

Objectives of New Australia, November 1892

Object—To put into practice upon a voluntary basis and under the most favorable conditions available that form of industrial association which will secure social justice to all.

Condition of Membership—Every member to agree, when arrangements for settlement are complete, to subscribe to the common fund of the Association all he possesses except personal effects and to migrate to the land selected by the Association, there to devote all his energies to the success of the settlement and to showing the world that, under fair conditions, even workers can live a life worth living.

Land—A large tract of land, conceded on settlement conditions, without payment, is now being prospected in South America. Settlement will commence as soon as the land is selected.

PROVISIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman—W. Lane, Brisbane, Q.

Treasurer—W.W. Head, Wagga, NSW

Secretary—D.A. Cumming, Brisbane, Q.

Agent—A. Walker, Buenos Ayres, S. America

Prospectors—W. Saunders (late President ALF) and C. Leck

Committee—Trustees elected by the groups,

THE AIM OF THE ASSOCIATION

An Association of *bona fide* workers has been formed to make an earnest effort to put into practical shape the co-operative ownership by the workers against the risks which constantly threaten men, women and children with misery and want under existing conditions. It is felt that when such co-operation is shown to be not merely problematic but actually established, public opinion will endorse the social reform which all know to be necessary, but which is now prevented by ignorance, mistrust, and mistaken self-interest.

The reason why small co-operative settlements in the past have not been wholly successful, though after the members have secured far greater reward for labor than the wage system gave them, have of late years been carefully examined by critical and able thinkers. This Association will have all the requirements of certain success. It will be recruited in an intelligent population already accustomed to new country; its members will have been generally familiarized through Unionism with self-government; it will be of sufficient size to be almost wholly self-sustaining, to economize labor by systematizing it, and to open up scope for all abilities by specializing industry; in organization it combines the advantage of strong industrial order with the constant supremacy of the whole, while socially it leaves each member absolutely unharassed by needless regulations. By the organisation of industry it will be able to open to all Art and Science, now the privilege of the few. Finally, it will be founded by a migration which of itself will sift out all but the earnest, and in a country of attractive climate and soil whose every condition will tend to throw the whole energy of each member into the settlement, and not outside of it, conditions impossible in Australia. The agent whom the Association despatched to South America reports in the highest terms on the exceptional facilities for such settlements as this to be found in secluded parts of that continent, and that a most liberal concession of over 400,000 acres, free of charge, on settlement conditions and to be selected by him, is under offer. Messrs W. Saunders, president of the ALF and C. Leck, member of the Central Political Committee, PPA, have been sent to prospect this concession. Upon land being finally secured migration will commence at once. Any member who has then paid £,60 in all will be eligible for the first party. In a very short time any man can have a wife, a home, and happiness, if he only has grit enough to make an effort and to trust those who will trust him. There is no humbug about the "New Australia"; it is a straight move by straight men.

Those desirous of knowing more of a movement intended to prove, voluntarily and practically, that the Co-operative Commonwealth is a commonsense reality, and those who see what is in the future if nothing is done to save Australian workers from old-world conditions are invited to communicate with the offices.

More good will be done to the Australian Labor Movement in five years by such a grand object lesson worked out by Australian workers than could be accomplished in fifty years by theorizing and preaching.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS—

So long as one depends upon another for leave to work and so long as the selfishness induced by the uncertainty of living prevents mankind from seeing that it is best for all to insure one another against all possibility of social degradation, true Liberty and Happiness are impossible;

and WHEREAS—

The weakness, ignorance and doubts of society at large is the great barrier in the way of the establishment of such true social order as will insure to every citizen security against want and opportunity to develop to the fullest the faculties evolving in Humanity;

THEREFORE—

It is desirable and imperative that by a community wherein all labor in common for the common good actual proof shall be given that under conditions which render it impossible for one to tyrannize over one another, and which declare the first duty of each to be the well-being of all and the sole duty of all to be the well-being of each, men and women can live in comfort, happiness, intelligence and orderliness unknown in a society where none can be sure to-day that they or their children will not starve tomorrow.

With this end in view an Association of Workers is hereby instituted and the accompanying basis for co-operative organization and articles of association agreed upon, the signatories intending and expecting to migrate to another country there to devote to the movement their possessions and their best endeavours.

BASIS FOR A CO-OPERATIVE ORGANIZATION

PRODUCTION

Ownership by the community of all the means of production-in-exchange and distribution.

Conduct by the community of all production-in-exchange and distribution.

Superintendence by the community of all labor-saving co-operations.

ALLOTMENT

Maintenance by the community of children under guardianship of parents. Maintenance by the community of all sanitary and educational establishments. Saving by the community of all capital needed by the community.

Division of remaining wealth production among all adult members of the community equally, without regard to sex, age, office or physical or mental capacity.

AUTHORITY

Subject to the supremacy of the laws of the State settled in, which all members pledge themselves to observe loyally, the following authority and regulations shall be observed between the members of the community: Ballot vote of all adult members to be supreme authority.

Director, elected by two-thirds majority of general ballot, to be sole executive authority, advised by Board of Superintendents.

Superintendents, elected by two-thirds majority of departmental ballot, to be sole departmental authorities, subject to director.

REGULATIONS

Regulations affecting the community at large to be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of all adult members.

Departmental regulations to be confirmed by a majority of all adult members interested. All regulations to be submitted annually for continuation or rejection. Disputes arising between members to be decided in equity by an arbitrator mutually agreed upon by them.

Dismissal from the community, for persistent or unpardonable offence against the well-being of the community, to be decreed only by a five-sixth majority of all adult members.

ELECTIONS

All offices to be vacated annually and whenever occupants cease to retain the confidence of their constituents.

INDIVIDUALITY

The individuality of every member in thought, religion, speech and leisure, and in all matters whatsoever whereby the individuality of others is not affected to be held inviolable.

SEX EQUALITY

The sexes to be recognized as equally entitled to full membership.

RELIGION

Religion not to be officially recognized by the community.

AMENDMENT

Amendment of this basis for co-operative organization to be made only by a two-thirds majority of all adult members.

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION ON APPLICATION

ARTICLES RE PAYMENTS

AGREEMENT

Every member of the Association, by act of joining the Association, agrees to subscribe to the funds of the Association all he may possess when he is finally enrolled for actual migration, such subscription to be not less than £60.

PRELIMINARY EXPENSES

The necessary funds for all preliminary expenses, including prospecting, organization and colonization arrangements, shall be provided by a preliminary payment of £10 either in a lump sum or by instalments, to be made by every member as soon as convenient after he joins the Association, this £10 to be counted as part of the £60 which is fixed as the minimum final subscription.

RETURN OF PAYMENTS

The payment of £10 for preliminary expenses and the final subscription of not less than an additional £50, shall both be, when made, free and voluntary donations to the Board of Trustees for the purposes of the Association which no member shall reclaim if he decides, after having made either, to withdraw from membership. But any member shall be entitled to reclaim any amount over £10 which he may have paid to the Board of Trustees in advance for and on account of his final subscription should he decide, before final arrangement for migration, to withdraw from membership. The Board of Trustees, if for any reason whatever it decides to strike from the roll any member who has fulfilled, to the time of such striking off, all the conditions of membership, shall return him his previous payments in full.

EXTRACT FROM LAST CIRCULAR ISSUED TO MEMBERS

The organization of single women is being arranged for, and hopes are favorable that within a year after the settlement is formed, there will be opportunity for every single man to marry one of our own people. Members having sisters, relatives or acquaintances, should point out to them that the movement offers as much to women as to men and urge them to correspond with Mrs Lane, PO Box 15, Brisbane, Q.; Mrs Head, Box 43, PO Wagga, NSW; or Mrs Rich, Launceston, Tasmania.

Certificates are now ready to issue to all who have commenced payment. Those who have not received them should apply for them at once.

Members are particularly requested to keep reliable addresses posted with the secretary, as several letters have been returned 'unclaimed'.

Of course, everybody understands that our prospectors, Messrs Saunders and Leck, are investigating the districts in which over 400,000 acres has been offered us on settlement conditions and that if they are satisfied and can secure good land in this way, we shall begin to settle in a very short time. The climate of the Southern Argentine, in which the land lies, is about the same as Victoria or Tasmania. It is well-watered with good soil running in patches, and approachable from the Atlantic or over passes from the Pacific side. The intention is to charter vessels when our parties are made up and ship straight from here to the nearest port. The first party will naturally consist mostly of men, but women also will go with their husbands and friends.

DID YOU KNOW

That all our modern social ills—poverty—unemployed, prostitution, ignorance and all the evils attending these wrongful conditions—arise wholly and solely because selfish greed more than counter-balances all the advantages of civilization?

That the wealth production of the world is vastly in excess of all ordinary requirements, but that the greater part is carelessly wasted by the rich who do not work while only a comparatively small portion goes to give a scanty subsistence to the poor who, roughly speaking, produce it all?

That what are called barbaric times, among our own race, every man had a home and a wife and every woman a home and a husband, every man was sure of opportunity to live free and of seeing his children grow up free and equal; and that civilization takes from us this freedom which must be the basis of all happiness and gives us wage slavery and degradation in return, only because we have not realized true co-operative conditions suited to modern civilization, as the common ownership of land and cattle was suited to the barbarism of our forefathers?

That all the energies of earnest and determined men and women are necessary, not only to convince the world that things are wrong, which is very easy, but to show the world by practical means what is the best way out, which is very hard; and that the best way is certainly to build up a community enjoying plenty and happiness and individual liberty, which will be an object lesson and an example to all who seek a better order of things, proving to all nations that better things are possible?

That such a community can only be built up by those who give their lives to the work which will live after they are dead and gone and forgotten, and who for the sake of that work, and in the faith of winning humanity, are strong enough to take every precaution towards success no matter what such precautions may cost—are ready to "go out into the desert" to live in their own way?

DO YOU BELIEVE—

That though some men are unreliable and selfish and brutal, having been made so by the unnatural conditions under which we are forced to live, that many men are square and straight and honest, particularly if they have any thing like a chance to be?

That here is pluck enough and honesty enough in the straight men to enable them to trust one another through difficulties and discouragements and pull them through to a state of industrial organization in which every man will be a mate and in which no man would dream of taking advantage of another?

That there is intelligence enough and power of organization enough among the workers to enable them of their free will to organize the present conditions of industry and to give the world an example of a peaceful and *self-sustaining* industrial community in which there are none but workers and in which all are equal?

DO YOU FEEL—

That the weakness of the social movement is in men themselves, in their lack of faith, in their hesitation of thought, in their doubts as to what is best to be done?

That year by year, generation after generation, demoralizing conditions are having an effect upon men equally with the regenerating influence of modern ideas?

That the greatest gift which men could bring to their fellow men would be faith, absolute unalterable faith in a tried and proved form of industrial organization and in the divine truth that happiness is only possible so far as we care for one another?

That you can make one of an association whose members are pledged to give up everything and to join one another in earnest effort to help one another live a life worth living as an example to the world?

IF YOU DO, JOIN THE 'NEW AUSTRALIA' MOVEMENT.

This movement has been two years in preparation. Its principles and articles of association have been discussed and rediscussed a score of times by its original members. It is almost unanimously agreed, by all who have considered the movement, that Australia does not offer for the purpose the advantages offered by other continents and that those who love Australia most who love the movement more. The names of the Provisional Board of Trustees show the genuineness of the movement, and that it is worth every honest man's consideration.

For further information address

Secretary New Australia Co-operative Settlement Association,

Northern Office: PO Box 15, Brisbane, Q.

Temporary Southern Office: PO Box 43, Wagga, NSW

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