

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION, Ltd.

Twelfth Annual General Meeting, Saturday, Nov. 21, 1931.

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The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, on Saturday, November 21st, 1931, at 3 p.m., the President, Dame Florence Simpson, in the chair.

Minutes and Report of Council.

The Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting having been read and signed as correct, the Chairman of Council read the report of the Council, and the President, commenting on the satisfactory work of the year, moved its adoption from the chair.

Report of the Treasurer.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Miss Ireland read the Treasurer's Report. Miss Davy called attention to the donation given by Miss Cliffe, which was much appreciated by all the members of the O.C.A. Miss Cliffe, she said, was often abroad and could not take part in their activities, but she was a very loyal Waac and had elected to help in this way.

Miss Richardson commented on the deficit on the Dinner, and Mrs. Johnston explained that 6s. on each ticket had to be paid to Harrods, so that only 6d. remained on each for the loud speaker (which cost six guineas), printing and postage.

The President expressed appreciation of the work of the Hon. Treasurer and the regret of the meeting that she was not able to be present and that the cause was her mother's illness.

The adoption of the Treasurer's Report was moved by Mrs. Powell, seconded by Miss C. Sutton, and carried.

President's Remarks.

The President then commented on the good work of the year, emphasising the share of all members in running the Association, and expressing appreciation of the way in which they kept the flag flying. She then called on the General Secretary to read the list of members nominated to represent the Branches on the Council for the coming year.

The following list of names was read and the members elected :—

Birmingham: Mrs. Powell.
Bournemouth: Miss Darling.
Brighton: Miss Turner.
Bristol: Miss Pratt.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland: Miss Davy.

Glasgow and West of Scotland: Miss Ottman.

Golders Green: Mrs. James.

Leeds: Miss Mainland.

London: Miss Longman, Miss Hayward, Miss Chapman, and Miss Andrews.

Manchester: Dr. Peake.

Newcastle: Mrs. Jackson.

Nottingham: Mrs. Skellington.

Oxford: Miss Smart.

Sunderland: No nomination sent.

Extraordinary Meeting.

As it was now 3.30 the President announced that the Extraordinary General Meeting, of which notice had been given, would now be held and that the business of the Annual General Meeting would afterwards be completed. She then called on the General Secretary to read the notice convening the meeting.

The notice having been read, the Chairman of Council said that it was now some years since the O.C.A. had decided to become a limited company, the object being to safeguard the members of Council, both collectively and individually, against financial liability. In those days company law was comparatively simple, but it had increased greatly in complexity, being designed for trading organisations and large bodies, not for friendly small societies like their own. She believed that members of the Council who were directors of the company, were each liable for a fine because all their names did not appear on the notepaper. When a Branch banked money they were called upon to take responsibility for it, although they had no knowledge of the details of the finance of the Branch, and they were required to give undertakings which had no bearings on the work of the Association, and the implications of which they did not appreciate. They were not prepared to be responsible for anything they did not fully understand, and they thought that the position of a limited company was for our Association both expensive and inconvenient. A sum of money had been set aside as a safeguard against financial emergencies. Under these circumstances the Council had decided to advise the voluntary liquidation of the company, and, in accordance with the legal requirements, had sworn before a Commissioner for Oaths that the company was solvent. They now recommended that the company, Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, Ltd., be wound up and that a liquidator be appointed, but that Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps go on indefinitely.

Miss Ireland emphasised the fact that the O.C.A. was not coming to an end, and said that as the sum of £249 12s. was invested and had been earmarked as a reserve for any final liabilities, members of the Council need not fear financial responsibility.

Various suggestions were made as to the desirability of letting members know that the liquidation of the Company did not mean a change in the activities of the O.C.A., and were referred to the Council for consideration and necessary action.

The President then moved from the Chair:—

1. That Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (Old Comrades' Association), Ltd., be wound up voluntarily.
2. That Miss Miriam Margery Homersham, Incorporated Accountant of St. Clement's House, St. Clement's Lane, London, E.C.4, be and is hereby appointed the Liquidator to conduct the winding up.

Both resolutions were carried unanimously.

Annual General Meeting Resumed.

The President said that the business of the Annual General Meeting would now be resumed, and called upon members to consider whether Shanghai Camp be continued as an Association Camp.

Shanghai Camp.

Mrs. Jackson moved, and Miss Horniblow seconded, that the Camp be so continued for another year.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan stated on behalf of the Council that they were willing to undertake the arrangements for another year provided that no big structural expenses had to be incurred. She pointed out that, while the benefits of the Camp were fully realised, they were actually enjoyed only by 26 members of the Corps, and that the deficit of £36 was large in relation to this number.

After discussion, the motion was carried, a proviso limiting expenses on structural repairs and requiring these to be referred to the Council, having been added at the suggestion of Miss Smart.

Local Branch Business.

Mrs. Chilvers (Norfolk) suggested that a Silence be instituted at the Dinner in memory of those who had passed away. This was referred to the Council.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan suggested on behalf of the Council that the draft Minutes of General Meetings be in future printed in the Gazette, this would enable members to submit any corrections while the meeting was still fresh in their minds and further, would make it unnecessary to read the Minutes at the next meeting. Some spare copies of the Gazette could be available at the meeting for reference. This was approved.

Conclusion.

Dame Helen then moved a vote of thanks to the President, which was carried with acclamation, and the President briefly relied.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council have to report a year's work which shows two very satisfactory features, an increase of membership and a decrease of expenses in comparison to income. Having said this, Old Comrades might perhaps consider that the Council had said enough, but there are a few additional facts which should be laid before you.

Mrs. Johnston has been confirmed, to the great satisfaction of us all, in the post of general secretary; on the other hand there has been a change of office. The Territorial Association needed the room they had lent us at Duke of York's Headquarters, but they most generously provided another which, though smaller, is pleasanter and more convenient. I am sure this meeting would like to send a message of thanks to Colonel Pryce-Jones for all his kindness in the matter. The Council wish also to express our sense of obligation to the many Old Comrades who do the voluntary spade work of the Association. Branch Secretaries, Branch Treasurers, Editor and members of the Gazette Committee, members of the Dinner Committee, all who help, we want you to know that we truly appreciate what you do.

We owe a special debt to our comrades on the Service Women's Benevolent Fund, 276 ex-members of the Corps

have received grants, in nearly every case these have served to tide her over an emergency and to enable her to help herself. Usually it is a matter of illness, the member's own illness or that of her children, sometimes it is a case of maintenance while finding work, sometimes of supplementary training or of a business loan. One member was enabled to put her small shop on a satisfactory basis, one to improve the stock of her poultry farm, and one the furniture of her boarding house, a member has been helped to buy a cow and is making regular repayments, another has a donkey for her hawker's cart as this is her only means of livelihood. There are members given passages overseas, one, with her children, was enabled to join her husband in Canada, while others have gone to paid employment. Finally, the increasing number of cases in which help is given for school fees shows that our Waac babies are growing up.

The Clothing Cupboard continues to be well supplied by the kindness of members, London and Norfolk Branches sometimes give us new clothes and these are much appreciated. The Cupboard enables us to supplement S.W.B.F. grants and to give clothes where help is not possible.

The number of Branches is still 27, Sunderland has qualified, by increase in membership, for representation on the Council, and, while some Branches have decreased in numbers, the total membership has risen from 1,323 last year to 1,344.

The Gazette is, we believe, better than ever, but the number of subscribers has dropped from 733 to 648, we hope that with better times the subscribers will increase.

Shanghai Camp has again had as good a summer as the weather and our increasing duties will permit.

On Armistice Day 36 members took part in the Cenotaph Parade and six, in uniform, were at the Albert Hall.

Last year's Dinner was one of our largest, with 640 members and 13 guests; this year the Dinner has again been broadcast, and in this way, also, the O.C.A. is made known to new members.

H. C. I. GWYNNE-VAUGHAN,
(Chairman of Council).

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1931.

General Account.

I am sure that you will be pleased to hear that this year our income exceeds our expenditure by £49 14s. 8d.

Our thanks are due to Miss Cliffe, who has so generously given £5 per month; the London Telephone Service for a donation of £7 7s. to the Benevolent Fund; the Liverpool Club for a donation of £2 2s. to the Benevolent Fund, and £2 2s. to the Shanghai Camp; Birmingham Branch, £5; Brighton Branch, £4 4s.; Transvaal Branch, £5; Edinburgh Branch, £11 10s.; Golders Green Branch, 19s. 6d.; Norfolk Branch, £1; and to those individual Old Comrades who have contributed to the Augmentation of Funds.

At the General Meeting last year, a member said she would be willing to give 1s. per month to the funds, would anyone else do the same, and as a result of that suggestion the sum of £4 1s. 6d. has been received.

Our membership this year shows an increase of 20; 95 new members have joined the O.C.A. this year and 82 have rejoined. The strength of the respective Branches according to my records is as under.—

BRANCH.	ANNUAL.	LIFE.	TOTAL.
Birmingham	28	3	31
Bournemouth	19	6	25
Bristol	37	8	45
Brighton	28	6	34
Cheltenham	7	5	12
Eastbourne	11	1	12
Edinburgh	59	29	88
Exeter	12	2	14
Glasgow	42	10	52
Golders Green	19	4	23
Headquarters	108	148	256
Ireland	3	10	13
Leeds	32	15	47

Liverpool	12	...	6	...	18
London	284	...	173	...	457
Manchester	24	...	12	...	36
Newcastle	17	...	3	...	20
Norfolk	14	...	1	...	15
Nottingham	19	...	1	...	20
North Staffs.	12	...	—	...	12
Oxford	20	...	9	...	29
Plymouth	13	...	2	...	15
South Wales & Cardiff	10	...	6	...	16
St. Leonards & Hastings	10	...	5	...	15
Sunderland	20	...	—	...	20
Transvaal	16	...	1	...	17
Tunbridge Wells	6	...	—	...	6

882	466	1,348
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Grand total 1,348

Less five members belonging to two Branches 5

1,343

As compared with a total of 1,323 at the date of the last General Meeting.

Gazette Account.

This shows a loss of £2 17s. 3d., as compared with the loss of 7s. 6d. last year. This is due to the falling off of subscriptions, which are less this year by the amount of £9 13s. 2d.

Shanghai Camp.

The accounts this year show a loss of £36 5s. 8d., the receipts being £61 5s. 8d., and the expenses £97 11s. 4d. There are also one or two accounts for this year which have not been paid, which really makes the loss more than the balance-sheet shows.

H. M. BILLINGTON, Hon. Treasurer.

TWELFTH ANNUAL DINNER.

Saturday, 21st November, 1931.

After the Dinner a vote was taken by a show of hands as to whether a Re-union should be held instead of a dinner in January, 1933.

In favour of the dinner—a very large majority.

Toast—The King.

Proposed by Dame Florence Simpson.

Toast—The Queen, our Commander-in-Chief.

Proposed by Dame Florence Simpson.

Messages:

The President then read various cablegrams, telegrams and messages, including one from Her Majesty the Queen as Commandant-in-Chief.

She also requested the members present not to ask the guests and Officers of the Association for autographs.

Toast—H.M. Forces.

Proposed by Miss E. Thompson, C.B.E.

Madam President, Dame Helen and Old Comrades: I am very fortunate to-night to have been allotted the most delightful task of proposing His Majesty's Forces, and in so doing to welcome our distinguished guests on your behalf, and also, if I may, of telling you who they are that you are entertaining.

The first I would like to introduce here for the first time is Major-General Sir Philip Nash, formerly Deputy Director-General of Transportation. All of you who have served overseas will have heard of the D.G.T.! Some of us were fortunate enough to see the beautiful quarters which the Waacs occupied there. You needn't groan! I know they were considered the "show unit," and they were always shown to people to show what extraordinary comfort and luxuries the Waacs had when serving overseas!

The next guest I should like to call your attention to is Captain Garrard. Some of you may think he is here because he is the husband of the Editor of the Gazette.

Not a bit of it! We don't ask husbands, except on their own merits. I may say he is here very much on his own merits. He is one of the best friends the Association has, and has a particularly soft spot for the children of Waacs. I don't know what we should do with our Christmas parties were it not for Captain Garrard's kind help in organising the entertainments which we give to the children.

We also have here Mr. Haworth and Mr. King. They, as you know, spend most of their lives helping us with the Service Women's Benevolent Fund. They are two extraordinarily brave men. I have the greatest possible admiration for them. They come here year after year and they seem to enjoy it, and you must all have got their autographs, so I hope you will kindly give them a peaceful evening. This being a Women's Dinner I have put, as you see, most of the gentlemen first.

We now get to some of our women guests. We have with us Miss Hunt, representing the Senior Service, the Wrens. I have been looking very anxiously at Miss Hunt and hope her neighbours have been looking after her because, during the Dinner, I had an uneasy recollection that the Wrens always had an extra ration of meat! If only I had thought of it sooner I would have warned Mrs. Johnson. That, and the fact that they had white tops to their caps in the summer, always annoyed me terribly; but as we grow older we take these things less keenly.

Miss Drury is from the W.R.A.F. Miss Drury I feel rather a personal interest in, because for one brief and not inglorious period of my career I was seconded to the W.R.A.F. I think I was really passed to Dame Helen for her retention, but she was too old a soldier for that, and back I came! During that brief and not inglorious period I had the privilege of what I call training Miss Drury. I took her out on an inspection, and she has never looked back since, and is now the extremely able Secretary of the W.R.A.F. O.C.A.

We also have with us Miss Littlejohn, of the W.V.R. We are always grateful to the W.V.R. because they had some share in producing Miss Ireland.

Another new guest to-night who I hope we shall see again is Colonel Hesketh. He is Secretary of the City of London Branch of the British Legion and he knows that a Waac is a full member of the British Legion, and is glad to welcome them to that Branch.

Another guest is Miss Franklin, who for some years has been Secretary of the Women's Branch of the Overseas Settlement Department. During the war she was in the Land Army.

Then we come to our guest of honour, Maj.-Gen. Lord Loch. He has the very special interest to us of being Chairman of the United Services' Fund. It would also, I think, interest you signallers that he was at one period of his career, in South Africa, a Divisional Signalling Officer. I should have said that you will have an opportunity of seeing two of these distinguished guests presently as they will both reply to toasts.

We have been extraordinarily brave in asking Sir Philip Nash to propose the O.C.A., as I am told he has first-hand knowledge of us.

I now ask you to drink the toast of His Majesty's Forces, coupled with the name of Major-General Lord Loch.

Reply—Major-General Lord Loch, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O., D.S.O.

Members of the O.C.A. I don't know whether you can hear me? I don't like that thing (indicating microphone). It might hit me, and I am frightened enough as it is. A poor mere male attending up here to speak to all you ladies! Soldiers—yes! And that is the only reason why I am here. The only excuse I have for replying for the Services is that I am, like you, a dug-out. I was going to say a past number. (Cries of "No").

Comrades Associations are a thing very dear to my heart. I am President of the Comrades' Association of my old regiment, the Grenadier Guards, but there is one difference between that Comrades Association and yours. We call ourselves "The Grenadier Guards Comrades

Association." We leave out the word "Old." It is a word that has got to come too soon. "Who cares?"—when you get to my age you care! You can't help it.

But, you know, last night I was attending a Comrades Association Dinner of my regiment in Kettering, in Northamptonshire, and I was reminded, as I am at every one of these meetings, of old times, and it is an extraordinary thing, I find I am more often remembered by the amount of punishment that I gave than by anything else! But there is one real good thing that comes out of that, and that is—that nobody ever bears malice, and you are a better friend for it, because they realise you were only doing your best, and it was in doing that you did your best to be just.

If I may I will tell you one word about the Comrades Association of my regiment, because I think it applies to all Comrades Associations. We want the word "Comrade" to be used in the very best and highest sense, and we go on the principle that if one of our branches recommends a man for employment they guarantee that man. If that man lets them down they give him one warning. The second time—out! I will give you one short example of it. A very big employer of labour heard that one of the men employed by them had been refused admittance to the Comrades Association of his local Branch. They wrote and asked if it was true, because, they said, "If it is true we will not keep him in our employ." The answer had to go back that it was true. He was discharged. Awful bad luck on that one man—but it put the Association up a hundred per cent. with employers everywhere, and the result is that of the members of our Association we have very, very few unemployed. Over 90 per cent. of the men who apply for assistance, old soldiers of the regiment, do not belong to the Comrades Association, and I don't think you can say very much more for the value of the Association than that.

Of course, there are some different opinions as to whether men are good or whether they are bad. There was a man applied for assistance the other day from Ireland. We wrote to the parish priest to know what sort of a man he was, and he wrote back and said: "He is a first-rate Grenadier; he never fails to celebrate every battle honour on the colours."

It is always very difficult. Men have got to be trained up. When they come, they are not always so bright as we hope they are when they leave. At the Depot the other day there was a man who was trying awfully hard. One of the things he had to learn was the name of his Company Sergeant Major and he knew he was going to be asked this when he went on parade, so as he was cleaning his uniform before going on parade he kept on muttering to himself "Company Sergeant Major Smith, M.M. Company Sergeant Major Smith, M.M." An Officer heard him and went up and said, "That's all right. You have got the name now. What does 'M.M.' mean?" The man looked blank for a minute, then looked up with a smile and said, "Mickey Mouse!"

The proposer of this toast told you that I am Chairman of the United Services Fund. Well, that Fund gives one a considerable amount to do. I don't know how many of you are parents here, but I will bet there is none of you can claim a family like I do, as Chairman of the United Services Fund, of just over 2,000 children. We have got 2,000 children for whom we are absolutely responsible in every way. Some of them are boarded out with foster-parents, some of them are boarded in with their own parents, but anyhow we have accepted responsibility for them. Among other things, we have, at Broad Heath, in London, a Babies' Home, where babies go when the mother has to have an operation or something of that sort. One of our visitors came the other day—very urgent—to request a bed for a child. The Secretary of the Home asked the very natural question, "How old is the child?" "Oh, the child hasn't been born yet, but it is expected in about ten days." So you see we are not only expected to be parents of those who are, but of those who are to be.

I must not keep you longer, but before sitting down I do want to thank you most sincerely for the honour you have done me in asking me to be present to-night, and

though I am supposed to be replying for His Majesty's Forces I am afraid I have not referred to them except those who have left them, but being connected with Comrades Associations and with the United Services Fund I come into very close touch with serving soldiers and I can say this without fear of contradiction—the Army, Navy and Air Force of to-day are as good as those of yesterday, and if ever they are called upon, as we were in the past, I am absolutely certain they will justify any confidence put in them. Thank you.

Toast—The O.C.A.

Proposed by Major-General Sir Philip Nash.

Madam President and members of the O.C.A., it gives me the very greatest pleasure to be entrusted with the toast of the O.C.A. May I say that I do not ever remember attending a gathering, a re-union gathering, which showed such enthusiasm and such obvious pleasure as that I see before me. Believe me, I have had to speak on occasions of this sort many times, but again I say I have never seen a gathering which is obviously so happy, and the occasion so well-chosen, as the one to-night.

But, ladies and gentlemen, as I came to your meeting, I could not refrain from thinking that it was a national crisis in our history that originally brought those in this room together, and we are passing through another national crisis. I was reminded of that in another way. Last Sunday, as is sometimes my wont, I wandered into Hyde Park to listen to the orators, and there was a gentleman who was holding forth on the iniquities of war—which we entirely agree with—but he put it in a peculiar way. He began by saying that the people that caused war are the professional soldiers, and up got one of the audience and took him to task over that; and when the orator saw he was getting the worst of the argument, he switched to where he really meant to be, and he said, "Here is a man who glories in the fact that he is a soldier. There is only one soldier who can be recognised as doing good work in the world, and that is the Soldier of God." Before anybody thought of a suitable reply, a little Cockney sitting on the grass just in front of him, looked at the orator and said: "Well, then, guv'nor, you're a 'ell of a long way from your barracks!"

Ladies and gentlemen, if you will allow me, let us talk seriously for a few moments. We are passing through one of the biggest crises that our country has ever been through, and whatever that crisis may be called, whether an economic crisis, financial crisis, the real crisis in this country is the state of the employment market. It is the terrible unemployment in this country that is the crisis to England.

I think one or two reflections may be justified. The first is that I believe more people understand to-day, than ever did in this country, that the real producers of wealth for a nation, and our nation is no exception, are industry and commerce; bankers, financial institutions, the Stock Exchange, and all such institutions, whilst rendering an essential service to the nation in giving services to industry, in themselves, do not create wealth. Now taxation, under which we suffer and groan, eventually has to be paid for by industry, and as long as industry prospers, then we can pay our way, but to-day, due to conditions over which we have but little control, industry is in a very sad and serious state. We have, as a nation, elected a new Parliament, and great as is the trust we have placed in that new Parliament, equally great is their responsibility and the obligations upon them. One more thing I think I can say with truth—that I believe the nation to-day is looking to be ruled; we have not been ruled in that sense since we were in the other crisis, of the War; we expect the new Parliament to rule us, and we hope to be told what to do.

I also believe that the nation now is roused and, speaking as an industrialist and an employer of labour, I do feel that in the new Parliament which we have put into being, we have a greater chance to-day than we have had since the War for bringing our beloved country back to prosperity, as we knew it before, and bringing her back to the place which she had in the powers and the nations of the world before the War came about.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, may I, as a guest who feels the honour, ask you to drink to the health of the O.C.A. May it long prosper and may it retain the obvious splendid spirit that I see around me to-night; and I couple the toast with the name of Miss A. G. Brown.

Reply—Miss A. G. Brown,

Toast—The President.

Sir Philip Nash, Dame Florence and Old Comrades, I wonder if I may be forgiven if I may amend the words of Shakespeare to suit the occasion—Some are born to honours, some achieve honours, and some have honours thrust upon them. I feel to-night that I have had two very great honours thrust upon me. The first one is to thank Sir Philip for giving the toast of the O.C.A. He has said some very nice things about us and it is very nice to know that our services were so much appreciated by one who was in a position to judge. The O.C.A. means a tremendous lot to us, and it has done tremendously in keeping together the spirit of comradeship which was begun during the days of the Great War, and I am sure that I am voicing the words of all my comrades when I say again, thank you, Sir Philip.

Now the second honour to which I referred is that of proposing the toast of our President. I have already said that the Association means a tremendous lot to us, but I ask you, what is an Association without its President? We are all exceedingly delighted to see Dame Florence with us to-night. The Dinner never seems quite the same when she is not here, does it? Comrades, I give you the toast—Our President.

(Drunk with musical honours).

Reply—Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E.

Dear Old Comrades; it does one's heart good to hear a Waac cheer once more! I am only so sorry to think that I was not here to hear that on January 3rd. You all know that if it had been in any way possible I should have been here, but I am doubly glad to be amongst you once more to-night. I think we must feel very grateful to everyone who has spoken to us so charmingly and so wonderfully. I feel quite abashed to think I come at the end and will make such a poor ending. (Cries of "No.")

I think we must all take to heart what Sir Philip Nash has just said. We have passed and are passing through a very serious National crisis. All of us in this room know what it is to pass through a very great national crisis shoulder to shoulder and doing the work together. It was the work that drew us together; it was the work that kept us together and it is the work that holds us together still. Had it not been for that work, which we were called upon to do, and which we did with gladness, we should not be sitting here to-night in a spirit of comradeship and esprit de corps, which the work brought about for us. What happened in the past will continue in the present and will hold us together to the end of our lives in the future. We shall always be ready, I hope, to face every national crisis in the way in which Old Comrades of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps have, do, and will face a crisis of any kind.

I therefore feel that it is a great thing to be able to say just a few words at this particular time. I happened to be over in Switzerland at the time when the crisis arose. It may seem rather strange to you—I cashed a cheque—a Traveller's Cheque—on the Friday before Monday, September 21st, and for that cheque I got the equivalent in Swiss money and in French money, as I was motoring back through France. I left with my niece on Monday and we arrived at Boulogne on Thursday. The first question I was asked in Boulogne was, "Have you any French money?" I said "Yes. Does anyone want any?" They said, "You will probably want some, because you can't get any cheques cashed or anything of that sort, now." I said "Why?" "Haven't you heard?" "No, I haven't heard," and I motored four days across France without hearing a thing, so you can imagine what a shock it was. And it was a still greater shock when about a fortnight ago I got a letter from the Bank saying would I please send another £6 5s. on the cheque I had cashed! That makes one realise, even if only a very small sum, that things are not what they were.

Let us hope that with this spirit of our nation and the spirit of everybody in it, things will, once more, be what they were and perhaps still better in times ahead of us. This can only be made possible if every individual amongst us carries on in the right way and with the right spirit, and we still stand shoulder to shoulder as we always have done. And I cannot tell you what pleasure it gave me to shake hands with all those who came in to-night and to feel that our Old Comrades are what they always were and always will be; and that same hearty handshake and look in the eyes once a year is something that is worth living for.

Once more, dear Old Comrades, I thank you very much for the hearty greetings you gave me in response to the toast and I thank our Old Comrade, Miss Brown, for the kind way in which she proposed it, and I thank everybody here this evening for all that they have given us and brought to make our evening such a great success.

I hope that in January 1933 (it seems a long way off) all who are here, and a great many more besides, will gather for our Re-union Dinner. Thank you, Old Comrades.

A speech was called for from **Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan**, who said:—

Old Comrades, I am not going to make you a proper speech. (Shout of "Hooray!") It is no good that Old Comrade feeling hopeful—I am not going to make an improper one! But I do want to say, in the words so often repeated in the telegrams read to us this evening, "Cheerio." It is a great pleasure to see you all, old friends. I hear that there has been, since the notice of the Extraordinary Meeting of the O.C.A., a certain amount of alarm and despondency. Some people seem to think we were coming to an end. Now, there used to be a question which was, "Are we downhearted? No." Well, I am going to ask another one: "Are we disbanded?" (Shouts of "No.") "Well, that is good enough, isn't it?"

A speech was also called for from **Miss Ireland**, who said:

Madam President, Old Comrades and friends, once again I should like to express my very grateful appreciation of your continued affection. These Re-union Dinners make one realise how the years are rolling on, but when one sees a photograph, as I did the other day in John Bull, of myself and a few of you, and they referred to us as "The Girls of the Old Brigade," I tried to feel that I am not quite so old as I really am!

There is an old saying that one should never forget old friends for the sake of new and I think the friendships we made in Q.M.A.A.C. are not likely to be forgotten, in spite of change of work, change of circumstances, and in many cases fresh interests, I feel that our friendships are likely to go on, and I think it can be truly said that our lamp of friendship is lit with the oil of sincerity. I thank you again, very much indeed, Old Comrades.

Miss Lila Davy and Mrs. Johnston were also called for, and expressed their thanks and their good wishes to the O.C.A.

GREETINGS.

Warm Christmas Greetings and a Happy New Year to my dear Old Comrades in all parts of the world.

FLORENCE SIMPSON.

To old friends of Cauchoise, Rue de la Republique, Cavalry Remounts, Boquet, Bapaume, Monchy Cayeux, St. Pol, and others far and near, Miss Laird sends greeting. May these three gifts: Friendship—Work—Adventure be yours throughout the year.

FOR YOUR SPECIAL ATTENTION, PLEASE!

O.C.A. and Gazette subscriptions for 1932 are now due. Postal-orders and cheques should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Q.M.A.A.C., and **not to individual people**. The renewal slip enclosed in this issue should be completed and returned with the Gazette subscription of 3s 6d. Any subscribers who do not receive such a slip should refer to their last receipt for date of expiry of their subscription. To save unnecessary postage, the **receipt** for the 1932 subscription will be enclosed in the January number.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR DECEMBER.**Edinburgh and East of Scotland.**

Annual General Meeting and Armistice Re-Union.—The annual general meeting of the Branch was held in the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, on Saturday 7th November. In the regrettable absence of Miss Alice Low, O.B.E., the chair was taken by Miss E. G. Abbey (late U.A. Overseas). The meeting was followed by a re-union of Old Comrades. Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D., President of the Branch, welcomed the guests. The guest of honour was Miss Edith Pridden, O.B.E. (late D.C. overseas), who gave a very interesting talk on the recent financial crisis. Other guests were Miss L. Johnstone, representing Glasgow Branch and Miss Cruden, representing W.R.A.F. O.C.A. A very happy evening was spent and it was very gratifying to see 52 members turn out to the re-union 13 years after Armistice.

Armistice Day.—Miss I. Anderson (member of committee) represented the Branch at the service in St. Giles' Cathedral on Armistice Day and also placed a wreath on the Stone of Remembrance. A spray of poppies was also placed on the memorial tablet in the hall of the Club in memory of the Waacs who were killed or died on service.

Glasgow Re-Union.—Miss Mary Innes—Branch secretary—was the guest of the Glasgow Branch at their re-union dinner on 14th November. Miss Innes wishes to thank the Glasgow members very sincerely for their kindness to the during her visit to Glasgow.

Party to Disabled Men.—An invitation has been sent to the disabled men from Lady Haig's Poppy Factory to a party to be held in the Club in January. Members will be notified of the date and any member wishing to attend and help to entertain the men will be made very welcome. The Branch secretary will be pleased to have donations towards the expense of the party.

Christmas.—Instead of giving a children's party this Christmas, it was decided that a Christmas parcel should be sent to the children of our benevolent fund cases. Miss F. M. Lush (Benevolent Fund Secretary) wishes to thank all members who have so very kindly given contributions toward the cost of the parcels.

No News Sheet is being published this year, but a Christmas card has been sent to all members abroad.

Our chairman, Miss Alice Low, O.B.E. (late D.C. overseas) sends affectionate greetings to all Old Comrades and hopes that the coming year will bring better times and much happiness to all.

The Branch secretary sends best Christmas wishes to all members and, at the same time, asks them to please try to remember that their subscriptions of 2/6 is due in January, 1932, and that she will be extremely grateful if they will send their subscriptions as early as possible in the new year.

MARY INNES, Hon Sec.

London.**A Merry Christmas To Our Old Comrades From London Branch Members.**

The chief event of November being the Annual General Meeting of the Branch, many members who were not able to attend, will want to hear something about it. It was very well attended and much serious business was discussed. Next month, if there is space, I may send in a few notes for the benefit of those members who were unable to come, and also for those abroad. In the meantime the report for the year may interest many. The following members were elected to serve on the 1932 Committee:—

London Branch Committee.

Miss O. Longman, Miss C. R. Leech, Miss M. L. Chapman, Miss B. Haines, Miss D. Porter, Miss D. Hatfield, Miss E. Winter, Miss D. Jones, Miss P. H. Harvey, Miss C. Dodd. Hon. Secretary, Miss R. S. Andrews; Hon. treasurer, Miss D. Hayward.

Representatives on Headquarters Council.

Miss R. S. Andrews, Miss O. Longman, Miss M. L. Chapman, Miss D. Hayward.

Don't forget your 1932 subscription is now due.

The Competition details will be published in the January number of the Gazette.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1931.**Membership.**

It is very satisfactory to be able to report that the strength of the Branch still keeps up to standard, and, if anything, higher than it was at this time last year. Many new members have been welcomed into the Branch during the past year and several old members have rejoined.

The total membership figure is as follows: Annual members, 309; life members, 171; transferred from other Branches, 4; total, 484.

I regret to report that the Branch has lost four members during the year through death. One of those members we all knew well, our great friend and staunch old comrade, Mrs. Parkes, who did so much for the Branch. A few members have been transferred to other Branches as they have moved away from London and one or two have gone abroad.

Re-Unions.

The meetings have not been well attended, but I feel that the only reason for the non-attendance of many of our members is sheer inability to fit in all the many calls upon them in these very busy days, and not from lack of interest in the Branch. And the fact that the membership has increased this year gives sure proof of this and also there is nothing to fear regarding the future of the Branch.

Lectures.

Of the two lectures decided upon at the last General Meeting, arrangements were made with the L.G.O.C. to have two of their lectures on different dates. One was given on the 5th of February, which was very interesting, and the other was cancelled in favour of this meeting to-night in order to fall in with the plans of the Headquarters Council and the Annual Meeting of the Association.

Ordinary Social Events.

There have been very few ordinary social events this year, on account of lack of support, principally bad weather and also financial depression amongst the members who are keen. The socials which were organised were both successful, both being well supported and, I know, very much appreciated. The one concert which was arranged had to be postponed because the date proved inconvenient for the Roamers Concert Party. This concert is to be given at a later date.

Special Events.

Of the special events more must be said; the dinner and dance, held at the First Avenue Hotel, was a great success and many members have expressed a desire for another in 1932. The camp week-end in September was a real enjoyable one, although we were not very lucky with the weather. The party usually given to the children of the Association each year was again one of the events of the festive season, when some seventy children and many friends and helpers had a jolly good time. In connection with this function the Committee commented upon the low cost of the party which was entirely due to the kindness of our many friends who take an interest in the children, who not only gave their services but also helped in a monetary way. The annual outing to Shanghai Camp, which took place on the 4th of July was also, so far as the children were concerned, a great event, but some disappointment was felt at the lack of interest shown by the members themselves and also there was a dearth of helper at the camp where they are wanted so badly.

Benevolent Work.

As it was decided at the last General Meeting that no after-care representative was now required, it may interest members to know that no applications for help have been received from any of those families to whom we used to pay periodical visits and, so far as I know, no cases have been submitted direct to the Service Women's Benevolent Fund. I think by this we may consider that our work in this direction, for the present, is not really necessary. When the mothers came along to the party at the beginning of the month and in September to the outing, they were all perfectly happy and well content with what was being done for their children.

Although the visiting ceased, the sewing has still gone on and we have to thank Miss Rogers and her sewers for

some fifty garments which have been presented to the Headquarters cupboard from time to time during the year. The amount of garments made is smaller than last year because we have been unfortunate in losing, through moving to other towns, several of our best workers.

Special Donation Fund.

This fund was started at the beginning of the year in order to try and make up the deficit on capitation fees for life members which we are faced with yearly—a deficit which will grow each year until at the end of the next ten years, or slightly earlier, if we are still in existence, will end its life as a deficit and simply disappear. However, I don't think we need worry about ten years hence, but of the present time, and I hope that members will again make efforts to raise the sum required to balance the account for 1932. This year we have not only raised our deficit but a bit over and above so we can pat ourselves on the back, or those who made it for us. I think if I am correct fifteen members have entered for the competition which was started to raise funds and the list will be published in the December Gazette. Although our President is giving the prize for the member who has earned her 10s. in the most original way, she has also entered the competition herself and her donation has come to hand, so she now runs the risk of perhaps winning her own prize.

Conclusion.

In conclusion I should like to say that I feel this report is a little brief, or at least more brief than in former years, but there has been so little doing during the year in the ordinary way to make report upon and I should like to suggest that 1932 be a free year with regard to social events. This suggestion, I may say, comes from the retiring committee, who think that a free year may be appreciated.

Thanks are due to the many members who have helped the honorary secretary in getting out the rush work when necessary, also to Miss Harvey and her staff at the Club who are always so helpful on Thursday evenings, to Miss Billington, for auditing the accounts this year again and to our many friends who can always be depended upon for support when occasions arise.

R. S. ANDREWS, Hon. Sec.

Bristol and West of England.

Our Annual Re-Union Dinner was held on Saturday evening, the 31st October, at the Queen's Cafe, Bristol. About twenty members turned up, and we had as our guests Miss Pratt, O.B.E.—our representative on the Council—Miss Vincy, the Cardiff Secretary, and Mrs. Mann, the Cheltenham Secretary.

Previous to the Dinner we held our annual general meeting, at which Miss E. M. Phillput, 14 Florence Park, Redland, Bristol, was unanimously elected Secretary for the coming year.

After dinner we drank the health of one of our members, Miss Hall, who has gone to Shanghai and whom we shall very much miss, she having done much good work for the Branch for many years. Another member, Mrs. Scott, sailed for India on the very day of our dinner and sent many kind messages to the Branch.

A telegram of good wishes also came from Miss Herridge, who was unable to be present, and yet another member, Miss Fisher, who is ill. To the latter we sent our best wishes for a speedy recovery and a small gift of fruit, etc., to help to cheer her up!

The evening was spent principally in "talking" and everyone seemed very happy. The earlier date was arranged so as not to have our Dinner too near the date of the London Dinner in November.

* * * * *

The Editor regrets that owing to pressure of space several reports are omitted, but these will be found in the January issue.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Wanted, beginning January, Housekeeper; Ex-Service woman preferred.—Apply, by letter, stating experience, Secretary, Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

Pure Home-made Chocolates, Bon-Bons, Toffees, Caramels, etc. Fancy boxes of Chocolates and Sweets, suitable for Presents, from 2s. 6d. to £2 2s. 0d. Price list on application.—Miss E. Cocksedge, 2 Bracken Road, West, Brighouse, Yorkshire.

Ann Wilkinson, 159 Ebury Street, Victoria, S.W.1, ex-W.A.A.C., has opened at the above address. Knitting wools, silks, art needlework lingerie, hosiery, children's frocks and woollies; maids' uniforms ready made and made to measure.—C. Wilkinson, Garrison Headquarters, Felixstowe.

St. Agnes, Cornwall.—Comfortably furnished timber bungalow, three bedrooms, sleep four, living-room, large kitchen, indoor sanitation, verandah, sea view, lovely country. Plate and linen provided. October 17th, 1931, to May 10th, 1932, 15/- per week inclusive; May, £1/1/- per week; June, £2/2/- per week; July, £3/3/- per week; August, £4/4/- per week; September, £2/2/- per week; October, £1/1/- per week.—Bertrand, 6 Wilmington Avenue, Chiswick, London, W.4

Bedsitting Rooms, Single or Double, available at 12 Nevern Road, Earl's Court. Rooms comfortably furnished, and terms moderate. Gas fires and rings in all rooms. Constant hot water. Breakfast as required. Apply, Miss H. Pink, Frobisher, 1740. Also available, partially furnished, very large, light and airy basement sitting-room. Small kitchenette attached with hot and cold water, gas ring, etc. Separate entrance. Gas fire, own meter. Electric light included.—Apply as above.

Numerology.—Your name your guide for life. Readings, 7/6, 5/-, and 2/6; U.S.A. and Canada, \$2 and \$1. Old readings brought up to date, 2/6. Send full names (maiden name if married), and date of birth to Blanche, c/o Miss Muuse, Apt. 2 South, 251 West, 81st Street, New York City.

George IV. Hotel, Gt. Amwell, Ware, Herts. Telephone: Stanstead Abbots 39. A beautiful spot for a quiet country holiday. Saturday to Monday, 15s. Other terms on application. Teas, luncheons. Parties catered for by arrangement. Combine a ramble with your general meeting and come here for tea. Club room accommodates 50.—A. G. Brown and A. Edwards (Camp 1, Etaples).

Scotch House, 44 Rue de la Paix, Le Touquet. Family Hotel; Pension; comfortable; moderate; central. Rooms fitted with hot and cold water. Excellent cuisine; personal supervision. Alice B. Anderson (Unit 11, Wimereux, and of Claims Commission, Le Touquet).

Bournemouth.—Mrs. A. Stocker, "Glencora," 3 Hawkwood Road, Boscombe. Comfortable board residence, good food; separate tables; 4 mins. sea, one minute Arcade, shops, etc. Every consideration for the comfort of visitors; large shady lawn, South aspect; Moderate terms.—Telephone: Bournemouth 962.

Stormont House, 43 and 45 Longridge Road, Earls Court, S.W.5. Misses A. Crockford and O. Mainland having extended their premises, are now able to offer additional accommodation. Bed, bath and breakfast from 5/6 single rooms; from 5/- each double rooms. Lunch, tea and dinner optional; 6d. per night extra for bookings for less than three nights. Gas fires in rooms. Telephone: Frobisher, 0986

Devon.—Comfortably furnished rooms. Every convenience with attendance: facing South. Five minutes walk from sea.—Apply Mrs. Waite, 1 Major Terrace, Seaton, Devon.

An Ideal Christmas Gift for Old Comrades, "Johnnie" of Q.M.A.A.C., by Agnes Anderson. Popular edition, 1/6; postage, 3d. An Old Comrade writes: I value this book more than all the presents I have ever had." Copies may be had from Miss Anderson, Ormiston, Bridge of Allan, Scotland.

Branch.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Address of Club or Meeting Place.	Day and Time of Meeting.
Birmingham.	Miss E. I. Dipple, 29 Marston Road, Erdington, Birmingham.	38 John Bright Street, Room 19.	Wednesdays. 7 to 10 p.m.
Bournemouth.	Miss Edith Trotter, C.B.E., 4 East Avenue, Bournemouth.	Cavendish House, 8 Christ Church Road.	Last Monday in each month 8 to 10 p.m.
Brighton.	Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton, Sussex.		On last Wednesday in the month; 7.15—10.15.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss Umpleby, "Rokeby," Long Aston, Bristol.	No permanent room fixed.	Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, 84a High Street, Cheltenham, Gloucester.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Exeter.	Mrs. Vicary, The Belvedere. Powderham, near Exeter.	16 Dix Field, Exeter.	First Thursday of the month at 3.30 p.m.
Eastbourne.	Miss N. Peters, 5 Spencer Road, Eastbourne.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Miss M. Innes, 1 Granville Terrace, Edinburgh. Benevolent Sec.: Miss F. M. Lush, 11a Gilmore Place, Edinburgh.	Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.	1st Saturday of each month, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Glasgow and West of Scotland.	Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.	316 Bath Street, Glasgow.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E. 11 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Ireland.	Miss E. C. Finny, Erith Lodge, Sandymount, Dublin.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 33 Victoria Terrace, Belle Vue Road, Leeds. Benevolent Sec.: Miss A. Annikin, 2 Hollin Park View, Roundhay, Leeds, Yorks.	British Legion (Women's Section) Rooms, 14 Hanover Square.	First Wednesday in the month, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	(Temp.) Mrs. Ryley, 199 Picton Road, Wavertree.	18 Colquitt Street, Liverpool.	Friday, 7.30 p.m.
London.	Miss R. S. Andrews, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1; 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays. Mess. Central Canteen, Duke of York's Hdq., King's Rd., Chelsea. Winchfield, Shirehall Lane, Golders Green Road (nearest 'bus stop Brent Bridge). Telephone: Hendon 1925.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10	122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	First Tuesday of each month; 7.30—10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.		Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Miss Aldred,	The Continental Cafe, 14 Oxford Street, Manchester.	Every Friday, 7—10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss Margaret Moyes, 1A Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle. Benevolent Sec., Miss L. M. Floyd, 13 Beacon Street, Low Fell, Gateshead	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.	No permanent room fixed.	
Oxford.	Mrs. Grundy, Woodside Cottage, Windsor Forest.	No permanent room fixed	Members notified individually.
Notts.	Mrs. Skellington, 94 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham.	Meldrum's Cafe, Lister Gate.	First Wednesday in the month, 7-9.30.
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Notte Street, Plymouth.		
Cardiff. and S. Wales.	Miss Diana V. Viney, 201 Carlisle Street, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and Last Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m.
St. Leonard's.	Miss E. Taylor, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	58 West Hill, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.	Not fixed.
Sunderland.	Miss M. M. Low, 15 Featherstone Street, Roker, Sunderland	Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Burdon Road.	Second Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.
Tunbridge Wells.	Mrs. Houchen, Sunny Ridge, Rotherfield, Kent.		July 20th and Nov. 25th.

All Old Comrades are cordially invited to any of the above re-unions. If no definite meetings are fixed, application should be made to the Branch Secretary concerned, who will give the necessary particulars.

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps Old Comrades' Association, Limited.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT OCTOBER 31st, 1931.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
GENERAL FUND.								GENERAL FUND.								
Capital Account:								Office Furniture and Equipment:—								
Balance 1st November, 1930	...	...	...	833	14	11					Per last Account	...	83	4	0	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure per Account attached	...	...	...	49	14	8					Less: Sold during year	...	...	2	5	0
				883	9	7							80	19	0	
Due to Shanghai Fund	50	2	2								Less: Depreciation	...	4	3	3	
				933	11	9							76	15	9	
													6	13	10	
													249	12	0	
													457	7	9	
													15	10	2	
													2	0	0	
													120	16	3	
													3	6	1	
													1	9	11	
													125	12	3	
													933	11	9	

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31st October, 1931.

(GENERAL FUND).

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries and National Insurance	95	7	4	By Subscriptions—Life	12	10	0			
„ Capitation Fees	17	8	0	„ Annual	14	12	6			
„ Heating and Cleaning	2	3	5					27	2	6
„ Telephone	11	9	5	„ Capitation Fees				40	16	0
„ Stationery and Printing	12	5	0	„ Donations:—						
„ Postage	13	13	4	„ General	68	9	0			
„ Fares	12	13	5	„ Augmentation of Funds	81	12	4			
„ Audit Fee	10	10	0	„ Benevolent Fund	15	19	9			
„ Donations—Benevolent Fund	3	12	6					166	1	1
„ Bank Charges	10	0	0	„ Profit on Sale of Badges				1	7	5
„ Income Tax	8	14	4	„ Interest on War Loan				22	10	0
„ Expenses of Annual General Meeting	10	0	0							
„ Insurances	17	6	0							
„ Gratuities	5	5	0							
„ Deficit on Annual Dinner	4	9	2							
„ General Expenses	3	9	8							
„ Subscriptions to Territorial Army and Air Force Association	1	1	0							
„ Depreciation	4	3	3							
	208	2	4							
„ Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet ...	49	14	8							
	£257	17	0					£257	17	0

Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps Old Comrades' Association, Ltd.

(BENEVOLENT FUND).

CASH SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance 1st November, 1930	100	15	10
„ Grants Received	1,578	5	0
„ Discounts Received	86	10	0
„ Postage	25	0	0
„ Refunds	13	15	0
	£1,804	5	10

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1931.

	£	s.	d.
By Grants Paid	1,672	0	6
„ Loans Refunded	1	17	0
„ Grants Refunded	13	15	0
„ Postage	20	0	0
„ Cheque Books	4	19	9
„ Discounts	2	10	8
„ Balance, 31st October, 1931	89	2	11
	£1,804	5	10