



CELEBRATIONS OPEN WITH BRILLIANT PAGEANTRY.

Symbolic Procession Depicts 150 Years of Progress.

1,000,000 PEOPLE WATCH IN CITY STREETS.

NIGHT SHOWGROUND CARNIVAL ATTENDED BY VAST CROWD.

Never in a history which now goes back for 150 years have the people of Sydney, or indeed, of Australia, seen such brilliant pageantry as marked the opening of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations yesterday.

The day was a triumphant success. It was the climax of a crescendo of anticipation, but it was also, and more importantly, an occasion which conjured up visions of Australia's yesterdays and to-morrows.

It was a day of records—record crowds, record decorations, record rejoicings, and a record variety of attractions.

It is estimated that more than 1,000,000 people witnessed the events of the morning.

The densest crowd was at Moore Park, where a quarter of a million people were assembled. Some of them took up their positions there at 2 a.m.

The pageantry began, appropriately, in a splendid reproduction of Captain Phillip's landing at Farm Cove.

This was followed by a symbolic procession through the city streets, in which the memory of the heroic few who blazed the trail became substance instead of shadow, a visual history lesson.

Last night there was a brilliant display at the Showground, and thousands thronged the city streets to view the illuminations.

The weather was kind. The events of the morning were favoured by brilliant sunshine. The afternoon was cloudy, but a stiff breeze was welcomed by the yachtsmen at the Anniversary regatta. In the evening there was a light shower, but this did not spoil the gala night at the Showground.

Unpractised though they may be in attending public ceremonies, Australians, as exemplified by the crowds which packed the city, proved themselves models of good behaviour. They were appreciative, but not loudly demonstrative. They were orderly and good humoured, and, above all, they were keenly interested and thoughtful.

An array of 2,000 policemen had little to do but give advice and assistance. Nothing won the hearts of the spectators more than the kindness of the police in searching out tiny youngsters behind the barricades and providing a place for them seated on newspapers on the roadway in front.

The record attendance unfortunately brought a record number of faintings, or collapses. Ambulance officers attended to 5,346 cases, but most of them were only due to exposure in the sun, and the patients recovered quickly.

All day, and far into the night, there was jubilation. Tired though they were, and even hungry, perhaps, the multitude which contributed to the success of this unique festival went to their homes convinced that they had seen a new vision of their country—a country generated from the small seed of a Crown Colony, now grown to the stature of a nation.

Among the events to-day are a march of massed bands through the city at 2.30 p.m., as a preliminary to the opening of the Australian band championships at 5.30 p.m., and a Church of England harbour procession and service at 7.30 p.m.

The State Meteorologist, Mr. Mares, stated last night that he expected a squally southerly change early to-day, and this might be associated with a thunderstorm.