

***Argus*, 9 February 1939, p. 10, Welfare of Blacks. Praise for New Policy**

Praise of the Federal Government's new policy for the welfare of Australian aborigines and the decision to establish a Native Affairs Branch of the Department of the Interior was expressed yesterday by officials of organisations in Melbourne for the protection and welfare of aborigines. Several points of the policy were questioned, however.

Miss Helen Baillie founder and secretary of the Aboriginal Fellowship Group and a member of the committee of the Australian Aborigines League said that the announcement indicated a very great step forward in the administration of native affairs.

"We feel however that instead of an administrator from New Guinea being put in charge the administrator should be a man who has already had experience in aboriginal work", said Miss Baillie. Control should be exercised by such a man as Dr Strehlow, patrol officer of the Hermannsburg mission station, who has lived and worked for a lifetime among the aborigines.

Miss Baillie suggested that women of the right type trained in social welfare work and nursing would be of great service as protectors or welfare officers. She emphasised also the need for representation of the aborigines in the department and on all committees so that they would have the opportunity of putting their own cases. A method of electing representatives need not be difficult. "In addition", she added, "we feel that all educated and civilised aborigines should be given the privileges and responsibilities of full citizenship".

Protest Meeting

With the object of exposing the deplorable conditions of the aborigines of Antwerp (V) and conditions in other States with a view to constructive action, the Australian Aborigines' League will hold a protest meeting on the Yarra bank on Sunday. Speakers will criticise the alleged negligence of Aboriginal Boards and will urge a more constructive policy of administration.

Miss Baillie who recently visited the Antwerp station will describe the shocking living conditions there and will urge the provision of decent housing.

It has been suggested that the Framlingham settlement near Warrnambool should be used as a model for other stations.

Speakers will include the leader of the State Labour Party (Mr Cain) Senator Keane of the Federal Opposition, the president of the Australian Aborigines League (Mr A. P. Burden) and aborigine speakers, including Messrs Doug Nichols and Caleb Morgan.