

"When Labour owns capital and conducts industry for its own benefit, then will perfection have been reached," he wrote in a subsequent issue. He defended the right to seize capital in those words. It is "of right that capital is ours, because we created it, and because we have been robbed and cheated of it," he said. This was the first shadow of the cloven hoof of confiscation, which has never entirely disappeared from some of the Australian Socialistic platforms, however it may be concealed under the folds of parliamentary necessities or expediency.

In 1890 the whole of Labour in Queensland was practically organised into one machine-like body—the Australian Labour Federation, commonly known as the "A.L.F." In this body the shearers and wharf labourers were the most numerous, the wealthiest, the best-organised and best-equipped branches. Wool was then, as it is now, the principal article of export, and, from a wealth point of view, the basic product of Australia. There were but two operations needed in its handling here. One, at the stations (called "ranches" in America); the other, at the ships' sides at the various ports. The significance of the massed combination of these two bodies was as palpable as the massing of hostile troops on a frontier. Owing to droughts and the falling prices of wool, the pastoralists had succeeded in lowering the shearing rates of pay, and successfully held the right of selecting shearers from the ranks of Unionists and non-Unionists at their own discretion. It was evident to the Australian public that there was going to be a battle, *à l'outrance*, between the shearers and the pastoralists. Lane had prepared for every initial move in the game, and by providing