

pretence of earnestness or sincerity in its propaganda departed. It degenerated at once into a mere machine for acquiring political power or office, and where it is not the author, it is the engine or the tool of every crisis and intrigue in Australian political life.

When Lane called upon the Australian Labour Federation to lay down their political gospel, they had a choice of two alternatives, either to allow Trades Unionism to remain in the slough of political apathy, in response to the expressed opinion of the Intercolonial Trades Congress held in Sydney in 1890, or boldly to proclaim that if the Trades Unions would not appeal for political power to the Labour vote they would do so on their own initiative. They chose the latter. They summoned all their Queensland branches to a meeting in Brisbane, in the month of August 1890. The meeting took the form of "The First Annual Session of the General Council of the Australian Labour Federation." The parting of the ways had come. Would they issue a political manifesto and make their first bid for political existence and as a dominating factor in actual politics? After long-continued deliberations and consultation with the affiliated branches they decided to do so, and thereupon issued the following Platform:—

*The Political Aims of the Federation*

1. The nationalisation of all sources of wealth and all means of production, distribution, and exchanging of wealth.
2. The conducting by the State authority of all production and all exchange.
3. The pensioning by the State authority of all children, aged and invalid citizens.