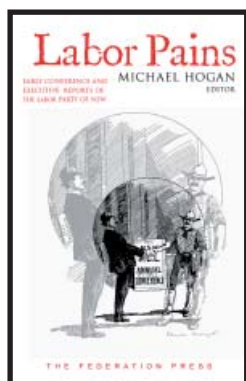


# Labor Pains

Michael Hogan - Editor

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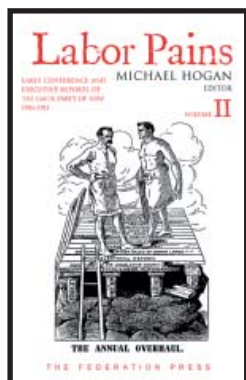
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This volume charts the preparation for that responsibility, with detailed policies for winning office and governing being spelled out. It was a confident party preparing to accept the responsibilities of power.

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Members of the extra-parliamentary organization, especially the Australian Workers' Union, were becoming impatient at the MPs insistence on moderating their demands for the sake of gaining office. By 1911, with Labor in office but not effectively in power, this impatience was threatening the unity of the party and the Government.

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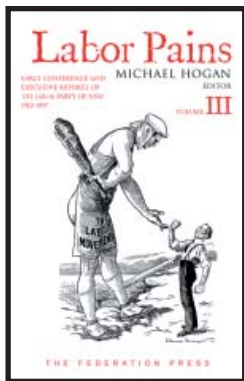


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## **Volume III - Early Conference and Executive Reports of the Labor Party in New South Wales - 1912-1917**

This volume chronicles the increasing divisions inside the Labor Party that came to a head in the disastrous split in 1916 over conscription for overseas military service. The central figure of this era was William Holman, who became Premier in June 1913 when James McGowen retired from that office.

Before conscription became the central issue Holman had come to be heartily detested by many in the extra-parliamentary party, largely because of his refusal to do anything to abolish, or curb the power of, the Upper House. The AWU and its journal, The Australian Worker, led the criticism of Holman and his Government during these years. For a few years Holman's superb political skills guaranteed his survival.

However, by 1916 Holman's enemies had organized a tightly disciplined modern faction, the 'Industrial Section', (later the 'Industrial Vigilance Council') to take control of the Executive and Conference and force policy changes on Holman.

When the conscription issue reached a climax with the first plebiscite ordered by Prime Minister Hughes, the party at Commonwealth and State level split. Both Hughes and Holman were expelled from the party, continuing in office in new Nationalist administrations, leaving a factionalised Labor Party to begin the process of reconstruction.

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