

against the will of Walpole, so when the financial crash struck Australia, the newly-born Socialism found an infuriated public ready to avenge itself by any means at its hand. In such moods the public mind fastens on a policy of revenge first and reconstruction afterwards—generally a long time afterwards.

Lane, and the creature of his hands, the Australian Labour Federation, were well informed of this coming crisis. Acting on his advice, Queensland, notwithstanding the rebuff from the Intercolonial Trades Congress, led the way to revolt from the old political order and the old methods of repairing public and private wreckage. Shrinkage of public and private credit led to wholesale public and private economies. This, in its turn, was followed by widespread distress. A fortuitous coincidence was sowing the seed in the field which Lane was industriously ploughing ahead of it. In order that there might be no mistake in the "objective" of his policy, he now boldly advanced the proposition that no permanent amelioration of the evils of society could be found except by its reconstruction on the lines of the prose-poems of Bellamy. The A.L.F. under his guidance founded a library of Socialistic literature, in which Bellamy and Marx were the Bible and Shakespeare to its new recruits. Thousands of leaflets were distributed to all its branches. *The Worker* teemed with panegyrics. Lane showed that the Australian Labour Federation was deliberately forming and preparing for the next campaign a new political party, whose watchword was to be the gospel of Bellamy.

In September 1890 he wrote, summarising Bellamy's