Calling all Aborigines

Straight Talk

by THE EDITOR.

Will ever the shackles of misery and poverty be lifted from the lowest section of the community – the Australian Aborigines? As a Aboriginal in the responsible position of rebroadcasting the voice of the Aborigines themselves, so that the white people of this country will know the true conditions under which the Aborigines of Australia are forced to live, I say, Brothers and Sisters of my race, ask yourselves How have we fared under the whiteman's Administration? Look at our Reserves! What is it that greets us on investigation? Starvation, poor housing and education, and general oppression. It seems that the "Protection" Board on some reserves appoints men to torture us mentally with bullying tactics. This, with the wrecking of our physical condition through inadequate food supply, has only one object – Extermination! Have we to lose if this so-called "protection" Board is abolished? With all the whiteman's organisation and facilities for progress, together with his boast of fairplay and justice, the Aborigines, after 150 years of "Christian Rule", find inhumane conditions existing against us. We have been content in the past to wait, hoping that the dominant race would become conscious of our plight. But we find that we have been forgotten in their march to nationhood. So all Aborigines in Australia who want the privileges and benefits of civilization for the welfare of their wives and children should get behind this movement. Say goodbye to the damper and ashes, and to the compounds! We want to be absorbed into the Nation of Australia, and thus survive in the land of our forefathers, on equal terms.

JOIN THE ASSOCIATION TODAY!

The time has now come for all Aborigines and persons of Aboriginal blood, to join the Aborigines Progressive Association in the coming fight for Citizen Rights. Many Aborigines and Halfcastes joined the Australian Army (A.I.F.) in the last war for "freedom". Hundreds of these have died to uphold the fair name of Australia. Yet today, Aborigines and Halfcastes, and all persons having "any admixture of Aboriginal blood", are treated as dungs and as outcasts in the land of their ancestors. It is to remedy this state of affairs that the Aborigines Progressive Association has been formed. Throughout Australia, hundreds of Aborigines are joining the Association. Soon we expect to have thousands of members. It is only by strength of numbers that we shall be able to convince White Australians of the justice of our cause.

New Policy

In adjoining column is a notice convening a meeting to draw up a policy to submit to the Government of New South Wales: That the following be the Policy of the Aborigines Progressive Association, to place before the Government of New South Wales:

1. Full Citizen Rights for all Aborigines, including the benefit of all social and administrative reform.
2. Special education Scholarships for children of Aborigines, to enable them to attend Technical Colleges, Agricultural Colleges, and High Schools, for the purpose of becoming modern Australians.
3. Special Land Settlement Scheme for Aborigines, whereby Aborigines who desire to take up land shall be assisted to do so, on similar principles to Soldier Settlers or Immigration Schemes.
4. The Constitution of an Aborigines Administration Board, to consist of three members, and officials nominated by the Government, one expert in education, one expert in health, and one expert in land settlement; together with three persons nominated by the Aborigines Progressive Association; and that all Inspectors under the proposed new Act should be persons of Aboriginal blood.

The following RESOLUTION will be submitted by the Executive Committee:

THAT the following be the Policy of the Aborigines Progressive Association, to place before the Government of New South Wales:

1. Repeal of all existing legislation regarding Aborigines.
2. Enactment of new legislation to provide for:
   - CITIZEN RIGHTS
   - LAND SETTLEMENT
   - Special Land Settlement Plan for Aborigines, whereby Aborigines who desire to take up land shall be assisted to do so, on similar principles to Soldier Settlers or Immigration Schemes.
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