

Unionist was generally a well-trained and often a well-educated mechanic. He had to serve his apprenticeship and training to his trade. He had the right not only to labour at, but to be taught all the "secret" art—that is, the technique of his trade. He paid for this, as often by a direct premium as by a wage deduction from the increasing skill value of his labour. Every Trades Union apprentice was a possible future employer. They formed, however, an infinitesimal fraction of labour, and as such were utterly useless, if not an impediment to Lane's ulterior purposes.

He proceeded to the general conversion of Trades Unionists and the ultimate amalgamation of all manual labourers, both wisely and warily. To the Trades Unionist he addressed the argument, that the employer was the natural enemy of the employee. To the labourer he paraphrased the appeal in the form that Capital was the natural enemy of Labour. He fought down all opposition and dispelled any lingering distrust or hesitation on the part of the Trades Unionist, by proving that the latter's case was only a species of the same genus of social tyranny, and was included in the former's grievance as well. He exhausted all his rhetoric on the theory that the wage-earning system was only a disguised—and the more successful because it was disguised—form of slavery. He insisted that the State was the only possible equitable employer, as it had no interest in sharing or taking anything beyond the cost of production from the labourer. And so on through the weary and worn theories of the ages. The labourer heard it for the first time in Australia, and it had all the fascination of a new gospel. He could easily realise his theories, if only the two branches