

**"Made in Australia."**

For the preceding reasons, not to enumerate others that could be mentioned, there is ample justification for the individual adoption of the slogan—

**"WHEREVER YOU TRADE BUY AUSTRALIAN-MADE."**



**Support Your Country  
and  
It Will Support You.**

Bulletin No. 3.



VICTORIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Immigration and Alien Restriction

Issued by direction

AUSTRALIAN NATIVES' ASSOCIATION  
(Victorian Board of Directors)  
379 Collins Street, Melbourne.

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BULLETIN No. 3.

## Immigration and Alien Restriction.

IT is necessary that the views and policy of the Association in regard to the problems of Immigration, and the restriction of immigration of aliens, should be stated separately.

A review of the decisions of the Conferences of the Association, indicates that, in 1927 a resolution was carried, deploring the meagre achievements by Government migration policies, and pledging support to any movement designed to encourage British migration to Australia.

However, at the Conference in the following year, 1928, at Swan Hill, a resolution was carried urging the Federal Government to suspend the immigration policy whilst so much unemployment was in the country. No resolution touching the problem of immigration, (other than alien immigration) was submitted to the Healesville Conference of 1929.

The two resolutions, above quoted, indicate the attitude of the Association to one of the most important problems confronting Australia.

It is submitted that it is not inconsistent to say that, whilst we stand for a vigorous immigration policy, and will actively support movements encouraging British migration, we reserve the right to withhold support to migration at times of grave unemployment and distress.

It is the Association's considered view that migration to Australia shall be limited to the country's capacity to absorb and assimilate immigrants, without disturbing the general flow of employment, and undermining, or lowering, the existing social standards of the people.

## Immigration and Alien Restriction.

The standard of living in Australia is one that has been secured by great effort, and any challenging of that standard is repugnant to an Association such as ours.

It is because of the danger attendant on an unrestricted policy of immigration, during times of serious and widespread unemployment, that prompts the Association to stand, and be guided by, the resolution of the Swan Hill Conference in 1928.

Mr. C. H. Wickens, the Commonwealth Statistician, has appropriately said: "As an organism, we can satisfactorily grow only by absorption, not by mere accretion; in any measure taken to stimulate growth, much more attention needs to be devoted to the nature of this wonderful organism than is usually paid by those whose main advice is to 'get large quick.'"

The second phase of the problem of immigration, and perhaps the more important and graver, is that touching the immigration of aliens.

The alien immigrant, it is submitted, must necessarily be defined as a non-British immigrant, but then the definition excludes immigrants from within the Empire, namely, Maltese, whose entry to Australia, on social, racial or economic grounds, might be as challengeable as that of any alien group.

The question of alien immigration has evoked the keenest interest on the part of many Australians of recent years, and has aroused most of the branches of the Association to submit, from time to time, varying resolutions.

The Association must take some credit for the 1925 (Amended) Immigration Act, which now gives stringent powers to the Federal Executive to exclude aliens of any specific nationality, race, class or occupation, where deemed desirable, having regard to the economic, industrial or other conditions existing in the Commonwealth, or the unsuitability of such migrants, or the unlikelihood of their being readily assimilated, i.e., their incapacity to assume the duties and responsibilities of Australian citizenship within a reasonable time.

## Immigration and Alien Restriction.

This power of exclusion being part of our Federal law, the problem of alien immigration, as we know it, or as we assume it might become, remains one that is readily soluble by administrative action.

The position of alien immigration, so far as Australia is concerned, is not an unknown quantity. We have the accumulated experience of a century of unrestricted immigration in the great U.S.A., and from this history and experience our lessons might be learned, and our policy framed.

A glance at the nature and extent of alien immigration in the U.S.A. is arresting. During the time of the settlement and development of the farm lands, from the dawn of the nineteenth century until approximately the 90's, the stream of immigration was almost entirely confined to Anglo-Saxons, Scandinavians and Germans, a mere trickle of immigrants coming from either Southern or Eastern Europe.

With the profound changes brought about by industrialism, the growth of great manufacturing institutions, and with it the demand for great armies of unskilled labor—a deluge of Southern and Eastern Europeans followed, reaching its peak in 1910, when 81 per cent. of the whole immigration into U.S.A., (or eight out of every 10), were Italians, Austro-Hungarians, Russians, Greeks and natives of other countries of Southern Europe. In this year, over one million souls poured into the country. The problem had, by this time, aroused the American Government and the Immigration Commission's Report in 1911 pointed out the reversal in the sources and quality of the new immigration, and recommended action as demanded by economic, moral, and social reasons.

A literary test was provided in 1911, in an attempt to meet the problem, but this was vetoed by President Taft. The doors then remained open to all aliens, and in 1914, 1,218,480 were admitted. In 1917, the literary test was put in force, despite the veto of President Wilson, but this proving inadequate to effectively diminish the flow of aliens, the Quota System was first introduced in 1921. This system was based on an admission to the United States of 3 per cent. of the number of each nationality actually in the States in the year 1910.

It was from the Immigration Committee's Report of 1911 that the notion of the quota system sprang,

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and despite its first operation, limiting the number of aliens coming to the States to 3 per cent. of their nationals actually in the States in 1910, this did not meet the universal demand for further exclusions, and finally the most revolutionary restrictive immigration law, probably in the world, was enacted in the 1924 measure, which limited the inflow of aliens to 2 per cent. of their fellow countrymen actually in the States in 1890.

As illustrative of the operation of the new alien restriction laws, their application on the "old" or desirable as opposed to the "New" and undesirable types, the following tables are interesting:—

Old Type (Quota based on 2 per cent. of nationals in U.S.A. in 1890)—

Great Britain . . . . .	62,000
Germany . . . . .	51,000
Scandinavian countries . . . . .	20,000

New Type—

Italy . . . . .	3,912
Greece . . . . .	47
Spain-Portugal . . . . .	560
Russia . . . . .	2,843

If a quota system similar to that of U.S.A. were applied to Australia, and our flow of aliens was limited to 2 per cent. of their respective countrymen in Australia in 1890, our problem so far as aliens are concerned, would be simple, as the quota would be negligible.

The stream of immigration into Australia prior to 1890 was made up as follows:—

United Kingdom . . . . .	90.5 per cent.
Germany . . . . .	5 " "
Scandinavians . . . . .	2 " "
Other European countries . . . . .	2.5 " "

Working out the two per cent. quota on the basis of the 1890 nationals in Australia, and applying it to the immigration stream of, say, 1927, would see us with this result:—

	Actual Immigration, 1927.	No. allowed admission if quota of 2% of nationals in Australia in 1890, was in operation.
United Kingdom . . . . .	48,900	84,000
Germany . . . . .	819	75

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Scandinavian Countries	1,600	17
Italy	7,884	136
Greece	1,593	32
All other European Countries	2,651	52

*(The difference between actual British migration and what it should be on quota basis is remarkable).*

It can be accepted as an accomplished fact that the old type immigrant to the U.S.A., as well as to Australia, was, in every sense, the superior of the new type, which is mainly Southern European.

When asked what was the greatest problem that America faced, Professor Ross said: "The thing that causes the most foreboding to me is how to preserve democracy and a popular Government in a people that has become so heterogeneous as ours."

Might not we in Australia ask ourselves this question when we stand virtually at the very threshold of this problem? The American claims that he is suffering from an overdose of unassimilated foreigner. We too, in Australia, if the present rate of influx of aliens continues, will reach the same conclusion. We will find the aliens creating many difficult problems, as well as aggravating many serious existing evils; and graver, too, is the danger of political power, in our free democracies, passing out of our hands into the hands of those to whom our institutions and traditions mean nothing.

Having regard, then, to the menacing challenge that alien immigration necessarily is to the maintenance of our racial, social and economic standards; and considering the active restrictions imposed both by the U.S.A. and also by Great Britain, where, by the Aliens' Order, 1920, the Home Secretary has power to keep out any aliens whom he considers are superfluous to the needs of the country, we should urge those in whose hands the Government of our country for the time being is entrusted, to apply a rigid quota system, if needs be, on the basis of the American principle.

Only by this means can be maintained our boast of a 98 per cent. British stock origin, bound together by ties of common blood, of common institutions, and of common ideals.

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## ELECTORAL REFORM



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AUSTRALIAN NATIVES' ASSOCIATION  
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60 Queen Street, Melbourne.



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