

ultimate view of the nationalisation of industries. It defends its action in Parliament by alleging that it is but obeying the verdict of Australia, and acting so as to support (and not to nationalise) Australian industries.

There is nothing in Australian Liberal Democracy to prevent any question of the Labour platform outside its Objective from receiving careful consideration by our Parliaments. Much of it has been so considered, much of it modified, and much of it rejected. The Labour platform (apart from its Objective) has just the same opportunity of consideration as the most conservative plank in the most conservative organisation in Australia. A Liberal Democracy can do no more, nor should it do less. It is only a despotism that presses for more.

Hence it is that Socialism in Australia is apparently steadily preparing to set up a political and parliamentary despotism, such as Australia has not yet seen, and for which the only parallels in history are the oligarchies of Greece and Rome in ancient times, and Venice and Genoa in modern times. Fortunately, the worker and not a secret Junto or a privileged class holds the main threads of our national destiny. A class may be corrupted; a young nation such as ours, with its vigour and resources, cannot be corrupted. The object of this work is to show that the issues of Socialism have been carefully disguised from the Australian public. After all, Australian Socialism is far more the creation of low-grade parliamentary intrigue, than the deliberate expression of public opinion. From this point of view, the book may be useful as a guide and a warning to British workers