

***Workers' Voice*, 18 February 1939, p. 4**

“The Australian aborigines have had their land, their women and their wages taken away from them. As a visitor to Australia, I am surprised at the conditions imposed on the aborigines, and I am glad to see they are now making a stand.” Declared Dr Brauner, of America, at the aborigines’ protest meeting on the Yarra Bank last Sunday.

She appealed to the crowd to support the aborigines who struck recently at Cumerroogunga Mission Station, N.S.W., after their demand for an inquiry into the administration of the station had been refused.

Other speakers who urged Government action to improve aborigines’ conditions were warmly applauded by a big crowd.

Mr J. Cain, leader of the State Labor Party, and Labor Senator R. U. Kearne, who were to have spoken at the meeting, sent apologies, stating that they were fully behind the aborigines’ campaign for better conditions, but were prevented from speaking by a decision of the Labor Party central executive regulating public appearances of Labor members.

Doug Nicholls, Fitzroy aboriginal footballer, said that houses in Fitzroy slum areas were mansions compared with the hovels occupied by aborigines at Antwerp.

“Our people want to leave the age of damper and ashes, and take their place side by side with the whites, as they are fully capable of doing,” he added.

Mr Burdeu, president of the Australian Aborigines’ League, said that Arthur Crosser, famous aboriginal athlete, had been flung out of a Perth hospital when he tried to arrange accommodation for his sick wife.

#### POLICE METHODS

He also strongly criticised the methods of the Western Australian police in “recruiting” and training trackers.

Miss Helen Baillie, secretary [sic] of the Australian Aboriginal League, said it was impossible for a policeman to act as a native “protector” in the bush and a native prosecutor in the police court.

She urged radical reforms in the Commonwealth’s aboriginal policy.

Mrs Marjorie Tucker, who recently visited her relations in the Cumerroogunga Mission Station, described the conditions that had driven the aborigines to revolt, and appealed to the audience to support the strikers.

The collection — more than £4 — has been forwarded to the Cumerroogunga strikers.