

CHAPTER II

THE ECONOMIC THEORIES OF AUSTRALIAN SOCIALISM IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE MOVEMENT

It is now the fashion with some Australian Labour Members of Parliament of to-day to deny their attempts at revolutionary changes in society in its economic government. An example will illustrate how dexterously this attitude is posed and varied for the benefit of the public. A parliamentary party of Socialist representatives, accompanying a couple of professing (but by no means practical) Socialist Ministers of the Crown, left the metropolis of one of the States to open a general election campaign. A shuffle in the Cabinet had caused a readjustment of parties and portfolios, and the question for the State was, would it ratify the policy and *personnel* of the composite Cabinet. The party left the metropolis in specially reserved railway carriages, accompanied by a bevy of reporters and a considerable sprinkling of electioneering managers. The Socialist Ministers and their parliamentary supporters started out from the metropolis arrayed in all the appearances of a well-dressed party of commercial travellers. The ability to dress well is considered