

of skilled and unskilled labour would so unite as to be instantly available with all its overwhelming power at the ballot-box, at every political or financial crisis.

Lane was careful to point out to his disciples and followers that such an economic revolution could not be instantaneously brought about. The Trades Unionists met him with this dilemma. If they were not to realise some immediate benefit by some decisive step in the immediate present, his Socialism, as it would benefit posterity, should be held over for posterity. Lane met it by pointing out that if the control of the ballot-box resulted in giving him control of Parliament, he and his followers would compel Parliament to take some decisive step. He parried the necessity of explaining in detail the ways, means, and precise form of his proposals by alleging that when Parliament saw Labour united, it would, of its own volition or timidity, initiate the necessary legislature. If it would not do so, they could compel it to do so, but in any event he was willing to undertake the responsibility of proclaiming Labour's ultimatum, "Socialism in our Time."

This became the "motto" of his newspaper.¹ After some hesitation he succeeded in founding "The Australian Labour Federation," which included every form of skilled and unskilled labour. The Trades Unions now furnished the officers for Labour's battalions. The shearer, the wharf labourer, the carter, the butcher, the baker (and right through to every possible combination) joined hand in hand with the more aristocratic iron-moulder, mechanic, engineer, and the rest of the divisions of skilled labour. In this way the Trades

¹ It was subsequently removed from its position over the "leader," in order, probably, to all suspicion.