

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to Sir John Harris, Secretary, Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, 20 February 1937, Papers of the Anti-Slavery Society, Weston Library, Oxford University, MSS. Brit. Emp. s. 22, G378**

One of the stalwarts of the cause in Australia, Dr Chas Duguid, one of Adelaide's foremost medical practitioners, is leaving in a few days for England. He has travelled the Inland and knows all conditions from first hand knowledge and his leadership in the cause is a mighty bulwark. He is not only a foremost medico and citizen, whose voice carries great weight but he has what is, I understand, an honor unique in Australia. He was some two or three years ago Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in South Australia. This is practically reserved for a clergyman. He is putting the cause on the map as far as the Presbyterian Church is concerned. He does some lecturing here with slides made from his own photos but I don't know that is taking them.

I have suggested to Dr Duguid that he should make a call on you and I trust that you will contact.

I will send you a copy of the "Protector" with an article of Dr Duguid's relative to his ambitious plan for the uplift of my people. You have doubtless seen this but an extra copy will not be amiss if you have [it].

Thanks to the education from your end, and in no small degree, I trust, to the representations made by men and of course the persistent voice of such organisations as your own in Australia, the present Federal administration gives hope of proving our salvation. The Minister of the Interior is making our cause his own and the Prime Minister ably second his lieutenant. Our cause was never more hopeful. We are applying the pressure to see that the good intentions are implemented. Of course this only affects the natives in the territories but we feel that if the pace can be set there it must result in corresponding advance in the States, even in West Australia, where our race is being dragged in the mud at present. We are looking for relief consequent on the meeting of the Chief Protectors now to be held in April but previously planned for this month. We have supplied all the authorities with an agenda of proposals expressing the desires of the natives and other organisations are putting pressure on too. We hope to have some items of interest for you after that meeting.