

William Cooper to Rev. Ernest Gribble, 22 September 1934, Australian Board of Missions, Further Records, 1873–1978, Mitchell Library, MLMSS 4503, Add-on 1822, Box 8, Folder 4

You will be anxious to hear from me regarding the organising of our petition that is to be presented to the King.

The petition is in perfect order and we are getting along with it as well as we can expect. I am pleased to say I have now in hand, signatures amounting to 2,500 and we are expecting another 2,500 which should bring the total to about 6,000.

I am sorry to have kept you waiting so long but we have been held up all this time by the Government in not answering the letters I wrote to them. I may say that I have written to all the Railway Departments asking them to grant me five passes for five Aboriginal representatives to enable us to meet the Commonwealth Government at Canberra with a deputation for the purpose of asking the Government for better conditions before forwarding the petition to the King. I have been refused the passes so I am trying another Department which will take some time to put through.

However, we must keep on seeking for our rights. The election has been the main cause of all the delay and now the Centenary and the Melbourne Cup to be run in November. Then comes Christmas and New Year. All these will cause a lot of delay in our efforts so we will have to have patience. We are getting along very well and there is nothing to be alarmed of. It is the duty of all our Natives to take part in some way in this great cause for the betterment of all our people.

P.S. Deputation not arranged yet owing to Election Delays. I am sending these notes all a round to our supports.