

***Herald* (Melbourne), 13 February 1939, p. 8, Aborigines Adamant in Station Strike. Seek Independent Inquiry**

The natives who walked out of Cumeroogunga (N.S.W.) Aboriginal Station as a protest against their treatment, will return if they are promised an inquiry and better conditions.

This view was expressed today by the president of the Australian Aborigines' League (Mr [A.] P. A. Burdeu).

Mr Burdeu said that if the natives who are now camped at Barmah stayed on the Victorian side of the Murray over the next ration day (Thursday), the New South Wales Government would probably realise they were in earnest and agree to an inquiry.

The natives had crossed the river as a way of drawing attention to their demand for an independent inquiry into their allegations of unfair treatment.

The League had already sent to the New South Wales Government a petition drawn up by the natives asking for the inquiry and explaining disabilities they claimed they suffered at the station.

The petition also asked for the removal of the manager of the station (Mr McQuiggan).

The main body of the natives crossed the river the weekend before last, said Mr Burdeu. Meanwhile, the natives in the camp were suffering considerable hardship, although supplies of food had been sent from Melbourne to meet more urgent needs. The natives had with them a number of children. They still needed food, principally flour, sugar and tea.

They were fishing and rabbiting to supplement the food given them, and were living in bough shelters at the camp, which is about 15 miles up-stream from Echuca.