

# WE DON'T WANT SYMPATHY

## CHANCES FOR ABORIGINES SOUGHT

*A stirring article by Bert Groves, the Aborigines' Representative on the Aborigines Welfare Board.*



In this picture we see the author of this article, Board Member Bert Groves, addressing the Board. From left to right we have: the Chairman, Mr. C. J. Buttsworth, Professor Elkin, Mr. Mullins, Secretary (back to camera) Mr. J. Glasheen, Mr. Groves, Mr. Saxby, Superintendent (with back to camera) Mr. E. Wright, Police Superintendent MacAuley and Dr. C. J. Cummins.

The more I concentrate on the question of the aborigine, the more convinced I become that it's only the lack of teamwork and human understanding that prevents us from finding a definite solution to this vital question.

The long-termed objective of the Aboriginal Race is to obtain full acceptance as Citizens for all. Recent educational opportunities have given us a much broader outlook on our problems.

Events to-day have forced me to recognise that we are now living in an idealistic era, and we can't solve our problems unless we pay more attention to the idealistic factor.

We feel that the emphasis should be now shifted from this long-termed objective to a more immediate objective of raising the social, moral, and economic standards and teaching the aborigine to live in the democratic manner. This is the only way to completely assimilate the aborigine.

The complete co-operation of both Brown and White is essential to reach this goal, and I feel that the

aborigines can contribute a great deal towards making assimilation a reality.

I would suggest we create a panel of trained speakers—people taken from the ranks of the aborigines who could present the case from their own point of view. (The aborigines must know the question better than anyone else, for they eat, sleep and drink it.) These spokesmen are available already, and with a little more training they could put the case clearly.

They should be trained to speak wherever and whenever they were required.

Already our race has on numerous occasions provided men like the late William Ferguson who has been acclaimed the Champion of the Blacks, the first man to represent the aborigines on the Aborigines Welfare Board and also the founder of the Aborigines Progressive Association. Others were—Mr. Walter Page of Woodenbong, Bill Onus, Rev. Doug Nicholls, Cpt. Reg Saunders, A.I.F., Harold Blair, and many others that I could mention.