

## Australia 1901 – 1914 Notes

### Different aspects of life in Australia 1901-1914

- Three classes – Upper, middle and working class
- Leisure included books, music, card games, entertainment, dancing, alcohol and gambling
- Housing was unsanitary, overcrowded and dangerous
- Health was poor – diseases included bubonic plague, pneumonia and tuberculosis

### Federation

#### *For Federation*

- Transport and Tariffs – rail gauges and removal of tariffs when sending across colonies
- National Identity – majority was Australian born
- Need for Immigration policy – contract/cheap labour, white Australia
- Defence – Australia's isolation from Britain and separate forces in each colony

#### *Against Federation*

- Distance and Size – united Australia would be very large
- Protection vs Free Trade – Protectionist thought free trade would be in place, and vice versa
- Fear of larger colonies – WA and Tas felt they would be ignored – already had governments
- Defence – Larger populated colonies may take all the money to defend their land
- Contract Labour – Queensland's sugar industry would fall (Kanakas)

### The constitution

- Constitution is a set of laws based on the Westminster System
- Separation of power (what it does; who)
  - o Legislature – made laws; Senate and House of Reps – laws passed around 3 times, then signed by Governor General
  - o Executive – carries laws out; Cabinet (PM and ministers)
  - o Judiciary – interprets laws; High Court
- Change of constitution requires referendum:
  - o All people vote, majority of the population agree and 4/6 states agree

### Australia as a “working man's paradise”

#### *For Paradise*

- Better living conditions – better climate, meat, 8 hour working day
- Better laws – Factory Acts and Harvester Judgement (1907)

#### *Against Paradise*

- Bad working conditions – unventilated factories, natural disasters, higher rents
- Women – 1/3 of workforce, ½ of this as domestic servants or in factories
- Children – apprenticed (12 in Vic/Qld, 14 in NSW), aboriginals – little or no pay

### **Voting rights of Aboriginal people and women in this period**

- Article 51 of constitution prohibited Federal Parliament of making laws to benefit aboriginals
- Aboriginals were not counted in the census – smaller states have less population, did not want to count in taxes
- SA (1894) and WA (1899) gave women the right to vote before Federation
- Commonwealth Government allowed women to vote in federal elections in 1902
- This right was extended to state elections later on

### **Definition of some terms from this period**

- Franchise – authorisation to sell goods
- Suffrage – right to vote
- Trade unions – organisation of workers who have similar goals (e.g. working conditions)
- Tariffs – taxes imposed on trade

### **The Immigration Restriction Act 1901**

- White Australia Policy
  - o Mostly British origin
  - o Sense of isolation and fear from Asians
  - o White people felt more superior
  - o Economic problems (work for less money, less quality areas)
- Act allowed officers to choose any European language – 50 word dictation test

### **Important Dates**

- ↻ 1885 – Federal Council established, NSW did not join (limited power)
- ↻ 1889 – Henry Parkes makes the Tenterfield Oration (calling for Federation)
- ↻ 1891 – First Commonwealth Convention held in Sydney, seven delegates from each colony drafted a constitution
- ↻ 1893 – People’s Convention held in Corowa
- ↻ 1898 – Second Commonwealth Convention, representatives from all colonies except Queensland, successfully completed a constitution
  - o Placed to referendum, only Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania passed
- ↻ Changes in constitution took place between referendums
- ↻ 1899 – Second Referendum, all colonies except WA passed (WA joined in 1900)
- ↻ January 1 1901 – Commonwealth of Australia established

### **Important People**

- Henry Parkes – Father of Federation, wrote the Tenterfield Oration (1889) calling for Federation
- Edmund Barton – First PM, contributed to the drafting of constitution and amending it between referendums
- Alfred Deakin – Second PM, helped in creation of Constitution, introduced Bill to make High Court, represented Victoria in a debate about the Constitution in 1900 (in London before Fed.)

## Short Australia 1901 – 1914 Notes

### Different aspects of life in Australia 1901-1914

#### Classes

- Up, Middle, Working

#### Leisure

- Books, Music, Entertainment

#### Housing

- Unsanitary, crowded

#### Health

- bubonic plague, tuberculosis

### Federation

For
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Transport + Tarriffs</li> <li>•National Identity</li> <li>•Immigration Policy</li> <li>•Defence</li> </ul>

Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Distance + Size</li> <li>•Protection vs Free Trade</li> <li>•Larger Colonies</li> <li>•Defence</li> <li>•Contract Labour</li> </ul>

### The constitution

#### Legislature

- Senate + House of Reps
- Makes Laws

#### Executive

- Cabinet (PM + Ministers)
- Carries laws out

#### Judiciary

- High Court
- Interprets Laws

### Australia as a “working man’s paradise”

For
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Better Living Conditions and Laws</li> </ul>

Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Bad Working Conditions for Women, Children and Aboriginals</li> </ul>

### Voting rights of Aboriginal people and women in this period

Aboriginals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Constitution stopped Parliament from making laws to Aboriginals</li> <li>•Not counted in census</li> </ul>

Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•SA and WA before Federation</li> <li>•in 1902, women allowed in Federal elections</li> </ul>

### The Immigration Restriction Act

Mostly British Origin

Sense of Isolation + Fear from Asians

White people felt more superior

Economic Problems

### Important Dates and People

View normal notes.