

Unionists of Australia were captured by Socialists. They were to be the masters ; the Socialists the servants. As soon as Labour—*qua* Labour—went to the ballot-box, the Socialists became and have since remained the masters ; the Trades Unionists became and have since remained the servants. Lane clearly foresaw this result. He knew from the outset that the Trades Unionist, when the glamour of the State wage proposals seized upon him, could not halt. The Trades Unionist regarded the scheme as a new and ingeniously constructed weapon ready for immediate use, as between him and his employer, without any interference on the part of an intermediary. The Unionist was tempted into the belief that, though it might be dangerous to try in the economic field the experiment made by the owner of the golden goose, yet the size of the egg might be gradually increased under Lane's patent food, and the laying of eggs would be more rapid, and the whole clutch soon belong to the worker.

Lane succeeded at every initial stage of the "game," and as he began it, so it has continued right down to the present time in Australia. Roughly speaking, it took him about five years to organise his battalions and prepare for the plan of campaign, from 1885 to 1890. He was then in the position of a Bismarck. He had but to provoke capitalism to a declaration of war ; and to be careful only of the time, opportunity, and reason for the declaration. There was a cauldron brewing ; the witches were busy at work. Lane, like Macbeth, consulted with them long and earnestly, and, like Macbeth's, the inspiration ended in his complete ruin, personally and politically, and landed Australia in an era of class strife which has continued to the present hour.