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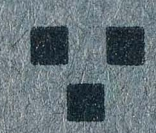
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(Cancelled)

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V. writing of the Y.M.C.A.  
says, "A powerful agency for the development of the  
religious, social and physical well-being of the nation's  
youth."

"Invest your money in manhood, especially young man-  
hood." Ruskin.

# Blackboy Hill

Y.M.C.A.  
Military  
Social  
Centre.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Opened on Saturday,  
October 16th, 1915,  
by Sir JOHN FORREST.





# Facts about the Y. M. C. A.

The Association is working to-day in over 1500 military camps in the British Empire.

The Y.M.C.A. is established in 8000 cities in 40 different countries.

Its membership is open to young men of every class and creed.

Its work in military camps is for every soldier.

Its facilities and privileges are offered to all.

Its value to the soldier, in certain circumstances, is priceless.

The Y.M.C.A. of Perth as at present constituted is not yet nine years old.

The great majority of its members are at the front fighting for Empire.

The Y.M.C.A. is serving troops in practically every corner of the Empire.

It serves Britishers, Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, Hindoos, South Africans and West Indians.

It spends £1000 per week to induce men to write home.

It has centres for soldiers, sailors, dockers, battalions and munition workers.

It has hostels in Northern France for relatives of soldiers wounded to the death.

It has 100 "huts" in the North of France.

It has seventeen centres around Cairo, nine in Alexandria, seven in Malta, three in Mesopotamia, and several in Salonika.

It has enquiry bureaux for assisting relatives to trace their friends.

It is the special friend of soldiers in times of peace or war, whether in training or on active service.



## The Young Men's Christian Association of Perth Incor.

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Opening of the Y.M.C.A.  
Social Centre at the  
Blackboy Hill  
Military Camp,  
Western Australia



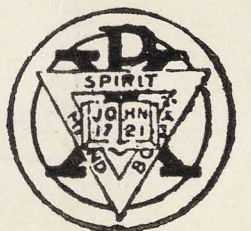
PON the outbreak of War the Y.M.C.A. of Perth was quickly in the field with its own and borrowed equipment, although the only previous experience its officers had to go upon had been a few days in the Greenmount Camp, a few months previously.

The great needs of the raw recruits, and the inspiration of doing something for the Empire, begat an enthusiasm for the task in the Y.M.C.A. workers.

Difficulties were met and overcome. In fact these so developed resource as to become the conditions of achievement.

The work was done in tents and marquees, which in the summer days were rather pleasant though necessitating a constant watchfulness.

Public Library of W. A.  
ARCHIVES BRANCH







The first Marquees used at Blackboy Hill. 11th Battalion Y.M.C.A. members and staff members in the centre.



**I**N the long winter of rain and storm and wind, the conditions of service for the Y.M.C.A. staff were most difficult to stand up to, and only a great cause enabled the staff to endure.



**Distressing days. Marquees levelled by wind storms, On one night £200 worth of canvas was nearly all put out of action and destroyed.**





## Board of Directors.

### Young Men's Christian Association of Perth.

BACK ROW, from left to right.

Messrs. Albany Bell, F. J. Huelin,  
S. H. Lamb, George F. Pitchford,  
E. A. Black, Rev. F. E. Harry, J.  
H. Harvey.

MIDDLE ROW. E. T. Owen, W.

A. Hutchinson (Recording Secty.)  
A. T. Wreford (Chairman Religious  
Work Committee), J. H. Prowse,  
J. Hassen (Chairman Social Comm)  
John Nicholson (Hon. Solicitor), J.  
W. Langsford, J. T. Peet.

SITTING. H. G. Jeffreson (Chairman

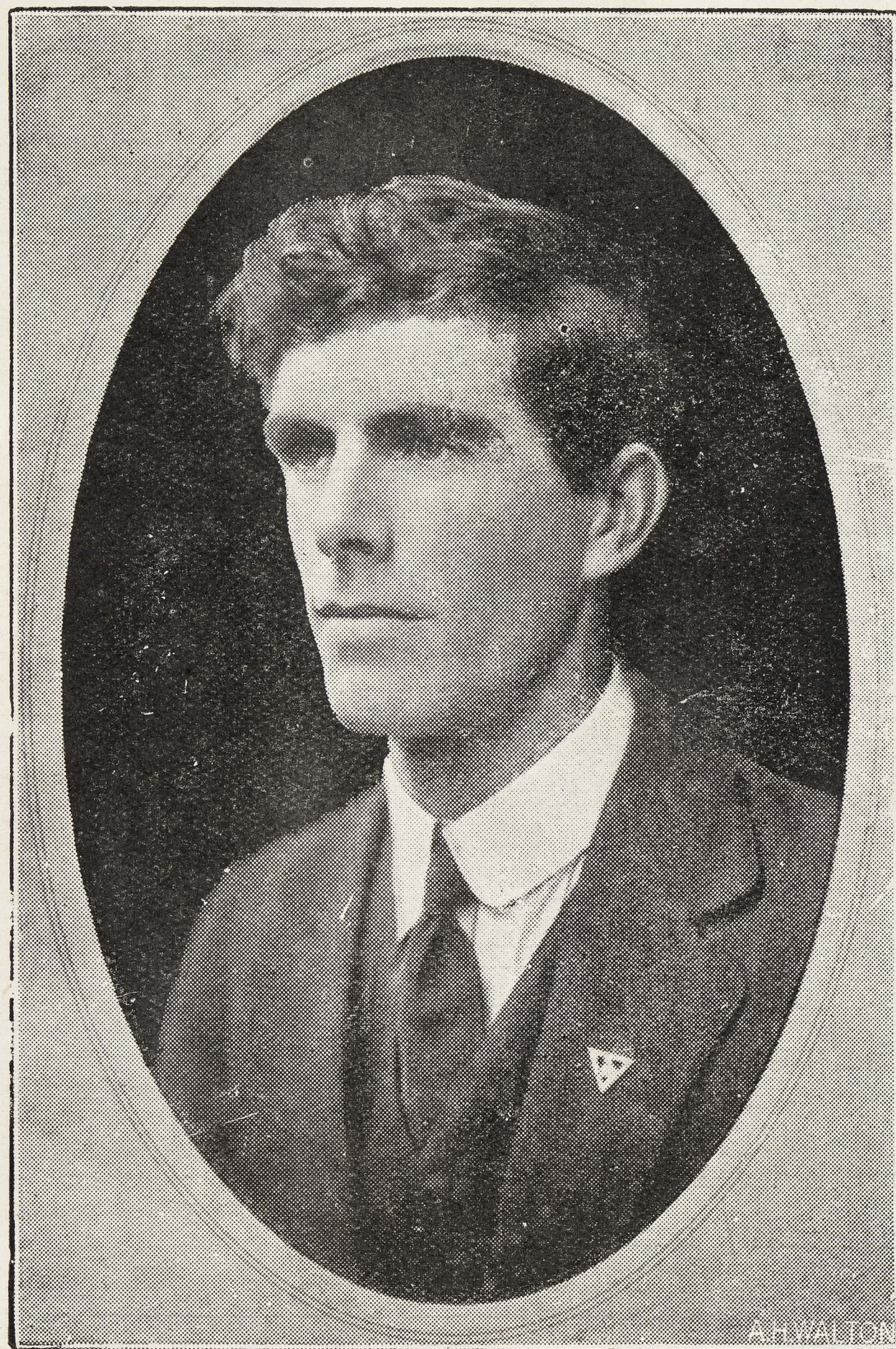
Membership Comm.) J. Sinclair.  
(Treasurer), G. H. Cargeeg (Vice-  
Pres.) Dr. Samuel Macaulay (Pres.)  
Wm. Padbury (Vice-Pres.) H. D.  
Holmes (Chairman Finance Comm)  
Duncan Paterson.

IN FRONT. W. E. Pickering (Ass.

Gen. Sec.) A. S. Wilson (General  
Secretary).

Absent. Mr. M. E. Jull, Mr. C. Les-  
chen.





Mr. TRU BARBER, Camp Secretary of Blackboy Hill, Y.M.C.A.

THE three secretaries were A. S. WILSON, Gen. Sec., W. E. PICKERING, Asst. Gen. Sec., and TRU BARBER, Membership Secretary. The latter was put aside from office work in the city for the work at Blackboy, while the other members of the staff, were, besides the city work, engaged in military work at other points.

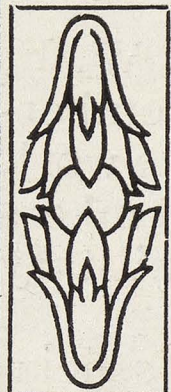
The amount of canvas put out of action caused the Association to consider the erection of temporary buildings. The Vacuum Oil Co.'s building at North Fremantle was on the market, and by a most satisfactory stroke of business the general secretary managed to secure the offer of a fine structure 270 feet long and 60 wide, and which cost over £2000 to erect, for £350.

By wire the services of Mr. E. R. PEACOCK, the Chairman of the National Y.M.C.A. Committee for Australia, were enlisted. He interviewed the general manager of the Company in Melbourne, and the price was reduced by still another £100.

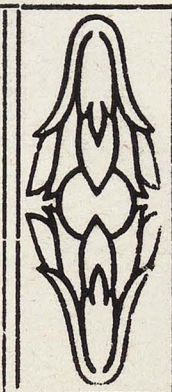
The Association gratefully acknowledges the courtesy and generosity of the Vacuum Oil Propy. Ltd. in its negotiations with the Association in this matter.

In the next place the gift of £250 from the Military Dept. towards the taking down and re-erection of the huge structure at the Blackboy Hill Camp was secured through COLONEL BRUCHE, the State Commandant. Besides the great Busy Bees the ordinary labour of this undertaking was very great; the cost of taking down and placing the building on the trucks alone approximating to £150.





**THE GREAT CRY.** “What is that great human, heartrending cry, from our crowded cities? Is it not from our manhood, for a helping hand and a helping word? The men, and, might I not add, the women, who can refuse such an appeal, have surely no boys of their own. God bless the Y.M.C.A. for its splendid efforts to answer the cry.”



— *The late Lord Cairns.*

THE Scadden Government agreed to the free transport on the railway from North Fremantle to Helena Vale siding, a short distance from the camp. The next thing to be faced was the re-erection—no light matter for the Association after its experience of the work up to that stage.

Three miles from the camp is situated the Midland Junction Government Railway Locomotive Works, where about 1200 men toil daily. With the permission of those in charge a meeting was called, with Mr. E. A. EVANS, acting C.M.E. as chairman. The Gen. Sec. pleaded the cause of the soldiers and asked the men to help. The result of the address was that 386 men handed in their names for voluntary Saturday work. It is estimated that at the busy bees from these works alone some 700 men altogether assisted. The following picture of these railway workers was taken on a very wet day, many being absent.





Midland Junction Government Locomotive Workshop Employees, who assisted by "Busy Bees" to erect the great Y.M.C.A. building at Blackboy Hill.  
Altogether, 700 responded to the General Secretary's appeal.



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At the present time the Military work of the Y.M.C.A. Perth, in the various camps, is costing over £60 per week.



Catering for "Busy Bees." Midland Junction ladies being conveyed by motor cars three miles to scene of action.



**T**HE provision of lunch and afternoon tea for weeks was no light work ; but a band of ladies from Cottesloe, Fremantle and other suburbs, under Mrs. Macaulay, wife of Dr. S. Macaulay, Y.M.C.A. president, graciously did this work at North Fremantle, and another large band of ladies from Midland Junction and district, under Mrs. Clark, wife of Dr. Andrew Clark, looked after the free workers who erected the building.

The following is the picture of the ladies who worked under Mrs. Clark.



Midland Junction ladies, who on successive Saturdays, under Mrs. Dr. Clark, served refreshments at Blackboy Hill "busy bees."



It is asserted that this building

**IS THE LARGEST Y.M.C.A.  
SOCIAL CENTRE**

in any military camp in the world. It is at anyrate a great building, transformed from an oil store to an up-to-date centre of social life, thronged by the soldiers of Western Australia's greatest military camp.

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**Description of the Building.**

As you descend by motor from the main road to the camp, the huge white Y.M.C.A. Centre stands out as the most prominent thing for miles. In a few minutes you are inside, and you are struck with the great jarrah timber pillars in the centre, and the magnificent supply of oregon near the roof.

The ground space has been newly floored, and this has taken approximately 50,000 running feet of 6 x 1 flooring boards.



Starting the work at Blackboy. First Saturday's "Busy Bee" preparing the ground  
A regular staff of paid carpenters also worked daily.



By day the place is well lighted through the numerous windows and skylights, and at night a blaze of electricity from a plant installed by the Association, illumines a veritable beehive, filled with eager young soldiers

But let us walk through from the parade ground entrance. First we see the post and telegraph service in an office 30 x 20 with an efficient P.O. staff Here also is a branch of the Commonwealth Bank

Next to the Post Office in a quiet corner of the building is the Church Room, with a vestry, at the free disposal by arrangement of any denomination that desires to gather the soldiers of their particular creed together.



Some of the workers on the first day's "Busy Bee" at Blackboy Hill.



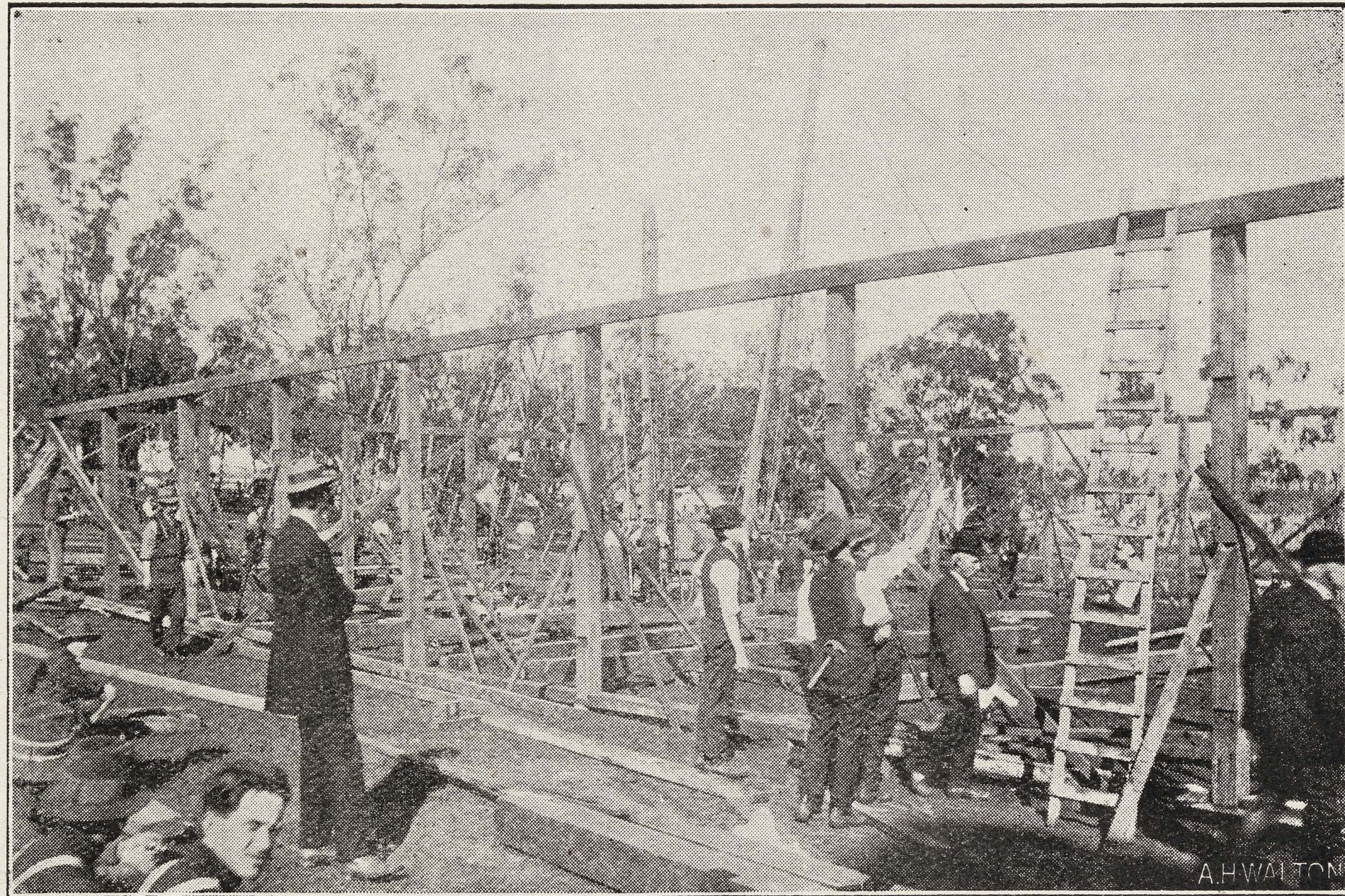
This room has since been loaned to the military for a short period, but will be available we trust in a few weeks.

Passing by some smaller rooms we come to the large Writing Room, crowded with men, and capable of holding 200 letter writers at one time.

Next to it is the Billiard Room, 60 x 30 with already five tables in perfect condition going merrily in order to make up for the hours they are out of action through the soldiers being on parade.

Near by is the busy Y.M.C.A. office, where the troubles of the soldier lad meets with sympathy and help, from the supply of a penny stamp to the execution of his will, made out free of charge. At the time of writing it is estimated that 500 wills were drawn up in this office in less than four days.

The ring of telephones draws your attention to two boxes where free attendance is provided by the Associ-



The second Saturday's work by busy bees.



ation and by which means anxious friends in the city or country can make reasonably sure of speaking to their loved ones.

Thus, as a leader in the "West Australian" stated, an anxious old father over 200 miles away may announce in a shaky voice, 'I want to speak to my boy Dave,' and the Y.M.C.A. official scours the camp to bring Dave to the telephone.

But we must proceed across the wide passage that here crosses the building, and we come to the Gymnasium and Sports' Rooms, at present being utilised as a buffet, as having the gymnasium in the open air is under consideration.

A kitchen fitted with oven and copper adjoins this room.



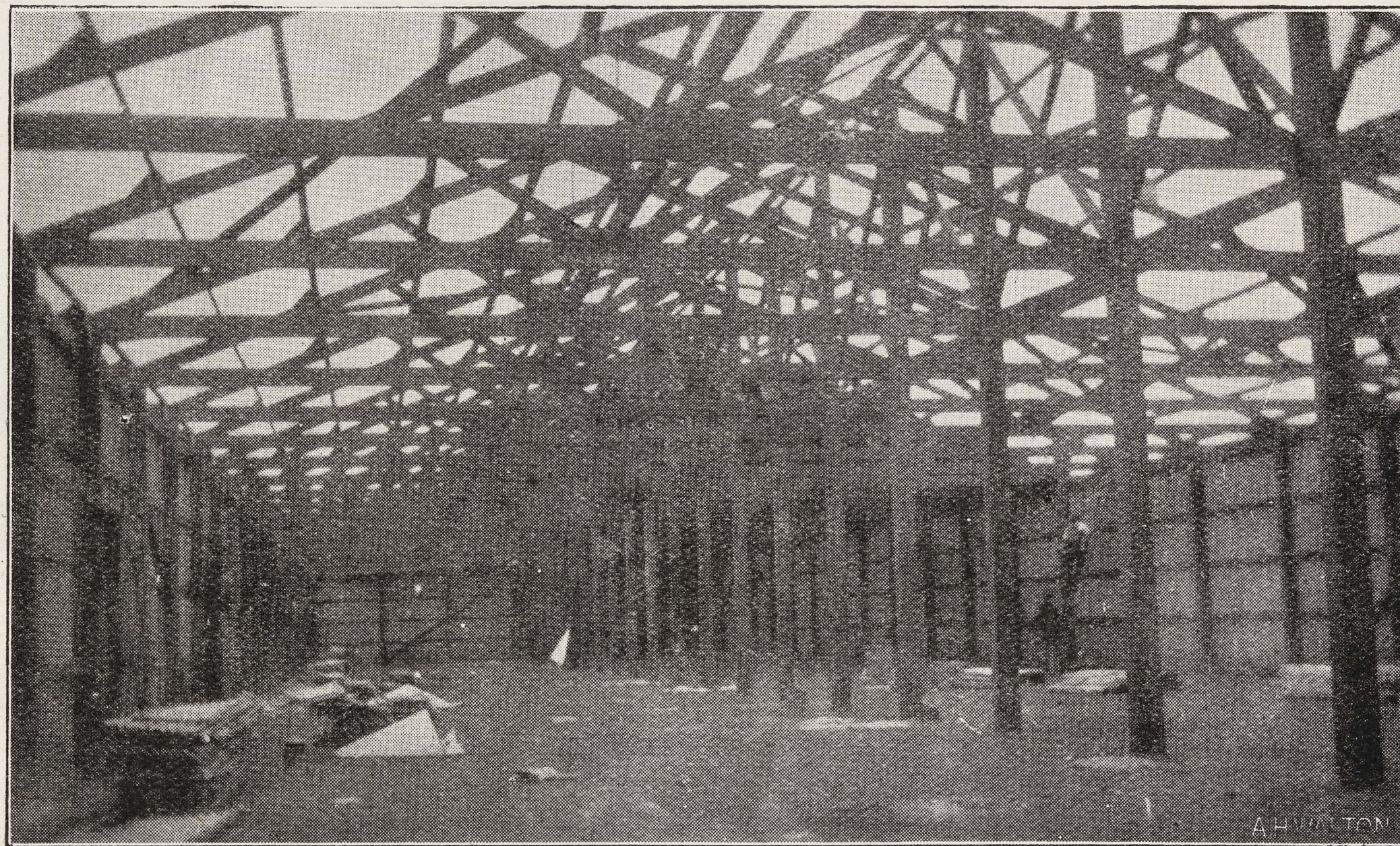
Straightening the iron, of which 2500 sheets were used on the structure.



Opposite is a comfortable Reading Room, and also a spacious with-drawing room for the non-commissioned officers, and another not far off for small religious and other gatherings.

Then comes the Auditorium. The great jarrah pillars have ceased, and the space 100 ft. by 60 ft. has uninterrupted floor space. Here the great free nightly concerts take place, and as you look up you see the box from which on occasional nights the cinematograph machine makes the crowd feel they are in a city picture theatre.

The power house near by, with its up-to-date plant of Lister engine and Crompton dynamo, and one or two outer buildings, completes the scheme that so struck the imagination of the West that among many other evidences may be mentioned



An inside look at part of the building when being dismantled at North Fremantle, over twenty miles from its present site.



the gift of £400, in three instalments, from the Kalgoorlie Racing Club, and a concourse of citizens estimated at 5000 on the opening day.

So far the actual cash (notwithstanding free labour) which the Association has paid out for this building is about £1400, and the work of fitting and furnishing still proceeds.

The courage of the Directors and General Secretary in erecting the building has been greatly rewarded. They themselves will reverently say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."



#### LORD DERBY'S PRONOUNCEMENT

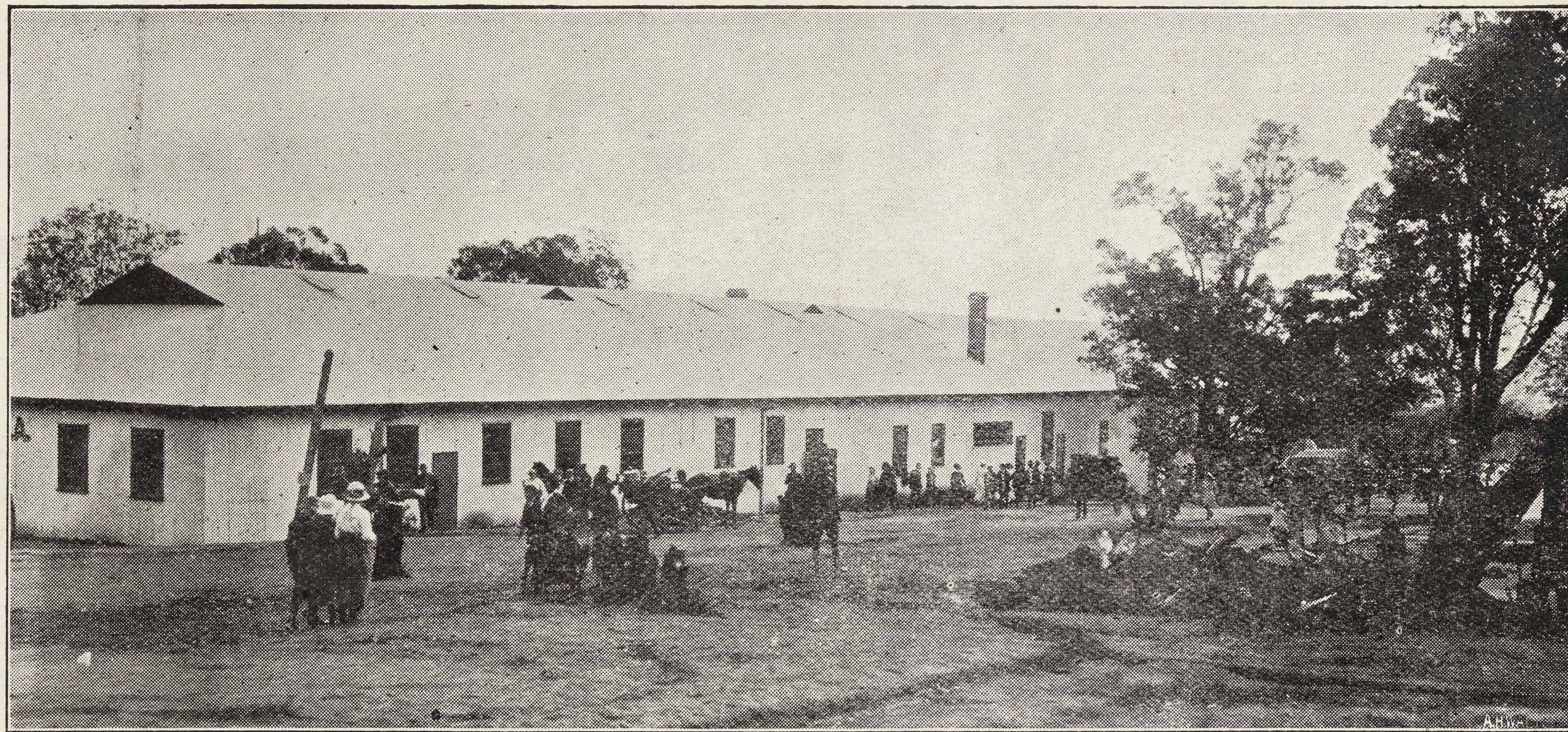
The Y.M.C.A. is invaluable in  
peace time.

It is indispensable in war time.



OPENING DAY at Blackboy Hill Y.M.C.A. Attendance estimated at 5000.





**BLACKBOY HILL Y.M.C.A.**

Size 270 feet by 60 feet. Sheets of iron on this building, 2500. Flooring space, 50,000 running feet 6 by 1 boards.



**Mr. Lloyd George.**

**“They have organised everything in this war with a most perfect success.”**

**Y.M.C.A. of Perth Military Committee.**

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**MR. WM. PADBURY, Chairman of Committee.**

**MR. GEO. F. PITCHFORD, Vice-Chairman.**

**DR. S. MACAULAY, President Y.M.C.A.**

**MR. J. SINCLAIR, Treasurer Y.M.C.A.**

**MR. A. S. WILSON, General Secretary.**

**The London “Daily Mail.”**

**“The Y.M.C.A. is splendidly doing the most magnificent service possible.”**

The Colortype Press



**SIR JOHN FRENCH writes :**

It is the very greatest pleasure to me to take this opportunity of testifying to the fine work done by the Young Men's Christian Association.

**SIR IAN HAMILTON.**

"You and your Association seem to be truly hitting the nail on the head, and working for the good of our soldier lads. But that is not all. I have watched the Y.M.C.A. procedure in many camps, and have found its methods exactly adapted to the needs of large numbers of men temporarily away from their homes and normal surroundings.

**Lieut-Col. BATTYE, Camp Commandant Black-boy Hill.** "The Y.M.C.A. is of inestimable value to the camp."



**The ARCHBISHOP of YORK to the C.E.M.S.**

Conference, London. "There was another body in existence which possessed all the capacities for dealing with the situation that we lacked, staff organisation, experience, resource, and we therefore felt that it was our duty to provide help for the huts and recreation rooms which the Y.M.C.A. so ably inaugurated."

**MR. ASQUITH, Prime Minister of Gt. Britain,**

speaking of the Association said :

"It is the finest thing in Europe."

**R. McKENNA, Chancellor of the Exchequer.**

"The whole country appreciates the great work undertaken by the Y.M.C.A. in providing for the needs of our brave soldiers."