

***Argus*, 15 November 1937, p. 10, Editorial. Blacks and Rights**

The blacks lack the rights possessed by whites, and they propose to observe a day of mourning on the 150th anniversary of white settlement in Australia to direct attention to the fact. "Full rights of citizenship" were claimed at a meeting on Friday of the Australian Aborigines' League. The desire to exercise a vote (even if it be an exotic growth, artificially propagated in the virgin soil of an aboriginal mind) demands respect. But those who make the claim are few. The existence in Australia of some 54,000 aborigines who — happy mortals! — know nothing of civilised politics, and most of whom do not know that white men have taken charge of their country, indicates at once that the aboriginal franchise is a wild impossibility. Kendall's "Last of His Tribe" was a myth.

"We are not chickens; we are eagles", said one aboriginal speaker at the meeting, implying that the white man treated the aborigine as the lesser fowl. This speaker failed to recognise that, under the present distribution of rights, it is the blackfellow who can run and not be weary, and walk and not faint. The white taxpayer is the bird that is plucked.