

early hour in the morning, were crowded. Visitors from the country came, throng upon throng, in trim holiday garb – the healthiest, happiest, heartiest looking folk that the eye could wish to rest upon. Hundreds had arrived by the early trains and hundreds had been in the city for days, as the crowded hotels and cafés can testify. The cheap excursion trains provided by the Railway Department have been well patronised and the carrying capacity of the intercolonial steamers has been strained to its utmost limits. The representative men of the sister colonies had not all arrived in time to take part in the ceremonies of the day but sufficient were here to do honour to the occasion – glad to assist in forging another link in the chain which binds together England and Australia.

Source 3: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 January 1888.

This article followed two days later – the second day’s celebrations were marked with the opening of an agricultural exhibition. The document notes that the day was a holiday, in which all of the colonies, except Adelaide, engaged.

THE CENTENARY OF AUSTRALIA
THE THIRD DAY
OPENING OF THE CENTENNIAL PARK.
THE DEDICATION

The second great event in the programme of the centennial commission, the opening of what the premier happily described as the People’s Park, took place yesterday and the ceremony of dedication, witnessed by nearly 50 000 people, formed a feature in the week’s celebrations at once unique and splendid. ... The town itself was gay with the varied tints of many coloured flags, and its streets, clean and attractive, were enriched by the tender green of scores of triumphal arches. The business people enjoyed a day of rest. It was the first of the Centennial holidays, although the third of the celebrations, and they rejoiced in the fresh air and glorious sunshine. ... All sorts and conditions of men were congregated on the grassy slopes hours before the ceremony, and made up an assemblage almost as multifarious as the army of Hannibal, but eminently respectable and conducted.

It is hardly probable that the colonists who many years ago established the scheme for the supply of water from the Botany Dams ever anticipated the manner in which the Centenary of the colony would be celebrated on the site of their labours. No one in those days could have foreseen that in the year 1888 a gathering, equal perhaps to the entire population of Sydney in those days, would have met together to inaugurate the conversion of the Lachlan Swamps and the adjoining heights into a grand Centennial Park, well fitted, from the natural beauty of its surroundings, to remain for ever as a memorial unto the people of the colony of their 100th anniversary.

Source 4: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27 January 1888.

In the same edition of the *SMH* in which Source 3 appeared, the following letter to the editor was published. In this small extract, the writer is defending some of his arguments (which had been attacked by a fellow reader) regarding capital and labour in Australia.

THE DEPRESSION AND ITS CAUSE
TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD

When speaking of “fair wages” I never hinted that they should be fixed by legislation. When protection becomes the law of this land, and the whole of the present surplus labour will be quickly absorbed, and wages will rise until they attract labour from the other colonies. Our resources are so large that we could employ all that our neighbours can spare at fair wages, namely, not less than 8s a day for an adult; but should the supply ever greatly exceed the demand, then trades unions will have to settle the question, and I believe that the time will yet come when the state will have to regulate the price as well as the hours of labour ...