

JUNE 30th: THE ANNIVERSARY OF LAMBING FLAT.

A CELEBRATION OF AUSTRALIA'S EUROPEAN CIVILISATION.

This date marks an anniversary from Australian folkloric tradition, in the vein of the Eureka Stockade uprising of 1854, the Queensland Shearers Strike of 1891 and others, which laid the foundations for our European derived civilisation.

Sadly, due to the Quislings of the Liberal/Labor/Democrat parties attempted suppression of our unique Australian culture and heritage, many Australians today know little of this tumultuous occurrence.

In the autumn of 1860 the discovery of gold at Lambing Flat [Young] in the colony of New South Wales, became the source for another diggers trek. The pioneering diggers on the trek to Lambing Flat were about to take part in a drama which would become part of the Australian consciousness for generations to come.

By the middle of October 1860 twelve hundred diggers were fossicking along the creek beds around Lambing Flat in the search for gold, many more arriving daily. These were the times ordinary working men were forced to do for themselves or perish. Ben Hall, Frank Gardiner and Johnny Gilbert were there.

They formed the nucleus of the Australian character; European, independent, disliking of authority, for mateship and a fair go to ones fellows. Although times were rough and hard, the men on the diggings formed a sense of brotherhood for the common good, establishing diggers committees.

As the year wore on, numerous Chinese from the province of Kwangtung came onto the diggings. The Australians had been exposed to these Asiatics on other fields, Bendigo, Ballarat and Beechworth, where it was experienced that their unassimilable alien culture and race had lead to social ill effects. Social disharmony soon erupted, and on 13th November the diggers put up notices near Chinese holes to quit the field, setting fire to their tents. About five hundred Chinese were thrown off the diggings, but simmerings of trouble in the wind remained. Over the weekend 8th/9th December 1860 another fifty Chinese were ejected.

The morality of the diggers strictly forbade robbery and any person found stealing from the Chinese was to be handed over to the police. About this time diggers committees also burnt down a number of grog shanties known to be dens of thieves debasing the community.

By the beginning of January 1861 there was much discontent amongst the diggers about the "celestials" as the Chinese were known, being seen in Australia as here to take, to extract gold for its return to China. In addition they were considered inherently cunning in their manner, to waste and spoil water, to ruin good digging ground, and to spread disease and vice.

The Yass Courier of 30th January 1861 wrote -

"On 27th January fifteen hundred men gathered to discuss whether Burrangong was a European field or a Chinese territory. One speaker called on them to proclaim before God and man that as free born they would not allow themselves to be 'trampled to the dust like dogs'. To immense cheering and waving of flags they agreed to give those Chinese bastards two days in which to quit the field. When the Chinese ignored the ultimatum, one thousand diggers marched into the Chinese district at Garibaldi Gully to expel 'the plague of the country', like chaff before the wind and escorted them off the diggings".

On 31st January 1861 the diggers formed the Miners Protective League for the discussion, agitation and removal of the obstacles impeding and obstructing their progress and prosperity.

The diggers had increased to over 6000 and complained of many grievances including no regular postal communications, nominal police authority and no place for public worship. Additional concerns were the gold tax and land being locked up to prevent poor diggers settling. However their main complaint was that a diggings discovered and developed by European enterprise was exposed "to a swarm of Mongolian locusts" who were a source of cheap labour and had forced them and their families from other diggings.

The diggers expressed a vision of a glorious future for the European in the Australian colonies. They wrote in the league's prospectus.

"We invite men of all nations except Chinamen to enrol themselves as members of the League and lastly, we call upon every man whose spirit yearns for equality, fraternity and glorious liberty. Let us then unite, organise, and go hand in hand in our grand struggle for the advancement of our race,- let us lift up our voices and exclaim 'fair play for all' in one grand harmonious

shout that will be echoed from the north to the south, from the east to the west, until the deafening sound is responded to by an acknowledgment of our rights as free born men, the descents of the patriots of the old world".

News of the disorders and the armed digger agitation on the field to expel the Asiatics, caused the then Premier of the colony, "slippery" Charley Cowper, to dispatch troops of the 12th regiment to maintain law and order, before meeting with the League leaders at Lambing Flat, accepting their demands for Chinese immigration restriction. Nevertheless Cowper back in Sydney repudiated digger idealism and talk of equality, and where demanding to be rid of the "plague of mongolian locusts" was considered to emanate from convict expeires, loafers and the dregs of humanity.

News of Cowper's rejection of restricting Chinese immigration in the Legislative Assembly on 20th March 1861, inflamed the diggers to calls that another demonstration was "indispensably necessary".

The absence of merriment amongst the diggers on the evening of Saturday 29th June 1861 indicated the coming storm. Early on the Sunday morning they began coming from all parts of the diggings assembling at Tipperary Gully where eventually some 3000 were gathered under an array of old continent flags. Another flag was also flown, one with a blue cross in the centre with a ground of white, surrounded by the Stars of the Southern Cross. On it, in scroll work, were the words

"ROLL UP ROLL UP NO CHINESE"

With this uniquely Australian flag held high and a brass band, the diggers marched off to the Chinese areas at Lambing Flat and Back Creek, advancing onto their tents and equipment which were pulled down and piled up before being set on fire, the Chinese being forcible ejected. The cry arose of "not one more Chinaman in New South Wales" and the diggers in triumph and exaltation celebrated in good cheer the natural environment of being amongst their own kind.

The colonial police subsequently arrested the diggers leaders and on Sunday 14th July 1861 there was another "ROLL UP" of diggers to demand their release. On the police refusal the one thousand diggers present attacked their camp, one digger being killed in the fighting that lasted some hours before they were driven off. The following day three thousand diggers commenced to march again on the police camp where the Commissioner, troopers and police abandoned the site and made for Yass with the arrested diggers and wounded.

The diggers committees took over maintenance of order on the retreat of the Colonial authority and at the funeral of the digger killed on 14th July the police were named as his murderers.

The cry of "out with the moon faced barbarians" was extended to "down with government", however well armed troop reinforcements were sent from Sydney overwhelming these ordinary working men and enforcing Colonial control. Arrests were made and charges of disturbing the peace were heard against the diggers leaders at Goulburn quarter sessions on 16th September 1861, however the jury refused to convict and again on 19th September 1861 other diggers charged were set free on the jury solemnly declaring they were not guilty.

Such was the support amongst the citizenry for the concept of our European identity and for the convention of digger or peoples democracy in Australia, to remain in our national consciousness long after the diggings were deserted and the camping grounds were grassed again.

Colonial legislation subsequently was enacted in the form of poll taxes to limit Chinese in NSW and the other colonies, the British authorities refusing to give assent to an immigration ban on non Europeans as it might "offend" Queen Victoria's subjects. Nevertheless the legislation did lead to the Federal Immigration Restriction Act of 1901. - The so called White Australia Policy.

The culmination in these acts reflected the pioneering generations desire for a European civilisation on this southern continent, positively rejecting alien races. This formation of the national consciousness, consecrated in the diggers blood, has been fused forever.

These events are the historical facts of our heritage - to deny them is to deny Australia!

The folkloric celebrations of Lambing Flat are important for Australians today, in view of the threat to our identity and cultural heritage as a result of anti-Australian multiculturalism and alien mass immigration, the big business programs enacted by our political caste as a prelude to submerging Australia into an Asiatic trade block - all for profits!.

On this anniversary, we call on all real Australians to celebrate the sacrifice of our pioneering diggers and rally to the defence of our Australian heritage and cultural identity.

All Quotations - Manning Clark - History of Australia.

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