

gifted or inflicted with an angelic or satanic possession of spirit. Sometimes, by a combination of both forms, of inspired possession. Zionism is the creature of a Dowie; Mormonism, of a Brigham Young or Joseph Smith; Communism (in England and France), of Robert Owen, Fourier, and Louis Blanc. Australian Socialism possesses one and only one feature in common with these illustrative examples. It sprang full armed from the brain of one man—William Lane, a Canadian by birth, English by extraction, and by profession a journalist.

From another point of view the origin of Australian Socialism is somewhat different. No great sociopolitical movement can be traced to a single individual effort, though the effort of one or more individuals is usually the epoch-marking event in the movement. As referred to before, there never was a time when Socialism, that is a phase of human aspirations towards a better form of existence and government, was not "in the air." In the decade 1880-1890, the whole world was stirred with two conflicting and antagonistic Social ideals,—the Land Nationalisation ideal of Henry George, and the Socialistic Communism of Bellamy. One was professedly the expression of an irrefutable fact; the other of irrefutable fiction. It is still difficult to distinguish how much of each is fact or fiction. Fiction has an irresistible fascination for mankind. No one has the remotest faith in the practicability of a Robinson Crusoe existence. No one can resist the fascination and allurements of the story. Henry George made the mistake of confusing fact with fiction. Bellamy of confusing fiction with fact. Under the impulse of both errors, the attention of the