

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

In its centenary year the Darling Downs district of Queensland praises a memorial to one of its most distinguished sons Sir Littleton Groom. William Morris-Hughes, one of Australia's elder statesmen honour one who has passed into the history he helped to make. His career in public service was crowned by his occupancy of the speaker's chair in the Commonwealth's House of Representatives. Now through the streets of Toowoomba and under a blazing sun, passes two miles of pageantry. 20,000 people see history re-created in colourful fashion, in floats and in tableaux. After the discovery of the Darling Downs in 1828, citizens see the arrival of the first settler in 1840. Present day storekeepers wish there more more early settlers. Then in cavalcade in swift change and striking contrast is outlined the story of what today is one of the richest provinces in all Australia. The men with the picks and shovels, a handful of heroes who conquered a continent years ago. No, you can't expect the bullocks to get on with it, they've just heard that the notables are going to make speeches, and after what they're used to - ah.