patients something to think about, restoring to them a normal mental outlook in place of the inertia which life in a hospital engenders.

CARDIFF SHOW.

Arrangements have been made through the War Office for accommodation and billeting of from 350 to 500 members of the A.I.F. at Cardiff from June 23 till June 28 in order to permit of their attending the Royal Agricultural Show. This will be the first Royal Show at Cardiff since 1916, and presents a unique opportunity for our stock breeders and others interested in land pursuits. Students are being selected from the Agricultural Training Depot, Sutton Veny, Leeds University, Edinburgh Livestock Husbandry Class, and classes at Kilmarnock and Aberdeen, and also from those out on stock and agricultural properties, as well as from France and the Depots in U.K. The Imperial Committee have arranged for a Livestock Judging Competition between the various Dominion troops. The A.I.F. Education Service hopes to arrange for a number of teams of four students each. The stock to be judged will be heavy horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, short and long wool sheep.

NEW CLASSES.

A branch education office has been opened at No. 1 Australian General Hospital, Sutton Veny, and classes in arithmetic, book-keeping, French, and agricultural and pastoral subjects have been formed.

At Weymouth new classes in operation include wool-classing, carpentry, and commercial law.

Show Dates for 1919.

MAY.

- 23.—Heavy and Light Horse Show and Sale at Derby Repository.
- 28.—Shire and Hackney Show and Sale at *Peterborough Repository*.
- 29.—*Crewe Association* of Shorthorn Breeders' Show and Sale at Crewe.
- 28, 29, and 30.—*Royal Ulster A.S.* at Belfast.
- 31.—*Hebden Bridge* Agricultural Show.

JUNE.

- 5 and 6. *Suffolk A.S.* Show in Christ Church Park, Ipswich.
- 9 to 14.—International Horse Show at *Olympia*.
- 10 to 13.—*Royal Dublin Society* Agricultural Show, Ball's Bridge, Dublin.
- 11.—*Essex A.S.* Show at Witham.
- 12.—Heavy and Light Horse Show and Sale at *Derby Repository*.
- 12.—*Northampton A.S.*
- 12.—*Hertfordshire and Worcestershire A.S.* Show in Hereford Market.
- 13.—*Stirling* Agricultural Show at Williamsfield, St. Ninian, Stirling.
- 14.—*Devon Cattle Breeders'* Show and Sale of cows and heifers at Taunton.
- 18 and 19.—*Royal Norfolk A.A.* Show in Eaton Park, Norwich.
- 19.—*Roborough (Devon)* Agricultural Show.
- 20.—*Totnes* Agricultural Show.
- 24 to 28.—*R.A.S.E.* Show at Cardiff.

JULY.

- 3.—*Selby A.S.*
- 4 and 5.—*Richmond* Royal Horse Show.
- 8, 9, and 10.—Highland Show at *Edinburgh*.
- 8, 9, and 10.—*Peterborough A.S.* Show.
- 9.—*Haxby (Yorkshire)* Agricultural Show.
- 9.—Shire and Hackney Show and Sale at *Peterborough Repository*.
- 9.—*South Molton A.S.*
- 14.—*Sherburn-in-Elmet* Show.
- 16.—*Malton* Agricultural Show.
- 17.—*Bedfordshire A.S.* Show at *Dunstable*.
- 23.—*York A.S.* Show
- 30.—Heavy and Light Horse Show and Sale at *Derby Repository*.
- 30.—*Sneaton, Hawkser, and Sleights* Combined Agricultural Show.
- 31.—*Leicestershire A.S.* Show at *Leicester*
- 31.—*Tiverton A.S.*

Extension of Repatriation Benefits.

Major M. B. Ryan, who has recently arrived from Australia to act as London representative of the Minister for Repatriation, Melbourne, when asked to explain for the *Education Service Journal* recent extensions of benefits under the Australian Soldiers Repatriation Act, supplied the following résumé:—

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

The Federal Cabinet, on the advice of Senator E. D. Millen, the Minister for Repatriation, has recently decided to extend the privileges of vocational training to all youths who enlisted under the age of 20, whether incapacitated or not. Previously this form of assistance was restricted to the following classes:—

- (a) Apprentices whose indentures have been interrupted by war service.
- (b) Those who as a result of disabilities due to war service are unable to follow their pre-war occupations.
- (c) Those, who while able to follow their pre-war occupations, are unable owing to war injuries, to command immediately the full wages of their trade or calling.
- (d) Those who at the time of enlistment, were under 18 years of age (this applied more particularly to the men of the Naval Forces).
- (e) Widows.

The result of this generous extension of Vocational Training which it is estimated will cost the Commonwealth £1,300,000, is to give every Australian soldier who enlisted under the age of 26, the opportunity of becoming a skilled man in some occupation which he desires or is suited to follow.

The regulations governing those members of the A.I.F. who were serving an apprenticeship at the time of their enlistment have been amended recently to provide that any such men will receive from the Repatriation Department such amounts as will, together with their *personal* pension, bring their incomes up to the amount they would have been earning had their apprenticeships not been interrupted by war service. Thus it will be seen that these men are guaranteed against any financial loss by reason of their war service.

Vocational training regulations have been further liberalized to provide that men who are being trained in private business establishments will receive from the Department such an amount, *exclusive* of their pensions, as will bring the amount they received from their employers up to the minimum wage fixed or recognised

in the industry in which they are being trained. Previously, in computing the amount they would receive from the Department, any pensions men were receiving were taken into account. The position now is that the men are guaranteed the minimum wage of the trade they are learning and get their pensions, if any, into the bargain.

Application for these as in the case of all other benefits under the Repatriation Act, must be made direct to the Local Repatriation Committee in the particular locality in which the men take up their residence.

What Nurses are Studying.

Nursing sisters of the A.A.M.C., as members of the A.I.F., are entitled to the opportunities for leave for educational purposes offered by the Education Service under the Non-Military Employment Scheme. So far 253 of them have availed themselves of the privileges extended. It is interesting to note that of the subjects our nurses are studying, those pertaining to preparation for home life are easily the most popular, domestic economy heading the list with 69 students, while cooking, with 14, and infant welfare, with 10, come under the same category. Of the more independent spirits, feeling the call of the open air, no less than 54 have selected motor driving. Next in point of number come subjects connected with the nursing profession, such as sanitation 32, health visiting 12, massage 17, midwifery 11, dispensing 2, electro-therapy 4. Horticulture claims 11, business 2, and the balance, notably small, is made up of singing 4, music 1, drawing 2, languages 1, dancing 1.

Privilege for Cattle Breeders.

In the Agricultural Department of the Marischal College, Aberdeen, a party of A.I.F. members heard addresses by three breeders of shorthorn cattle of world-wide fame: Mr. James Durno, Rothiebrisan; Mr. William Anderson, Saphock; Mr. William Duthie, Collynie. The party also visited the noted shorthorn herds at Uppermill, Tillycairn, Collynie, and Tarves in the company of these gentlemen, who gave the students a thorough explanation of all they saw.

