

probably much more) than £100,000. It taught the Socialist, however, one lesson. The farmer is, of all classes, naturally the supreme individualist. Socialism or Communism must try its experiments on a more favourable field. Since then the farmer in Australia has been the irreconcilable foe of the Labour-Socialist movement. Both thoroughly understand their mutual relations now.

As it may be easily inferred, not even Australia was prepared for Lane's Communism as revealed in his theories for building up village settlements in Australia. The supporters of the economic theories of co-operation presented, and presented very strongly, their alternative proposals based on strict business principles. This great movement, which sprang from the successful handling of a co-operative hand-barrow of goods in a humble shop at Rochdale, in England, had justified some of its theories and hopes by its enormously successful development. There was nothing in Australia to prevent Socialists becoming co-operators in every form of production and distribution of wealth amongst themselves. Why should they not co-operate?

Lane saw the danger of the position. He summoned to his assistance all the forces he had created. His paper, *The Worker*, teemed with denunciations and warnings against the evident weakening in the ranks. "Profit-sharing is Bunkum," he wrote on July 7, 1890. "Interest averages to scoop up all the difference between what the earners earn and what they get."

In subsequent leaders he endorsed all that Karl Marx had written against capitalism.