

every person is entitled to the fruits of his labour: that natural opportunities should be open equally to all; that life and liberty are equally the right of all, and that positive law may modify natural law for the common advantage." Lane could not see that the difference between himself and his party and the old Liberal party lay in the practical application of these principles.

It was upon such lines, and for similar reasons, that every Liberal party in Australia broke irreconcilably away from any complicity with the policy of the Labour-Socialist party. The severance was gradual and often resulted in bitter recriminations. Lane fought the loosening allies with his usual vigour, and pursued his hostility with unappeasable rancour. The position required definition. In order to define it he proclaimed that it was necessary that politics should be divided into two camps: those with and those against Labour-Socialism. He would have no half-way house.

As usual, he left no room for mistake as to what this position was to be. It was the original declaration of war by the Labour organisations in favour of Socialism against every other political party and system in Australia. It was, and is, whether disguised or paraphrased, or stripped of every verbal quibble and apology, the inspiration and objective of all Labour politics. In these terms he defined the position:—

Clearly, then, the only political action Labour can take is directly to attack the competitive system, and openly commence a campaign which will not cease till capitalism, that is, the private holding by a few of the means whereby all must live, is no more. The Australian Labour Federa-