

SOLDIERS' MEETING.

Ipswich Sub-Branch.

Interesting Discussions.

Questions which provoked interesting discussions came before the Ipswich sub-branch of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. at its monthly meeting last night. There was a good attendance of members, and Mr. L. Jackson presided.

A proposal was made by the Herbert River (Ingham) sub-branch that the League should aim at gaining political representation along non-party lines. It was contended that, on the termination of the last war, administration of soldiers' affairs was so bad or deficient that many men were unable to get reasonable consideration of their claims for recognition. Avoidance of a repetition of such conditions was essential, and the Northern sub-branch urged the adoption of a political platform by the League, based largely on questions relating to the soldiers' welfare and those of a national or Empire character.

In the debate which ensued on the letter, it was pointed out that the constitution of the League provided that a non-political attitude should be strictly observed, and that, until this portion of the constitution was rescinded, the proposals embodied in the letter could not be entertained. It also was stated that a political body, sponsored by returned soldiers, but entirely dissociated from the League, was being organised in Brisbane, and that, if another were started, duplication would arise. Furthermore, it was stressed that the Herbert River sub-branch had not proceeded with its idea through the proper channels, which were its district and the State Office.

Several speakers urged that, notwithstanding this faulty procedure, the letter should not be rejected summarily, and on the motion of Messrs. H. S. Shapcott and A. Chambers, it was decided to suggest to the Herbert River sub-

cott and A. Chambers, it was decided to suggest to the Herbert River sub-branch that it should place its proposals before the Northern District, with a view to having them included in the agenda for the next State Congress.

The Ipswich Trades and Labour Council advised that it was proposed to call a conference of Ipswich citizens, including representatives of public bodies, at which the Mayor (Ald. J. C. Minnis) would preside, for the purpose of considering the following proposals—(1) An exchange of diplomatic representatives between the Commonwealth and the U.S.S.R. (2) The sending of a trade mission to the U.S.S.R., with power to give effect to any agreement reached. (3) That in line with other States a campaign be instituted for the purpose of sending a fleet of ambulances to Russia, as a demonstration of the friendship of the Australian people with those of Russia. It was asked that the sub-branch send two delegates to the conference.

The President stated that this matter had been considered by the executive of the combined sub-branches, and it had been decided that, as the League was non-political and non-sectarian, it was regretted that delegates could not be sent officially, but that if members of the League cared to attend the conference, they were at liberty to do so.

Mr. N. Tupicoff said that he strongly disagreed with the view that the matter was of a political nature. Russia was Britain's ally, and the two nations were fighting a common enemy. Immediately Germany had invaded the Soviet Union, Mr. Churchill declared that all assistance possible would be given to Russia by Great Britain, so that, in the Prime Minister's view, it was not a political question at all.

Mr. E. J. Hatton agreed with this contention. It was not a matter of Communism or any other ideology they had to consider; the stark fact was that they were in a life-and-death struggle, and in that struggle Russia was co-operating with the British Empire. Irrespective of any political considerations whatever, Britain had

considerations whatever, Britain had committed herself to accord Russia the utmost help, and to that compact every Briton should stand.

It was decided to send delegates to the conference and to empower them to support the proposals submitted.

A lengthy discussion took place on the question of establishing a refreshment bar in the Memorial Hall, and by 17 votes to 15 it was decided to obtain information from the Townsville, Cairns, and Toowoomba sub-branches as to the conditions under which their clubs were conducted.

Donations of £10 from Cribb and Foote's Social Welfare Club to the sub-branch's Distress Fund, and of £5/5/ and £5 respectively from the Moreton District Council and the Officers' Mess Fund at the Amberley Aerodrome towards the upkeep of soldiers' and airmen's graves, were received.

The financial statement, which was presented by Mr. Shapcott, revealed a satisfactory position, it being stated that the revenue from the billiards room was highly gratifying.

A report on the proceedings of the Moreton District Council meeting was tendered by Mr. Hatton, who, on the motion of Mr. W. Spragg, was accorded a vote of thanks.

On the suggestion of Mr. Chambers, it was decided to send a letter and a parcel of comforts to Corporal Dick Olsen, a former President of the sub-branch, who is on active service overseas.