

whom subsequently the organised Labour vote expelled from Parliament, and has since practically ostracised.

Lane started his campaign on what appeared to be an eminently practicable and reasonable proposal: the founding of village settlements on suitable agricultural land. His advocacy of this reasonable measure was irretrievably marred by the evident intention of converting them into "village communes." His zeal for village settlements was only the outpouring of his political faith in Communism as applied to land. The Government of the day bowed to the storm of clamour which his proposals raised, and attempted to control and subsidise the movement. Notwithstanding Government supervision the "village" managers directed and governed the settlements on the lines of Lane's Communism. Every settlement began with all the elements and powers of self-government and self-regulation on Communistic lines. Every settlement had no sooner put the Communistic hoe and the Communistic seed to the earth than there sprang up discord, dissension, mutiny, and revolt in the ranks. The village rulers were mere ignorant mob orators or tyrants, it was alleged. Then the soil was bad, the seed was bad, the season was bad; the railways were too far away; and the Government, which was taking nothing and finding everything in the beginning, was a sweating combination of capitalistic enemies. The first practical step towards Communism ended in worse than failure—in a deplorable fiasco. As every State Government was induced to embark the taxpayers' money on this agricultural coddling, the fiasco cost the people not less (and