

stroyed, their persons attacked, and their lives jeoparded, to satisfy the malignant disposition of unprincipled and avaricious men: and looking upon such proceedings as unjust, calculated to produce anarchy, confusion and the like among us, destroy our fair prospects, subvert the good order of society, and render our homes the habitations of terror and distrust—those homes, to obtain which we have left our friends, deprived ourselves of the many blessings and privileges of society, have borne the expenses, and encountered the hardships of a perilous journey, advancing into a space beyond the bounds of civilization, and having the many difficulties and obstructions of a state of nature to overcome, and on the peaceable possession of which our all is depending: We, therefore, as well-meaning inhabitants, having in view the promotion of the interest of our settlement, and knowing the many advantages derived from unity of feelings and action, do come forward this day, and solemnly pledge ourselves to render each other our mutual assistance, in the protection of our just rights, and in furtherance of these views, we adopt and agree to abide by and support, the following

Constitution

Art. 1. The name and title of this Society shall be the '*Pike River Claimants' Union, auxiliary to the County Union,*' for the attainment and security of titles to claims on Government lands.

Art. 2. Besides a Chairman and Clerk, a board of twelve Censors shall be appointed for the purpose of deciding on all cases of dispute between claimants, coming before them, be chosen without favor to name or party; five from the twelve to constitute a quorum to act as the Board; the other seven being subject to objection, if drawn; yet none but the parties and the Clerk shall be privy to the process of drawing and objecting.

Art. 3. To constitute a claim, there shall be a house-body, or frame of sufficient dimensions for a family to dwell in, or half an acre ploughed, or a piece enclosed with at least 100 rails—either