

PREFACE

THE economic issues involved in the platform of Australian Socialism have been repeatedly investigated. This work is mainly confined to the history of the political events by which Socialism was enabled to play such an important part in the political history of Australia, more especially in the years following the inauguration of the Commonwealth. The author desires to show: (1) That Socialism received its original impulse in Australia through the powerful personality and brilliant propaganda of William Lane, journalist in the State of Queensland. (2) That the original impetus and impress which he gave to the labour party in Australia, of which in the historic sense he was the founder, were identical on their economic side with the Socialism of Continental Europe. (3) That the ideals of Bellamy, Marx, Engels, and of other European Socialistic writers, were and are still the ideals (now called the "Objective") of the Australian Labour party. (4) That the main work of the Labour party has been to profess this Socialistic gospel on the platform and to suppress it in Parliament, in order to hold the balance of parties in every State House and in the Commonwealth Parlia-