

Letters

To The Editor

Faulty Bricks

THE Returned Servicemen's League is to be commended for exposing the sale of faulty bricks which crumbled and dissolve when placed in water. Action should be taken to protect the public, for the price of bricks is sufficient to ensure the best quality.

My association has referred to the Minister concerned a complaint that of 1500 bricks bought for a chimney only 500 could be used.—W. J. CLARKE, Secretary, Combined Pensioners' Association.

Transport Costs

I REGRET that the former Minister for Transport (Mr. O'Sullivan) and high officials of the railway and Transport Departments, because of their lack of capability, left so much to be cleaned up by the new Minister (Mr. Sheahan). The appointment of Mr. Winsor to his high position, at almost £6000 a year, makes one wonder just what our Labour Ministers are doing. All this adds greatly to the burdens of the community, which already have to bear free first-class transport for members of all Parliaments, judiciary and high transport officials, as well as card passes for other departmental officers. In addition, certain road transport employees get free travel to and from duty, while all railway employees over 21 pay fares at half rates on trains, but are not allowed concessions on trams or buses.

Transport costs of pensioners have been raised again.

If the Government inquired thoroughly into overstaffing and appointments in various departments, much money could be saved. Branches of the railway service are overstocked with supernumeraries. An honest inquiry must result in re-

gression in grades in many instances and the surplus labour created could be used to replace the alleged shortage of staff.

A bachelor of arts or science degree is not a qualification to order fare rises. Mr. Winsor could have reviewed the many appointments and overstaffing, instead of starting on the public, who has to meet the bill of high salaries and costs without getting much in return. The Transport Department should be conducted as a large business is run. If large commercial concerns do not show a profit, new men are brought forward.—OSCAR ASHE, Mayfield

Addison-road Slide

MR. Isaac Hoare's remarks on honeycombing by small mines as the cause of the Addison-road slide is nonsense, as there was only one mine operated at the spot which has subsided. I have never referred to this so-called subsidence as being on old Lambton property, but Mr. Hoare in one of his letters said this trouble was caused by a creep in Old Lambton colliery 40 years ago.

What would the New Lambton Coalmining Coy. have been doing to allow the Old Lambton colliery to encroach hundreds of yards and take thousands of tons of coal that did not belong to it? Mr. Hoare has asked why this slide has waited for so many years. The answer is simple. Take a brace from anything and it will collapse. This is precisely what happened when the council cut the street recently, and such was the cause of the first slip years ago.—C. G. MILLINGTON.