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The Constitution
of the
British Legion Scotland
with
Bye-Laws and Standing Orders

1950

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1950



The Constitution

of the

British Legion Scotland

Headquarters:
 23 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS
 EDINBURGH, 3

General Secretary:

~~Lt. Col. C. S. MacLEOD, F.D.~~

Brig F. Coulters
 (1974)

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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND

Rule 1—Title

(a) The title of the Organisation shall be “THE BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND,” and it is hereinafter referred to as “The Legion.”

(b) The Head Office of the Legion shall be in Edinburgh.

Rule 2—Principles and Policy

(a) The Legion shall be democratic, non-sectarian, and not affiliated to or connected directly or indirectly with any Political Party or Political Organisation.

(b) The Legion has been created to preserve the spirit of fellowship and service to others formed by all ranks and to maintain, in a strong, stimulating, united, and democratic comradeship, all those who have served in His Majesty's Armed Forces, or any Auxiliary Forces, and others defined as eligible for membership under Rule 7 (hereinafter referred to as “Ex-Service Men and Women”), so that neither their efforts nor their interests shall be forgotten; that their welfare and that of the dependents of the fallen may be safeguarded; and that just and equitable treatment shall be secured to them in respect of the difficulties caused in their lives as a result of their services.

(c) The Legion exists to perpetuate in the civil life of the Empire and the World the principles for which the Nation stands; to inculcate a sense of loyalty to the Crown; Community, State and Nation; to promote unity amongst all classes; to make right the master of might; to secure peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, and to consecrate and sanctify comradeship by devotion to mutual service and helpfulness.

Rule 3—Aims and Objects

(a) To bring about the co-operation of all ex-service men and women, and to establish branches of the Legion.

(b) To perpetuate the memory of those who died in the service of their country.

(c) To educate public opinion to the view that the maintenance of the disabled and the welfare of ex-service men and women and their dependents is a national duty.

(d) To obtain public recognition for the principal that ex-service men and women, in accordance with their qualifications, are entitled to just and equitable treatment in all matters relating to the finding or provision of employment.

(e) To establish or support by financial or other means, including subscriptions for shares, suitable undertakings for the training and/or employment or otherwise for the benefit of ex-service men and women, whether such undertakings shall be situate in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or in the Dominions or Possessions Overseas or elsewhere, and to do all that may be necessary or requisite to enable ex-service men and women or their dependents to take advantage of the opportunities offered by such undertakings.

(f) To assist ex-service men and women to secure not less than the recognised standard rate of wages in accordance with their ability.

(g) To assist ex-service men and women and the widows, children and dependents of those who have served in matters relating to pensions, allowances, grants, war gratuities, resettlement and rehabilitation.

(h) To promote the welfare of the women and children left by those who have fallen in His Majesty's service, and to arrange for them to visit the graves of relatives killed in war.

(i) To promote representation of the needs of ex-service men and women, and their dependents, and of the widows and dependents of those who have served to or in Parliament, and to or on public bodies whose functions are defined by Act of Parliament or Order in Council.

(j) To advise serving men and women in connection with their return to civil life and promote the interests of their

APPENDIX

(See Rule (7), (a), 1, (i).)

Women's Services

1. Member of Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service or any reserve thereof.

2. Member of the Women's Royal Naval Service.

3. Woman medical practitioner serving in the Royal Navy or any naval reserve.

4. Member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service or any reserve thereof.

5. Member of the Territorial Army Nursing Service or any reserve thereof.

6. Member of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

7. Woman employed with the Royal Army Medical Corps or the Army Dental Corps with relative rank as an officer.

8. Member of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service or any reserve thereof.

9. Member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

10. Women employed with the Medical Branch or the Dental Branch of the Royal Air Force with relative rank as an officer.

11. Member of the Voluntary Aid Detachments employed under the Admiralty, Army Council or Air Council.

15. *Voting for Place of Next Conference.*—In voting for the place of next Conference an eliminating vote shall be taken, unless in the first vote one place has a clear majority over the others.

16. *Chairman's Ruling and Authority.*—The decision of the Chairman shall be final upon any point as to the interpretation to be placed upon any Standing Order, or upon the point whether a motion has been carried or rejected.

17. *Disorder.*—Any person disobeying the ruling of the Chairman may be suspended for the remainder of the Conference upon the motion of the Chairman or two others put without debate and carried.

EDINBURGH, June, 1950.

dependents while they are serving, except in so far as concerns their discipline, privileges and emoluments in money or kind under the Regulations in force for the time being of His Majesty's Naval, Military, or Air Forces respectively.

(h) To promote and support schemes for the education of ex-service men and women and their children.

(i) To solicit and receive subscriptions and gifts of all kinds, whether absolute or conditional, for the objects of the Legion, and to obtain money for such objects by the organisation of entertainments, the sale of badges, or by any other legal means, and for such purposes to advertise the Legion by any legal method that may commend itself to the National Executive Council, and in particular by the publication and sale of a Legion Journal.

(m) To raise and co-ordinate funds for the purpose of assisting ex-service men and women and their dependents, and to combine and/or co-operate with, take over, amalgamate with, or absorb any other Society having objects which are included in the objects of the Legion.

(n) To see that all moneys raised or contributed from any source for the welfare of ex-service men and women or their dependents, or the widows, children and dependents of service men killed in war, are utilised for that purpose and not devoted to any other (provided always that reasonable administrative expenses properly incurred in promoting the objects of the Legion shall be deemed to be included in that purpose), and to apply and dispose of the capital and income of the moneys and other property, whether heritable or moveable, from time to time vested in or belonging to the Legion for and towards the proper and effective carrying out of the aforesaid or similar objects, or any of them, and generally to do all things necessary or expedient for the proper and effective carrying out of any of the aforesaid or similar objects.

Provided always that any property, heritable or moveable, at any time or times taken over or raised by the Legion, or transferred, given, or contributed to the Legion subject to or upon any condition special trust or trusts shall be held and applied by the Legion upon and to such condition special trust or trusts as may be applicable to the same and not otherwise, and shall be kept separate and apart from any other funds of the Legion.

Rule 4—Income and Property

The income and property of the Legion shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Legion, as hereinbefore set forth, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise howsoever by way of profits to the members of the Legion.

Rule 5—Public Questions and Public Candidature

(a) There shall be nothing to prevent the Legion from adopting a definite policy on any question directly or indirectly affecting ex-service men and women, nor from taking any constitutional action considered necessary in pursuance of such policy, providing that such policy or action is strictly in accordance with the principles and policy and the aims and objects of the Legion as hereinbefore set forth. Nothing in this Rule shall prevent Branches from exercising full local autonomy or from adopting or declaring a definite policy, or taking any action considered necessary in pursuance of it upon local matters, always providing that such action is constitutional and in accordance with the aims, objects, and programme of the Legion. The decision as to what are or are not local matters shall rest with the National Executive Council.

(b) Members seeking election on any public body shall not do so as "British Legion Candidates," nor shall they advertise or state that they have the support of the Legion; and no Branch or Area Council shall issue a manifesto or statement asking for support for any particular person or party.

(c) Members accepting nomination by the Legion to serve as the Legion's representative on any public body or charity do so on the understanding that such representation continues solely at the pleasure of the National Executive Council, and must absolutely terminate should such representative cease to be a member of the Legion.

Rule 6—Powers

In addition to the powers vested in the Legion at common law or otherwise, it is hereby expressly declared that the Legion shall have the following powers, namely:—

(a) To co-operate, affiliate, or amalgamate with any other body having similar aims and objects; subject always, except

7. *Power to Vary Procedure.*—The Chairman shall have power to vary the order of procedure and the sequence of Resolutions as printed on the Final Agenda.

8. *Suspension of Standing Orders.*—Any one or more of these Standing Orders may be suspended by resolution passed by the Conference provided that at least two-thirds of the representatives present and entitled to vote shall vote for the resolution.

9. *Moving of Motions or Amendments.*—No motion or amendment shall be discussed or put to the Conference until it shall have been seconded. The mover, however, shall have the right to nominate his seconder, but no member shall be permitted to move or second more than one amendment to any one motion.

10. *Amendments after the First.*—When an amendment is moved to any motion, no second amendment shall be moved until the first is disposed of.

11. *Withdrawals of Motions or Amendments.*—No motion or amendment may be withdrawn except by the consent of the Conference. Such consent shall be ascertained without debate, and no member shall be at liberty to speak upon it after consent for withdrawal has been given.

12. *Closure of Debate.*—Any member at the close of the speech of any other member may move: (a) "That the Conference do proceed to the next business": this motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith without debate and, if carried, the original motion or amendment under discussion shall be considered as dropped; or (b) "That the question be now put": such motion if seconded, shall be put to the Conference without debate and, if carried, the original motion or amendment under discussion shall be put at once, subject only to the right of reply of the proposer under Standing Order No. 4.

13. *Points of Order.*—Any member, whether he has spoken or not on the matter under discussion, may rise to a point of order, or to make a personal explanation necessitated by the course of discussion. A member so rising shall be entitled to be heard forthwith. The ruling of the Chairman on a point of order, or the admissibility of a personal explanation, shall be final and shall not be open to discussion.

14. *Appointment of Scrutineers.*—At the conclusion of the Chairman's opening address such scrutineers as may be deemed necessary shall forthwith be appointed.

STANDING ORDERS

For the Conduct of Business at the Annual Conference

1. *Members to Stand when Speaking.*—During the sessions of the Conference members shall be uncovered, and they shall, unless prevented by physical disability, stand when speaking and shall address the Chair. Whenever the Chairman rises during a debate any member then speaking or offering to speak shall sit down.

2. *Relevance.*—A member when speaking shall direct his speech strictly to the motion under discussion, to an explanation, or to a question of order.

3. *Length of Speeches.*—The proposer of a motion shall be allowed ten minutes for his speech; the seconder and all succeeding speakers five minutes each. No speech other than those from the Platform shall exceed ten minutes. Members of the National Council other than the President, Chairman or Conveners, shall speak from the body of the hall.

4. *Right of Reply.*—No member except the proposer shall be permitted to speak more than once on the same motion or amendment. The proposer, however, in exercising his right of reply, may speak a second time for not longer than five minutes, but he shall strictly confine himself to answering previous speakers and shall not introduce any new matter into the debate. After such reply the question shall be put forthwith.

5. *Motions and Amendments.*—All nominations, motions, and amendments shall be submitted in writing and in accordance with the Rules.

6. *Precedence of Agenda.*—Subjects not included in the Final Agenda shall only be discussed when Standing Orders have been suspended in accordance with Standing Order No. 8.

in the case of co-operation with the Earl Haig Fund, to the approval of a two-thirds majority of all the members to be ascertained by an individual poll-vote at a Special Conference called for the purpose, under such conditions and directions as the Annual or Special Conference may determine.

(b) To give any guarantees or indemnities to any persons or person, Corporation, or Body transferring any property to the Legion, and to compromise all disputes or differences between any such person or persons, Corporation, or Body and the Legion on such terms as the National Executive Council shall in its absolute discretion think fit.

(c) To purchase, take on lease, or otherwise acquire any offices, houses, or other buildings, lands, and hereditaments which may from time to time be required for the purposes of the Legion, or for effectuating any of its objects.

(d) To construct and alter any offices, houses, or other buildings or works which may from time to time be required for the purposes of the Legion, or for effectuating any of its objects.

(e) To borrow and raise money in such manner as the National Executive Council may think fit.

(f) To invest all moneys belonging to the Legion, and not for the time being required for any of its objects, in any investments allowed by law for the investment of trust funds. Such funds shall be invested for and on behalf of the National Executive Council in the names of the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and General Secretary, for the time being.

(g) To manage, sell, lease, mortgage, dispose of, or otherwise deal with all or any of the property of the Legion, except property which is owned by Branches or Areas, which property shall be held on behalf of the said Branches or Areas by Trustees whose acceptance of office shall impose on them a duty to transfer such property to Trustees nominated by the National Executive Council, for purposes declared by that Council on dissolution of the Branch or Area organisation.

(h) To enter into any arrangement with any Government Department with reference to the conduct of the business or operations of the Legion, and to apply to any Government Authority for and to accept any rights, privileges, and other assistance which may be thought conducive to the Legion's objects, or any of them, and upon such terms in all respects as the National Executive Council may think fit.

(i) To apply to the Court of Session, or other proper Authority, for their sanction or for directions as to the sale, mortgage, or other disposition of any property for the time being held by the Legion, or for the settlement of a scheme in reference to such property.

(j) To grant pensions or gratuities to any employees of the Legion or their widows or dependents; and to maintain a staff superannuation scheme.

Rule 7—Membership

(a) The members of the Legion shall consist of three classes namely, Ordinary, Life, and Honorary.

1. Ordinary members shall comprise all

(i) Ex-service men who have served wholetime in the Armed Forces of the Crown for seven days, and ex-service women who have served wholetime for seven days in any of the capacities detailed in Appendix A ;

(ii) Men and women of the Merchant Navy who have served afloat during hostilities outside territorial waters ;

(iii) British or naturalised British subjects who have served wholetime for at least seven days, during hostilities, with the Forces of an Allied Nation ;

who shall conform to the regulations, conditions and rules of the Legion ; provided that the acceptance of an applicant as an Ordinary member shall be subject to the approval of the Branch to which he or she is proposed.

2. Life Members shall comprise such persons being Ordinary Members of the Legion as the National Executive Council shall admit to Life Membership of the Legion.

3. If Branches, Areas or the National Executive Council so decide, they may enrol as Honorary Members men and women who have rendered valuable services and who support the policy, aims and objects of the Legion and shall apply for and/or be admitted to Honorary Membership of the Legion.

(b) There shall be a Women's Section formed in accordance with Bye-Laws approved from time to time by the National Executive Council, which shall comprise women not eligible for ordinary membership as well as those who are eligible.

Bye-Law 6—Clubs

(a) No Club shall be entitled to bear the name or have incorporated in its designation the words "British Legion" unless its ordinary membership is confined to ordinary and life members of the Legion. A Club, entitled to call itself "The British Legion Club" as defined, may enrol Honorary Members to a maximum of 10 per cent. of its subscribing ordinary membership, but such Honorary Members shall have no right to vote or to be represented on any Executive Committee.

(b) Any Club, the membership of which is confined to Members of the Legion, shall comply with such instructions as the Council of the Area in which it is situated may deem necessary to regulate the conduct of such Club. Failure to observe any such instructions shall be deemed to be failure on the part of the Branch with which the Club is associated to obey the rules of the Legion.

(c) The National Council shall have powers to suspend the provisions of this Bye-Law in any exceptional case where, in its judgment, the circumstances justify suspension.

Bye-Law 7—Annual Conference Resolutions

When a resolution is rejected by the National Council under Rule 13 (e), it shall not be included in the printed list issued to Areas and Branches not less than eight weeks prior to the Conference, but the General Secretary shall, without delay, communicate to the Branch and to the Area concerned, the reason why the resolution has been rejected. If the Branch still desires that the resolution should be discussed at the Conference, the resolution shall be accepted as an Emergency Resolution under Standing Order No. 6.

(e) Upon the expulsion of a Branch its members shall cease to be members of the Legion, unless and until they are permitted by the National Council to transfer their membership to some other approved Branch, and shall forfeit all rights or privileges of or against the Legion, nor shall any person, so long as he or she remains a member of such expelled Branch, be eligible as a member of any Branch of the Legion.

Bye-Law 5—Appeals

(a) Any Branch which is dissatisfied with any decision of its Area Council may, within 28 days after notice of such decision shall have been given to the Secretary of such Branch appeal to the National Council for a rehearing of the matter in dispute. The Branch must inform the General Secretary of the grounds for such appeal and at the same time forward a copy of the appeal to the Secretary of the Area Council.

(b) Any Branch which is dissatisfied with any decision of the National Council, other than the decision to expel the Branch, may, within 28 days after notice of such decision shall have been given to the Secretary of such Branch, apply to the Area Council for a rehearing of the matter in dispute. On the motion of the Area Council, the National Council shall at the meeting of the National Council next ensuing reconsider the matter in dispute. The Area Council must notify the General Secretary of the decision from which the Branch desires to appeal, with the grounds for such appeal.

(c) A Branch which is dissatisfied with the decision of the National Council to expel the said Branch from the Legion may, within 28 days after the notice of such decision shall have been given to the Secretary of such Branch, appeal to the Area Council for the rehearing of the matter by the National Council. If the Area Council is satisfied that the Branch is in a position to submit to the National Council information which was not in the possession of that body when the decision to expel the Branch was arrived at, the Area Council shall request the National Council to grant a rehearing of the matter in dispute at the meeting of the National Council next ensuing.

(d) In any case dealing with expulsion, where a Branch or Area Council is dissatisfied with the finding of the National Council, there shall be a final appeal to the Annual Conference next ensuing.

(c) Fees to Headquarters from Women's Section shall be 10s. 6d. for 50 members or under, and £1, 1s. per 100 members or part thereof (maximum £5, 5s.) per annum.

(d) No member who is not an ordinary or life member shall be entitled to vote or hold office, or be a member of any Council or Committee of the Legion. An honorary member may, however, be nominated by the Branch to serve on a Sub-Committee appointed for a special purpose.

(e) Any person qualified may upon approval become an ordinary member of the Legion upon payment of an entrance fee of 1s. (which shall be retained by the Branch as provided for in Rule 18): and membership shall date from the date of payment of the entrance fee together with the first branch subscription.

(f) Any person accepted as an ordinary member shall be deemed to be a member so long as his name remains upon the Membership Register, provided that the said member has not resigned and that his membership has not otherwise lapsed or been determined for good and sufficient reasons by the decision of the Branch to which he belongs.

(g) Application for membership shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Branch to which the applicant desires to be admitted, and shall be made upon the printed form approved by the National Executive Council. Every application form shall be signed by the applicant in token of his acceptance of the principles, aims and objects of the Legion, and by a proposer, who must be a member of the Legion. The Branch Secretary shall inform the candidate, within seven days from the date of the decision of the Branch concerned, whether his application has been accepted or rejected. No application shall be rejected except by the authority of the Branch. No candidate who is accepted for membership but who subsequently withdraws his application shall be entitled to the refund of the entrance fee. A candidate whose application is rejected shall have returned to him the entrance fee paid.

(h) New members shall only be accepted on production of an honourable discharge document or written confirmation of having served honourably, except in the case of honorary members. This issue of a card of membership to any person who has not received an honourable discharge shall be of no effect.

(i) Conscientious objectors shall not be eligible for membership.

Rule 8—Attendance at Meetings

Members shall have such respective rights of attending meetings of the Legion and of its Area Councils and Branches and of voting thereat and such other rights and privileges and shall be subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Rules of the Legion for the time being.

Rule 9—Officers

(a) There shall be a Patron, President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer of the Legion.

(b) All officers other than the Patron shall be ordinary or life members of the Legion, and the Patron, President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected annually at the Annual Conference of the Legion. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election provided that they shall have been duly nominated in accordance with the Rules of the Legion.

(c) In the event of any casual vacancy arising in the offices of Patron, President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Honorary Treasurer, the National Executive Council shall have power to appoint a fit and proper person, being a member of the Legion, to discharge the duties of the office so vacated until the next Annual Conference of the Legion.

(d) The President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer on taking office shall cease to be representative of their respective Areas on the National Executive Council.

Rule 10—National Executive Council

(a) There shall be a central administrative body called "The National Executive Council" (hereinafter referred to as "The National Council"), which shall comprise four representatives elected annually by each Area Council of the Legion, two representatives elected annually by the Earl Haig Fund, two representatives elected annually by the British Legion in England and six members elected annually by the Legion in Conference from nine names submitted, one from each Area Council, together with the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, an Honorary Legal Adviser, and the Immediate Past Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who shall hold office for one year.

(b) A new National Council shall be elected at each Annual Conference of the Legion, immediately at the close whereof the old National Council shall be deemed to have retired and the new

15 (f). A copy of the Minutes of each meeting of the Area Council shall be forwarded to the National Council.

(c) The Area Council shall from time to time be supplied with funds by the General Secretary in accordance with Rule 18; such funds shall be allocated to the general expenses of the Area and shall not be used for any other purpose.

Bye-Law 4—Expulsion of a Branch

(a) Before taking any action with a view to the expulsion of a Branch, the National Council shall instruct the General Secretary to write a letter to the Secretary of the offending Branch asking for an explanation and calling upon the Branch to conform to the Rules or to obey the Area Council or the National Council (as the case may be); such letter shall further instruct the Branch Secretary to summon a Special General Meeting of the Branch forthwith, such meeting to be held within 21 days of receipt of such letter.

(b) The Branch Secretary shall give to the General Secretary seven days' notice, in writing, of such Special General Meeting, and a representative of the National Council shall attend such meeting.

(c) If the Branch Secretary shall fail to summon such meeting or to give such notice, unless he shall give some satisfactory excuse to the National Council within 28 days of receipt of the General Secretary's letter, or if the Branch shall at such Special General Meeting decide not to conform to the Rules or to obey the Area Council or the National Council (as the case may be), the National Council shall expel such Branch from the Legion, such expulsion to take effect on a day fixed not less than 28 clear days from the date of the meeting of the National Council at which it shall have been declared.

(d) The General Secretary shall forthwith inform the Branch Secretary of such decision, and if before the expiration of such 28 days the Branch Secretary, or some other person appointed by the Branch for the purpose, shall inform the General Secretary that the Branch is willing to submit or desires to appeal, the expulsion shall not take effect. Otherwise the Branch shall be finally expelled as from the date fixed under paragraph (c) hereof.

Council. Committees shall have power to co-opt in an advisory capacity for specific business, persons having special knowledge or qualifications relating to that business, but such persons shall have no vote and shall cease to act when such business is completed.

(h) The Council shall have power to appoint representatives from its own members, or from any Area Council or Branch, for the purpose of visiting any officials of Government Departments, or other persons, institutions or organisations, on behalf of its members, or from any Area Council or Branch for organising new members in their Areas.

(i) The Council may institute legal proceedings against any person suspected of misappropriating the funds or falsifying the books or accounts of the Legion, or of any Area or Branch thereof.

(j) The personal out-of-pocket expenses incurred by members attending Council and Committee meetings shall be defrayed out of the General Fund. The Council shall have power to authorise any reasonable expenditure for carrying out its duties for which specific provisions are not made in the Rules.

(k) The Council shall not be liable for any debts incurred or obligations undertaken by any Area Council or Branch.

(l) The Council shall have power to appoint and control an Organiser for the Legion, whose duties shall be to organise the formation of new Branches in co-operation with the Area Councils and to assist existing Branches by visitation or otherwise as may be required.

Bye-Law 3—Area Councils

(a) The representation of Branches on the Area Council shall be as provided for in Rule 15.

(b) In addition to the ordinary Annual Meeting to be held once in every year, every Area Council shall hold meetings for the transaction of business and to deal with all general matters affecting the Area at such other times as may be necessary. The Annual Meeting shall be held not later than the 15th day of March, and at this meeting the nominations for membership of the National Council shall be chosen and forwarded to the General Secretary as provided for in Rule 13 (d). Special meetings of the Area Council shall be convened as provided for in Rule

National Council shall come into office, and shall within one month thereafter appoint all Standing Committees. All retiring members of the National Council shall be eligible for re-election.

(c) The National Council shall meet together for the despatch of business in July, October, January and April, and otherwise as may be necessary, and, subject to the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Legion for the time being, may appoint such Committees for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Legion, and make such Bye-Laws and/or Regulations for the convening and holding of its meetings and of the meetings of such Committees, and for the proceedings thereat respectively, and as to the powers of such Committees, as it may from time to time think fit, and may from time to time, as it shall think fit, alter and revoke any such Bye-Laws and Regulations and terminate the powers of such Committees.

(d) Vacancies occurring amongst members of the National Council shall be filled in manner prescribed by the Rules of the Legion.

(e) No act, proceeding or resolution of the National Council shall be invalidated or questioned by reason of the existence of any vacancy or vacancies in its membership, or the disqualification of, or any irregularity in, the appointment of any member or members, or by reason of the accidental omission to give to any member or members, or the non-receipt by any member or members of, notice of any meeting, except where such act, proceeding or resolution concerns the expulsion of a member or Branch or the suspension of any office-bearer.

Rule 11—Officers of National Executive Council

(a) All officers shall be ordinary or life members, and shall be elected at each Annual Conference. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election.

(b) The President, if present, shall preside at the opening of the Annual Conference.

(c) The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Honorary Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of all Committees.

(d) The Chairman shall be Chairman of the Annual Conference and the National Council.

(e) The Vice-Chairman shall in the absence of the Chairman be Chairman of the Annual Conference and the National Council.

(f) In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at any meeting the chair shall be taken by whichever member of the Council the majority of the members present shall nominate.

(g) No official whose salary is paid by the National Council shall be eligible for election as an officer or as a member of the National Council; nor shall such person be eligible for election as an officer or as a Branch representative on any Area Council, or represent an Area Council or a Branch at any Conference. Such salaried officials may sit on appropriate National Committees as assessors or advisors but without a vote. No such official of the Legion shall hold any paid official position with any political party organisation.

Rule 12—Representatives : National Council

(a) Each Area shall be entitled to elect four representatives.

(b) In the event of an Area failing to elect its full quota of representatives, the National Council shall be entitled to elect a member or members to represent the Area until such time as the Area is in a position to make its own elections, should the Area so desire.

(c) The Earl Haig Fund and the British Legion (England) shall be entitled to submit the names of their elected representatives in time for the Annual Conference.

(d) Each Area Council shall be entitled to make one further nomination, from the total of which the Annual Conference will elect the six members mentioned in Rule 10 (a).

Rule 13—The Annual Conference

(a) A meeting to be known as "The Annual Conference" (hereinafter referred to as "The Conference") shall be held in June on a convenient day or days at some place to be chosen by the previous Conference (and such place to be voted on must have appeared on the agenda of Conference), for the purpose of:—

1. Considering Reports and Accounts for the past year.
2. Reviewing and revising every three years the Rules and Bye-Laws.
3. Electing the Patron, President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer.
4. Receiving intimation of the representatives elected by the Area Councils, the British Legion (England), and the Earl

(d) The Chairman, whom failing the Vice-Chairman, shall preside at each meeting. If at any meeting neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman is present, or if, being present, neither is willing to preside, the members present shall choose one of their number to preside. The person presiding at a meeting shall have a deliberative, and, in the event of equality, a casting vote. At any meeting twelve members shall form a quorum.

(e) Except with the approval of at least two-thirds of the members present, no business shall be transacted at any meeting other than business of which notice has been given. Notice of motion for consideration at any meeting shall be in writing and sent to the General Secretary fourteen days before the date fixed for the meeting. A motion the purport of which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting is to alter or rescind a resolution of the Council shall not be competent within six months from the date of the adoption of such resolution.

(f) The Council shall cause minutes to be made in books provided for the purpose (a) of the names of the members present at each meeting of the Council, and (b) of all resolutions and proceedings at all meetings of the Council. Copies of such minutes shall be sent to all members of the Council, to Area and Branch Secretaries and to the Secretaries of Affiliated Associations. The Council shall also cause proper books of accounts to be kept with respect to all sums of money received and expended by them, and the matters in respect of which the receipt and expenditure took place.

(g) The Council shall annually within one month after the Annual Conference appoint from their numbers the following Standing Committees: (1) a General Purposes Committee, (2) a Finance Committee, (3) a Pensions Committee and such other committees as it may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Legion, and shall pass regulations for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Legion and for the procedure and powers of such appointed committees, and any such regulations shall be circulated to all members of the Council. A record of the proceedings of each committee shall be made and submitted to the Council for confirmation or otherwise. If confirmed the proceedings of committees shall become proceedings of the Council, and as such shall be binding upon members of the Legion. The Convener of each committee, and of any sub-committee approved by the Council shall be elected by the

SCHEDULE OF BYE-LAWS

Bye-Law 1

The following Bye-Laws are ancillary to the foregoing Rules and are to be read in conjunction therewith, and where there is any discrepancy, ambiguity, or conflict between the Rules and these Bye-Laws the former shall be the ruling authority, as the same may be interpreted by the National Council.

Bye-Law 2—The National Executive Council

(a) In the event of a Council member, who is an Area Representative, ceasing to reside in the Area by which he was nominated he shall automatically cease to be a member of the Council and of any Committee thereof of which he was a member.

(b) Subject to any direction by the Council, stated meetings shall be held on the second Saturday in the months of January, April, July and October. If any of such days falls on or near a public holiday the stated meeting shall be held on such other day in the same month as may be determined by the Chairman. The Chairman, whom failing the Vice-Chairman, may, and the General Secretary on his instructions shall, convene a Special Meeting of the Council at any time. Special Meetings shall also be convened by the General Secretary on the requisition of not less than twelve members of the Council. Such requisition shall state the general nature of the business to be submitted to the meeting, and must be signed by the requisitionists and deposited with the General Secretary. If the General Secretary does not within ten days thereafter proceed to convene a meeting, the requisitionists may themselves convene a meeting.

(c) Seven days' notice at the least of all meetings of the Council specifying the place, the day and the hour of the meeting and stating the general nature of the business to be transacted shall be given to each member of the Council. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to or the non-receipt of notice by any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any meeting.

Haig Fund, and electing the six members mentioned in Rule 10 (a).

5. Considering Resolutions and deciding questions of general policy raised upon notice by the National Council, Area Councils or Branches.

6. Acting as final Court of Appeal in all matters affecting the Legion.

(b) The order of the business to be transacted at the Conference shall be determined by the National Council. The quorum necessary for the transaction of business at any Conference, Annual or Special, shall be 75 representatives of Area Councils and Branches exclusive of office-bearers and members of the National Council.

(c) No canvassing shall be permitted for the election of office-bearers.

(d) Notice shall be given in writing to the General Secretary before the first day of March, of all resolutions and of nominations of officers to be elected at the Annual Conference under (a) 3 of this Rule. Each Area shall notify to the General Secretary the names of representatives elected, and the further representatives nominated under Rule 10 (a), before the 1st day of April. Such resolutions and nominations and the names of the representatives elected shall be printed and issued to Area Councils and Branches not less than eight weeks prior to the date of the Conference. Amendments to such resolutions shall be permissible, provided that notice of the same is in the hands of the General Secretary, in writing, not later than five weeks prior to the date of the Conference. The complete Official Agenda of the Conference shall be published, and one copy thereof supplied to each Area Council and Branch, and to each representative to the Conference, at least ten days prior to the date of the Conference.

(e) In preparing the Agenda for the Conference, the National Council shall have the right (1) to co-ordinate into one or more resolutions, all overlapping resolutions; (2) to reject any resolution which is at variance with the Constitution, or otherwise incompetent, irregular or out of order; and (3) to determine the order in which resolutions shall be discussed at the Conference.

(f) No subject not included in the Agenda shall be discussed unless the Conference declares by a majority of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote that such subject is a matter of urgency and suspends the Standing Orders

(g) No Branch shall nominate for any office more candidates than there are places to be filled, and no Area Council shall nominate for membership of the National Council more candidates than there are places available for such candidates.

(h) Every Branch having, prior to the first day of March in the year of the Conference, paid contributions due up to and including the last day of December of the year previous to the date on which the Conference is held, and having submitted an audited balance sheet for the year in accordance with Rule 21 (e), shall be entitled to direct representation at the Conference. Every Branch is entitled to one representative: those whose membership (including life members) is over 100 to two: those over 200 to three; and those over 300 to four. A Branch newly formed or resuscitated in accordance with Rule 16 (a) before the first of April prior to the Annual Conference, shall be entitled to send one representative.

(i) Every Area Council shall be entitled to two representatives at the Conference.

(j) No proxies are admissible at any Conference, and each representative attending a Conference must himself be a member of the particular Area Council or Branch which he represents.

(k) Each representative attending the Conference will receive a ticket with a perforated portion. The Area or Branch Secretary will, before issuing such ticket, enter thereon the name of the representative, and the amount of the railway, steamer or bus fare. Each ticket must be signed by the Area or Branch Secretary by whom it is issued. This ticket must be presented complete to the Stewards at the Conference; the perforated portion will then be detached for the purpose of operating the "pooling" system. After each representative has entered the Conference, a list shall be made up of the Branches and the amount of fare charged by each; an average will then be struck by dividing the total fares by the number of representatives attending. Immediately after the Conference, accounts shall be forwarded to all Branches which have paid less than the average fare, and cheques for the amount over the average shall be sent to the remaining Branches.

(l) Members of the National Council shall not be eligible for appointment as representatives, but may attend and vote at all Conferences. The expenses of their attendance shall be a charge upon the General Fund.

Rule 22—Alteration of Rules and Bye-Laws

(a) The Rules herein and the Bye-Laws hereinafter set forth in the Schedule appended hereto shall be the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Legion until the same shall be repealed or altered in manner hereinafter provided.

(b) The Rules and Bye-Laws of the Legion, or any of them, may from time to time be revoked, altered, or added to by the Legion in Conference, provided (1) that due notice shall have been given to the members of the Legion of the proposed revocation, alteration, or addition, and that a majority of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote at the Conference shall vote in favour of such revocation, alteration, or addition; and (2) that for a period of three years from and after the first day of January 1951, no amendment or alteration in the Rules and Bye-Laws shall be competent at any Conference unless the Standing Orders of the Conference are suspended, and the Conference by a two-thirds majority agree to any such amendment or alteration.

Rule 23—Dissolution and Disposal of Assets

(a) The Legion may be dissolved by the vote of not less than five-sixths of the Branches represented and voting at a Special Conference, of which six weeks' notice shall have been given.

(b) Should it be so determined to dissolve the Legion, the National Council shall direct the realisation of the whole of the Legion's assets, shall discharge all lawful liabilities, and shall devote the remaining assets, if any, according as the Conference authorising the dissolution may direct, or, failing such authorisation, as the National Council may decide, in pursuance of any instructions given to it by the Conference to dissolve the Legion.

Rule 24—Operation of Rules

The foregoing Rules and the Schedule of Bye-Laws appended shall come into operation as at the commencement of the Annual Conference held in 1950.

be issued with the complete official agenda for the Annual Conference. (See Rule 13 (d).)

(d) The accounts of each Area Council shall be audited annually by a firm of professional accountants appointed by the Area Council, and a copy of the audited statement forwarded to Headquarters and each Branch within the Area. Any expenses incurred shall be a charge on the Area Fund.

(e) The accounts of each Branch shall be audited annually. Such audit shall be carried out by two persons appointed by the Branch, or by a professional accountant, and a copy of the audited statement forwarded to Headquarters and the Area Council.

(f) Every Area Council and Branch shall within two months after the close of its financial year, or within one month after any special audit, forward to the General Secretary a copy of the audited statement of its accounts.

(g) In order to promote the co-ordination of all bodies which have been or may be established for the benefit of those who have served and their dependents, the National Council shall have power to invite bodies controlling approved funds to become affiliated to the Legion, and shall further have power to arrange such terms of affiliation as shall safeguard the rights of such bodies, and shall secure that the money or other property collected by or vested in such bodies shall be expended in accordance with their rules and regulations or charters.

(h) Nothing in these Rules shall in any way affect the property of, or funds held in trust for the Officer's Association, the Earl Haig Fund, the Unity Relief Fund, individual Branches and Posts of the Comrades of the Great War, Scottish Federation of Ex-Service Men, National Association of Ex-Service Men, or various Clubs in connection with those organisations, saving always anything that may be arranged between Branches amalgamating under private agreement, and nothing herein shall prevent a Branch of any existing organisation from continuing its existence as a Branch of the British Legion with its present designation as a sub-title and neither the British Legion nor any Branch nor member thereof shall have any claim to such property or funds other than as a member of the Branch to whom the same belong or for whose behoof it is held.

(m) All decisions of the Conference shall be arrived at solely by the votes of the members of the National Council and representatives present. The voting for the election of officers, where a choice has to be made between candidates, shall be by ballot. No candidate shall be deemed elected by the Conference to any position in the Legion who does not secure an absolute majority of the votes cast. In all cases in which candidates fail to secure such a majority, a further ballot or ballots shall be taken, and in that case the Conference shall decide which, if any, of the candidates securing the smallest number of votes in the first ballot shall be excluded from the second ballot or subsequent ballots. Upon all questions other than the appointment of officers, the voting of the representatives shall be ascertained by a show of hands, unless the Chairman shall otherwise determine.

(n) If the percentage of votes is less than a certain proportion to be agreed upon by the Conference, and the question is considered to be of sufficient importance, the Conference shall remit it for a referendum to the Branches.

(o) The Conference shall have supreme authority in all matters affecting the Legion; its decision shall be final, and all decisions of a Conference to amend or repeal existing Rules or Bye-Laws shall become operative immediately on being passed, unless otherwise directed.

(p) A Special Conference may be convened by the National Council at any time, or shall be so convened on the demand of not fewer than two-thirds of the Branches of the Legion. In the event of a Special Conference being convened by the National Council, there shall be given to Area Councils and Branches not less than four weeks' notice of such Special Conference. The notice shall state the specific purpose for which the Conference is being convened. Any amendments shall be in writing and shall be in the hands of the General Secretary not less than two weeks prior to the date of the Conference. All amendments shall be circulated to Areas and Branches not less than one week prior to the date of the Conference. Where a Special Conference is demanded by the requisite number of Branches, the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, shall, within twenty-one days of receipt of such demand, convene a Special Conference. The procedure thereafter shall be as laid down for a Special Conference convened by the National Council.

Rule 14—Management

(a) The affairs of the Legion shall be managed and administered by the National Council, whose duty it shall be to decide all administrative business connected with the Legion.

(b) All the powers of the Legion shall be vested in and exercisable by the National Council, except so far as the same are by the Rules and the Bye-Laws expressly required to be exercised by the Legion in Conference, or thereby respectively expressly delegated to the Area Councils or Branches, and in particular :—

1. It shall be the duty of the National Council to instruct and advise the Area Councils and Branches in all matters of organisation and propaganda.
2. The National Council shall have power to authorise any person or persons, to examine any or all of the books of an Area Council or Branch and to audit its accounts.
3. Subject to a right of appeal to the Conference next ensuing, the National Council shall have power to expel a Branch from the Legion :—
 - (i) If it refuses to obey the Rules of the Legion or passes Bye-Laws contrary to the said Rules, or adopts a policy opposed to the principles of the Legion as laid down by the said Rules ; or
 - (ii) If it refuses to obey the ruling of the Area Council or the National Council when requested in writing to do so.

Provided that such notice of the National Council's intention shall have first been given, and such other action taken by the National Council as may be prescribed by the Rules and Bye-Laws of the Legion.

4. Any Branch or Area Council Officer may be suspended or removed from the performance of the duties of his office if in the opinion of not fewer than two-thirds of the members of the National Council present and entitled to a vote at a meeting thereof such course is necessary for the protection of the interests of the Legion. Any officer suspended or removed shall be entitled to appeal against the action of the National Council to the Conference next ensuing.
5. The National Council shall have the power to expel any member of the Legion whom in their opinion after proper enquiry they shall consider to have acted disloyally or

mental to its interests shall be liable to expulsion from the Legion or to suspension for a stated period from all the privileges of membership.

The procedure in this matter shall be as follows :—

1. A specially convened meeting of the Branch shall be called to deal with this question only, of which meeting 7 clear days' notice by registered post must be given to the member whose conduct is under consideration. The charge or charges against him shall be stated in the notice. He shall be given an opportunity of stating his defence, either in person or by written statement if so advised. If he fails to appear or to send a written statement, without reasonable excuse, the meeting may deal with the matter forthwith or postpone proceedings to a future date, of which similar intimation must be given. Any vote taken shall be taken by ballot. The said member shall have the right of appeal to the Area Council if not satisfied with the decision of his Branch, provided such appeal is lodged within 21 days, in writing. A further right of appeal, if he is dissatisfied with the decision of the Area Council, shall be allowed to the National Council ; and, if the said member is not satisfied with the findings of the National Council, a final right of appeal shall be allowed to the Conference next ensuing, whose decision shall be final.
2. Expulsion from a Branch shall be regarded as suspending a member from all rights and benefits pending the final result of an appeal.

Rule 21—Funds

(a) All those funds derived from contributions and entrance fees in accordance with Rule 18 or from any other source shall be the property of the Legion, . . . They shall be used only for the furtherance of the objects as set forth in the Rules, and no part thereof shall ever be used for or in assistance of electioneering expenses or the like.

(b) The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December, inclusive.

(c) The Accounts of the National Council shall be audited annually by a firm of professional accountants appointed by the National Council. A copy of the audited balance sheet shall

(g) No ordinary member holding an official position of any description in the Legion shall be in arrear with his contributions except upon pain of forfeiture of the position held by him, unless he shall have obtained exemption in terms of Sub-Section (e) of this Rule.

(h) No member leaving the Legion shall have any claim upon the contributions or other moneys paid by him into the funds of the Legion.

Rule 19—Regimental Associations

Any Regimental Association, on the payment of an annual contribution of £3, 3s., may become affiliated to the Legion and any Branch of such an Association on payment of an annual contribution of £1, 1s. may become affiliated to a Branch of the Legion. This does not give members of such an Association any right to vote on the National Council, Area Councils or Branches, but will give them the full benefits of assistance and advice on pensions and other questions affecting ex-service men and women.

Rule 20—Status, Transfer, Complaints, and Expulsion of Members

(a) In the event of a member's status being challenged, his card of membership, signed by the Branch Treasurer or a person authorised by him, and his official fee-receipt or life membership certificate shall be taken as sufficient evidence; but if it is established after enquiry that the member was not eligible for membership or was admitted in error, the National Council shall be empowered to determine the membership forthwith.

(b) Any member moving from one town or district to another and desiring to be transferred to another Branch shall, after paying all contributions due to his original Branch, be transferred without any additional payment. Such transfer shall be carried out by the Secretary of the original Branch.

(c) Any member having a complaint to make may bring the matter before a meeting of his Branch. Should he be dissatisfied with the decision of the Branch he may appeal to the Area Council, and if still dissatisfied, to the National Council, who shall then deal with and decide the matter.

(d) Any member found by his Branch Committee to have attempted to injure the Legion or to be acting in a manner detri-

dishonourably towards the Legion. Before exercising this power, the National Council, through the General Secretary, shall, by registered letter, give 21 clear days' notice to the accused member of the charge or charges against him, and summon him to attend the enquiry and state his defence either in person or through or with a friend, or by written statement if so advised; and in the event of the accused ignoring the notice or failing to appear at the time appointed, without reasonable excuse, the accused shall be held as confessed. The National Council in connection with these proceedings shall be entitled to remit to a Special Committee, whose report and findings shall be remitted to the National Council for their decision. Any member expelled shall be entitled to appeal to the Conference next ensuing.

6. The National Council shall have power to appoint and dismiss all paid officials of the Legion (except officials appointed by Area Councils or Branches), and to make all necessary provisions for the payment of their salaries or wages out of the General Fund of the Legion. In the case of an appointment of a General Secretary or of an Assistant Secretary, the Council shall before making such appointment invite Areas and Branches to suggest names for consideration.

Rule 15—Area Councils

(a) The Legion shall be divided into geographical Areas and a body formed in each Area to be known as "The Area Council." Each Branch shall belong to an Area Council.

The Area Councils shall, until otherwise determined by the National Council, be as follows:—

1. Edinburgh and the Lothians.
2. Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Bute, Argyll, Dumbartonshire, Stirlingshire and Clackmannanshire.
3. Fife and Kinross-shire.
4. Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and Banffshire.
5. Angus and Perthshire.
6. Dumfriesshire, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright and Wigtownshire.
7. Ayrshire.
8. Berwickshire, Peebleshire, Selkirkshire and Roxburghshire.

9. Highland and Islands (including the counties of Inverness, Ross and Cromarty, Nairn, Caithness, Sutherland, Moray, Orkney and Shetland).

(b) The personnel of each Area Council shall be chosen annually by the Branches situated in the Area governed by the particular Area Council, and shall consist of as many members as will allow of each Branch being directly represented on the scale provided for in Rule 13 (h). Within 14 days after the Branch Annual General Meeting each Branch shall notify to the Area Secretary concerned the names and addresses of its representatives. A Branch newly formed or resuscitated may appoint one member to be its representative until the next Annual Meeting of the Area Council. If any Branch representative is unable to attend a meeting of the Area Council he shall notify the Branch Secretary. The Branch may thereupon nominate a substitute representative, and provided that notice has been received by the Area Secretary of the name of such substitute, the substitute may attend that meeting as Branch representative and vote thereat.

(c) The Officers of each Area Council shall consist of a President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and such other officers as may be found necessary. All officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election. Officers shall be chosen from the Branch representatives and on their taking office shall cease to be representatives of their respective Branches, and the said Branches shall be entitled to appoint others in their place. In the event of any vacancy arising amongst the officers, the Area Council concerned shall have power to appoint a fit and proper person being a member of the Legion resident in the Area to discharge the duties of the office so vacated until the next Annual Meeting of the Area Council.

(d) The duties of the Area Councils shall be :—

1. To aid the National Council in carrying on the work of the Legion.
2. To forward to the General Secretary any particulars which may be required in the interest of the Legion.
3. To exercise a controlling oversight over the Branches within their Area.

(e) Area Councils may draw up Bye-Laws for the local government of their Areas, but before they become operative they must be submitted to the National Council for approval.

ordinary member shall pay an annual subscription as determined by the Branch to which he belongs, and this shall entitle him to full use of all the privileges of the Branch, but exclusive of any privileges or advantages pertaining to any Club organised in connection with the Branch, for which privileges or advantages the Branch may require a further subscription, to be determined by the Branch.

(b) A Capitation fee at the rate of 2s. per annum shall be paid to Headquarters in respect of each Ordinary Member who pays a subscription. All subscriptions shall be acknowledged by means of a stamped fee-receipt signed by the Branch Treasurer. These official stamped fee-receipts shall be issued only by the National Council through their Headquarters, and Branch Treasurers shall obtain these stamped fee-receipts only from Headquarters, and pay to Headquarters in advance 2s. for a yearly stamped fee-receipt, 1s. for a half-yearly stamped fee-receipt, and 6d. for a quarterly stamped fee-receipt. This is to suit Branches which collect their fees yearly, half-yearly or quarterly. One-half of each of the capitation fees received by Headquarters during each quarter shall, within one month after the expiry thereof, be remitted to the respective Area Treasurers.

(c) Ordinary members admitted to life membership shall pay Five Guineas, of which Three Guineas will be retained by the Branch and the remaining Two Guineas remitted to Headquarters, to be divided equally between Headquarters and the Area Council concerned. Where a member has rendered worthy service as an ordinary member of a Branch over a period of 25 years, and has been recommended by his Branch, supported by his Area Council, the National Council shall be empowered, as national recognition of the work of such member, to grant him Life Membership, free of all charges and with all the privileges of ordinary membership.

(d) Every member shall be entitled to one copy of the Constitution on payment of 3d.

(e) Any member producing bona fide evidence of being unable through lack of work or ill-health to maintain his contribution may be permitted to remain a full member for such period and upon such terms as the Branch Committee may determine.

(f) Any ordinary member who is twelve months in arrears in respect of his contributions shall cease to be a member of the Legion.

the disposal of such new Branch, but otherwise shall become part of the Funds of the Area Council (subject to the provisions of any trusts affecting such moneys), and shall be made over to the Honorary Treasurer of the Area by the Honorary Treasurer of the Legion.

When a Branch ceases to exist, all books, trophies and other moveable property may be disposed of at the discretion of the National Council, and buildings which have been the property of the Branch shall, subject to the terms of any trust, be utilised at the discretion of the National Council for the benefit of the Legion, and may be sold or otherwise disposed of by the Area Council after the lapse of three years, unless a new Branch is formed in the locality and such Branch desires to take over such buildings.

(i) No Branch or Sub-Branch or any officer thereof respectively shall have power, express or implied, to pledge the credit of the Legion or of any officer of the Legion, or to incur any financial liability or any liability whatsoever in the name or on behalf of the Legion or of any officer of the Legion, nor shall the Legion or any officer of the Legion be liable for any act, omission, neglect, or default done or committed by any Branch or Sub-Branch or any officer thereof respectively.

Rule 17—Badge

(a) The Badge of the Legion shall be the present official Badge, and shall form the basis of any seal or design used by the Legion.

(b) A Badge may be issued to an ordinary member on payment of the retail cost thereof in addition to the entrance fee and contribution.

(c) A Badge shall be issued to a member only by the Secretary of the Branch of which he is a member.

(d) All Badges issued shall remain the property of the Legion, and shall, on the retirement or expulsion of a member, be returned to the Branch, who shall refund the original cost of the Badge to such member.

Rule 18—Subscription

(a) New Members shall pay an entrance fee of 1s. (which shall be retained by the Branch as mentioned in Rule 7 (e)). Every

(f) Every Area Council shall hold at least three meetings a year for the transaction of business and to deal with all general matters affecting the Area. The Annual Meeting shall be held not later than the 15th day of March, and at this meeting the Area members of the National Council shall be elected, and nomination of one additional representative made, and the names shall be forwarded to the General Secretary as provided for in Rule 13 (d). Special meetings of the Area Council may be convened, if deemed necessary, by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, or by the Chairman alone upon receipt of a requisition signed by not less than twenty-five per cent. of the Branches in the Area. A copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Area Council shall be forwarded to the National Council and to each Branch within the Area.

(g) There will be appointed by the National Council for each Area an Area Adviser, if the Area Council requests that such appointment shall be made. Such Area Adviser shall be under the general control of the General Secretary, but, subject to periodic attendance at Headquarters, will be under the immediate direction of the Area Council in regard to his programme of work in the Area. Area Advisers will not, without the consent of the National Council, undertake the ordinary secretarial work of the Area, but will concern themselves with resettlement and pension problems in the Area and with stimulating and endeavouring to make more efficient the voluntary work of the Area, including the formation and resuscitation of Branches. The salary, travelling expenses and subsistence allowances of Area Advisers will be paid by the National Council unless otherwise arranged with any Area. Area Councils will provide office accommodation, equipment and stationery and clerical assistance as necessary, and will decide the location of the Headquarters of the Advisers.

(h) Every Area Council shall appoint a Committee whose duty it shall be to conduct the affairs of the Area Council between the meetings of the said Council.

(i) Area Councils shall not be liable for any debts incurred or financial obligations undertaken by any Branch.

(j) Each Area Council shall have power to appoint a paid Secretary, Organiser and staff for the furtherance of the work of the organisation in its Area.

(k) No Area Council, or any Committee or Officer thereof respectively, shall have power, express or implied, to pledge

the credit of the Legion or of any Officer of the Legion, or to incur any financial liability or any liability whatsoever in the name or on behalf of the Legion or of any Officer of the Legion, nor shall the Legion or any Officer of the Legion be liable for any act, omission, neglect, or default committed by any Area Council or any Committee or Officer thereof respectively.

(l) The financial year shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

(m) Area Council shall also have power to appoint County or Regional Committees to be under the jurisdiction of the Area.

Rule 16—Branches

(a) The primary unit of the organisation shall be the Branch, to one only of which every member shall belong. Permission to form or resuscitate a Branch of the Legion shall be given by the Area Council in whose Area the proposed Branch would fall. The Area of each Branch shall, if necessary, be defined by the Area Council concerned, and every Branch shall be subject to the control and direction of such Area Council. In the event of a Branch wishing to divide its own Area and form Sub-Bran­ches, permission to do so shall be obtained from the Area Council, and such Sub-Bran­ches, if formed, shall function solely through the Branch, and shall not have direct representation as Sub-Bran­ches on any Council, Committee, or body of the Legion.

The formation of Sub-Bran­ches by a Branch shall not give to the said Branch any powers other than those possessed as a Branch of the Legion.

(b) Every Branch shall be officered by a President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and such other officers as may be found necessary for the proper administration of the affairs of the Branch.

(c) Every Branch shall appoint a Committee, consisting of the officers and at least seven other members, whose duty it shall be to exercise a controlling oversight over the affairs of the Branch, and to carry out any direction given to it by the Branch.

(d) Branches may draw up Bye-Laws for local self-government, but such Bye-Laws shall not become operative until they have been submitted to and approved by the Area Council concerned, and such approval shall not be given unless such Bye-Laws are consistent with the general rules and provisions of the Constitu-

tion—provided that in case of dispute as to whether any such Bye-Laws ought to be approved or not, the Branch shall have the right of appeal to the National Council.

(e) Every Branch shall hold regular meetings at least four times yearly, wherever possible, for the transaction of business. All Branches shall close their Annual Accounts at the 31st December in each year, and shall, not later than the 21st day of February following, hold their Annual General Meeting, at which the officers and committee for the ensuing year shall be elected. Within a fortnight of such meeting, the Secretary of each Branch shall send his name and address, together with the names and addresses of the other Branch Officers, to the General Secretary at Headquarters, who will, in turn, compile a list of Chairmen, Secretaries and Area Sports' Secretaries with their addresses, and send a copy of same to each Branch and Area not later than the 15th of April.

(f) The National Council or Area Council shall be entitled to authorise any member to visit Branch meetings at any time, and such member shall be empowered to examine all books and accounts upon giving seven days' notice.

(g) Any moneys remaining in the hands of a Branch or of its officers in respect of entrance fees, annual subscriptions, and life membership fees of members, after forwarding to Headquarters the affiliation fees, &c., and all moneys paid or donated to a Branch specifically for the purposes and benefit of such Branch, and all moneys raised by a Branch specifically for its own purposes and benefit, provided that when an appeal to the public is involved, such appeal receives the approval of the National Council (as signified by the written authority of the General Secretary or other officer appointed by the National Council for that purpose) to the manner of raising thereof first obtained, shall be the property of the Branch concerned and shall constitute its Branch Fund.

(h) If any Branch does not comply with the provisions of Rule 21 (f), notice shall be sent by registered letter to the Secretary of the Branch by the General Secretary requiring compliance. If there is no compliance within four months after such notice, the Branch shall cease to exist, and any moneys in the hands of the former officers of the Branch shall be handed over to the Honorary Treasurer of the Legion. If a new Branch is formed for the same locality within three years thereafter, such moneys shall be put at