

# Aborigines and Pensions

by MICHAEL SAWTELL

Cheers and congratulations for Mrs. N. J. C. Foster, who is an ex-matron from Walgett Aborigine station, for the timely and excellent article in *July Dawn*, on the matter of pensions for aged aborigines living on the Board's stations. Just to cheer Mrs. Foster and others up, I wish to tell you, that I have had this matter in hand now for some years. I have a one man cold war on with the Commonwealth Government and I will continue, until I gain justice for my aged aborigine friends.

This matter of pensions for aborigines living on the Board's station is mentioned every year in the Board's Annual Report, but nothing is ever done about the matter.

Because I am the direct appointee of the Chief Secretary, I feel that it is my duty to be most active and as I am not a civil servant, I can perhaps be more outspoken and forthright than my civil servant colleagues.

I have spoken to several members of the Federal Cabinet about this matter. I also once had a long interview with the Minister for Commonwealth Social Services, Mr. Robertson, when I was in Dubbo, and the only answer I received was a long official letter setting out the strictly legal position. I have explained the matter to Dr. Evatt, to Mr. E. J. Ward, M.H.R., and many other Federal members, but nothing has been done.

So I have acted on my own. I have had over 50,000 copies of a special letter sent to the Prime Minister mainly at my own expense from all the leading Clubs in New South Wales, such as Rotary, Lions, Apex C.W.A., all the Churches, Schools and many other meetings, and I will keep on with these letters.

I have also sent copies of Mrs. Foster's article to the Prime Minister and many others. Thank you again Mrs. Foster.

*Note.*—The letter to which Mr. Sawtell refers, reads :—

The Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister,  
Mr. R. G. Menzies, P.C., M.C., M.P.,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

I plead with you to grant relief to those starving aborigines in Western Australia. I also ask for more sympathetic administration towards the aged Full Blood Aborigines and their pensions, and the Full Blood Nursing Mothers. Put all the responsibility on the State Welfare Boards, and when they exempt a Full Blood, then I ask you to grant the Social Services without any questions.

## How Do I Look ?



Pretty little Jean Flanders often said to herself, "I wonder how I look in my different moods." How do I look when I'm smiling, or when I'm serious, or perhaps when I am deep in thought weighing up some problem. The best way to find out was to have some photographs taken in those different moods—and that is exactly what Jean did. She went along to a candid cameraman and had these eight photographs taken.

Isn't it remarkable how a smile can alter one's whole appearance. Just give that a thought when you're inclined to frown instead of smile.