

# THE PARKS OF SYDNEY; SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT.

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## I. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

a. *Introductory*.—Webster says a park is “a piece of ground, in or near a city or town, enclosed and kept for ornament and recreation.” This is a condensed dictionary



definition which only needs a little amplification for the purposes of a controller of parks, whatever his functions may be.

The objects of a public park are to assist in securing rest and recreation for the people, to promote their mental and physical health and enjoyment, and no steps should be taken which will limit the realization of these objects.

Anyone who has looked into the matter must have been struck with the paucity of literature referring to parks, at all events as regards Australia, yet the subject is of very high importance. Much has been written in ephemeral literature in regard to the æsthetic and health-giving advantages of parks, but very little, I think, concerning questions involved in their practical working, at all events by those who speak from personal experience of their management. While a controller of parks I have not taken a mechanical view of my duties, and have made it my endeavour that the parks shall not lag behind in the general march of progress which is characteristic of our country and our age. As a public servant I have my limitations of speech, but I express the opinion that, since the parks belong to the people, their enjoyment of them should be catered for to the fullest extent, and there should be no interference with free action on the part of a citizen in his enjoyment of his park other than is necessary in the interests of the citizens as a whole.

b. *Sydney Parks,—how vested and controlled.*—By the courtesy of Mr. H. Curry, Under Secretary for Lands, and of Mr. Henry Selkirk of the same Department, I am enabled to give the following legal and statistical information in regard to the public parks of Sydney. These public grounds are not all controlled in the same way, nor administered under the same Act of Parliament. There are principally three classes:—



First, Areas which are retained under the direct control of the Government and managed by its salaried officers.

In the first class are included the Government Domain, the Botanic Gardens, and the Centennial Park. These are under the supervision of the Director of the Botanic Gardens—a salaried officer of the Chief Secretary's Department.

The Domain and Botanic Gardens are administered under the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and the Regulations governing them are made in pursuance of Section 106 of that Act, 48 Vic. No. 11. The Centennial Park, which adjoins the city on its eastern boundary is administered under the Centenary Celebration Act of 1888, by the Chief Minister.

Second, Areas which have been placed for purposes of management under honorary trustees.

The principal grounds under the control of honorary trustees (individuals) are Hyde Park, Cook Park, Phillip Park, Rushcutters' Bay Park, Victoria Park, and Wentworth Park. The first named (Hyde Park) is the most important of these parks, and its administration, together with Cook and Phillip Parks, comes under the Public Parks Act of 1884, which is administered by the Secretary for Lands. The by-laws for the management of these parks are made by the trustees under that Act, subject to the approval of His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council.

Third, Areas which have been placed under the control of the Municipal Council of the City of Sydney.

The areas of which the Municipal Council of Sydney are trustees as appointed by His Excellency the Governor are Moore Park (or Sydney Common), Wynyard Park, Prince Alfred Park, Belmore Park, and other minor areas. The Municipal Council are invested with all the powers given by the Public Parks Act for the control of these areas.



In addition to the areas referred to within the foregoing, there is the Sydney Cricket Ground, an area of twelve acres upon which the sum of over £20,000 has in a period of twenty years been expended in improvements. These improvements consist of an oval or enclosure suitable for contests in the games of cricket, football, baseball, lawn tennis, etc., and pavilions and other buildings for the accommodation of spectators. This ground is under the control of honorary trustees, of whom two, the President of the New South Wales Cricket Association, and the Under Secretary of the Department of Lands are *ex officio* trustees.

In the surrounding suburban areas, parks and recreation grounds have also been established, and placed under the control of either the local or Municipal Council or individual trustees as may be deemed fit by His Excellency the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary for Lands.

There are also on the suburban boundaries of Sydney two parks which are more national than local in their character and purpose. These are the National Park of about 36,000 acres at Port Hacking, fifteen miles south of the city, and Kuring-gai Chase which are administered by the Secretary for Lands under the Crown Lands Act of 1884.

Deeds of grant have in some cases been issued, but it has in later years been found more convenient to vest the control by gazettal of appointment of trustees by His Excellency the Governor as may from time to time be necessary, and to have by-laws and regulations conferring necessary power on such trustees put into force. For the better regulation and control of such Trusts, the Public Trusts Act of 1897 has been enacted, and is now in force.

Dedications of public parks and recreation grounds may be wholly or partly revoked, and the trusts annulled for



any of the reasons stated in Section 105 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, and the lands thereupon become vested in His Majesty the King, to be dealt with as His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, may think fit.

By Section 104 of the Crown Lands Act of 1884 a proposed dedication of the Crown Lands for public parks must remain before Parliament for one month without disallowance before it can be gazetted, and a similar provision exists as regards a proposed revocation of any such dedication under Section 105 of the same Act.

The parks of the City of Sydney, except Rushcutters' Bay Park (which was partly resumed and partly reclaimed from Rushcutters' Bay) are areas which have been held in the hands of the Government for such purposes, but in any case where the necessity for a park arises, private lands may be acquired for that purpose under the "Lands for Public Purposes Acquisition Act" of 1880, and the Public Works Act of 1888. The condition precedent in this is, that Parliament shall have appropriated funds to acquire such lands, and His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, may then issue a proclamation resuming the required land. Upon issue of that proclamation the land becomes vested in some Minister or Officer as Constructing Authority on behalf of His Majesty, and the former owner's interests are converted into a claim for compensation, which is paid upon a satisfactory proof being afforded to the Government, after appraisement if necessary.

A sum of money for the maintenance and improvement of public parks is voted annually by Parliament, and is then distributed in the form of subsidies by the Secretary for Lands. In some cases annual amounts are voted specially for maintenance out of State funds; Hyde, Phillip and



Cook Parks are maintained in this way, and also the National Park; but, in the latter case, the trustees have the right to derive revenues by leases for coal mining and other purposes; in the case of suburban and country parks, it is held that there should also be local contributions for their maintenance.

In addition to the parks and recreation grounds more permanently established by proclamation or dedication, there are also areas in more sparsely settled localities, temporarily reserved, and placed under temporary trustees under the Public Trusts Act, Section 1. These are cases where the conditions are likely to change, and the areas may be required for other purposes, or where it may be that other areas will be more suitable.

It will be understood, from the foregoing, that, although the Government may, except in a few special cases, delegate the management to trustees, yet there is a supreme control still retained; and which may be exercised to the extent of annulling the trust and placing the land again under the direct control of the Government if deemed expedient in the public interest.

In different cities of the world different arrangements are made in regard to control of parks. In London the State and Municipal parks exist under separate administrations. In Paris the great majority of parks are under one head, but in that city Municipal Government is subordinate to State Government. In many British cities, *e.g.*, Glasgow, there is but one administration of parks,—a municipal one.

Sydney is a *capital* city like London or Paris, not simply a municipal city like Glasgow or Manchester. In cities which are the seat of State Government there are always parks and other open spaces directly under the control of



the Government ; these open spaces are used for the movements of troops or other public demonstrations or for various State functions. If the executive of a State had not control of some open spaces in its capital, it would at times be inconvenienced and even embarrassed. Such open spaces, although actually within a city boundary, belong as a matter of fact, to the whole of the State, and not to any city in particular. For that reason, as far as Sydney is concerned, there will be State parks and Municipal parks, at all events until such time as New South Wales abrogates its rights as a State.

In Europe there are, in addition, parks which are the property of wealthy people, and to which citizens are admitted under very few restrictions. We have no such parks here, the unoccupied Crown Lands taking their place. In Europe, land being almost entirely owned by private persons, citizens would in many extensive areas be debarred from the health-giving enjoyment of a park were it not for the consideration shown by the landed gentry.

The question of park government is of considerable importance. I am acquainted with many gentlemen who are model trustees, but my view is that Park Trusts are now an anachronism in large cities. I think that parks should be administered by State or Municipal officers or both, as the case may be. They are replaceable for incompetence or malfeasance, and public bodies should interfere with park superintendents as little as possible, if they desire efficient service, the introduction of improvements and the fixation of responsibility. Trustees have performed efficient service in the past, and in many places are indispensable still, but, I reiterate my opinion, that a park superintendent should be a paid and responsible officer, controlled by enlightened superior authority.

*c. Statistical information:—*



# PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES WITHIN THE CITY OF SYDNEY AND ENVIRONS.

Municipality.	Park or Recreation Reserve.	Area.	Acquisitions.		Appropriations.		Remarks.
			Nature of Acquisition.	Cost.	Nature of	Date.	
Ashfield	Ashfield Park ...	Ac. 15 1 19	Crown Purchase ...	£ 5,174 17 s. d. 3	Proclaimed	18 Dec., 1885	
"	Victoria Square ...	abt. 0 3 24	Private Dedication				
"	Albert Parade ...	" 1 0 0	"				
Annandale	Reserve Piper Street ...	" 0 3 28	"				
Alexandria	Alexandria Park ...	10 0 0	Resumed 14 Nov., 1882 ...	...	"	18 Oct., 1889	
"	Erskineville Park (part) ...	14 3 8	" 20 Oct., 1882 ..	...	"	28 July, 1885	
Auburn...	Auburn Park ...	8 0 26	Crown Purchase ...	1,020 ... 6 3	"	26 Mar. 1898	
Balmain	Easton Park ...	4 3 17	Resumed 13 Dec., 1889	...	"	9 May, 1890	
"	Gladstone Park ...	5 0 0 1/4	" 22 Sept. 1882...	15,288 ... 9 3	"	28 July, 1885	
"	Birch Grove Park ...	13 2 18	(See remarks)	14,043 13 3	...	13 Oct., 1893	
"	White Bay Rec. Reserve	8 0 17	...	...	Dedicated...	9 Sept., 1899	
"	Punch Park ...	abt. 2 0 20	Purchased by Municipal.				
"	Elkington Park ...	" 6 0 0	" " [Council				
Bankstown	Upper Bankstown Park	21 0 0	...	...	"	15 Sep., 1891	
"	Reserve at Bankstown ..	5 0 17 1/2	...	...	"	23 April 1895	
"	" George's River...	1 0 4	...	...	"	8 Oct., 1898	
"	" " "	8 1 36	...	...	"	"	
"	" Salt Pan Creek ..	3 3 20	...	...	"	"	
"	" " "	8 0 18	...	...	"	"	
"	Reserve 29582 East Hills	5 1 15	...	...	Notified ...	8 July, 1899	
"	" 31400 George's R.	12 0 0	...	...	"	25 Aug., 1900	
Bexley ...	Seaforth Park ...	4 0 0 3/4	Private Dedication ...	...	Conveyed to Municipal Co	12 Mar., 1869	
Botany	Banks Meadow Reserve...	10 2 25 1/4	...	...	Dedicated...	28 June, 1878	
"	" " "	5 0 0	...	...	"	17 Sept., 1886	
"	Booralee Park ...	10 0 0	Resumed 23 May, 1883	...	Proclaimed		
Botany North	Nil						
Burwood	Burwood Park ...	15 0 0	Resumed 4 Oct., 1882 ...	15,803 7 8	"	28 July, 1885	
Camperdown	Camperdown Park ...	11 1 8 1/2	" 23 May, 1882 ..	18,338 3 2	"	"	
"	Victoria Park (University)	23 3 16	...	...	"	16 Aug. 1887	

For remainder see  
Erskineville

7a 3r 2p Cr. Pur.  
27p 2c R. 4/9/85  
5a 2r 28p 7c  
Govt. Reclam.



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			Nature of Acquisition.	£	s.	d.	Nature of.	Date.	
Canterbury	Canterbury Park	19 0 29 $\frac{3}{4}$	Crown Purchase	5,550	7	7	Proclaimed	13 Oct., 1893	Conveyed to the Crown for Public Park
"	Croydon Park	9 0 35	Private Dedication	...	...	...	"	17 April, 1888	
Concord	S. Luke's Park, Longbottom	66 2 15	...	...	...	...	Dedicated	8 May, 1886	
"	Reserve Vil. of Longbottom	34 3 30	...	...	...	...	"	15 June, 1877	
"	Cabarita Park	24 1 0	...	...	...	...	"	21 April, 1880	
"	Reserve Hen & Chick. Bay	1 3 23	...	...	...	...	Notified	29 May, 1882	For remainder see Alexandria
"	" 79	3 0 34	...	...	...	...	"	"	
"	" 80	5 2 20	...	...	...	...	"	"	
"	" 81 port. 64 Cabarita	1 0 30	...	...	...	...	"	"	
"	" at Bray's Bay	4 1 0	...	...	...	...	Dedicated	17 May, 1895	
Darlington	Nil								
Drummoyne	Jarrett Park, Birkenhead	1 2 0	Conveyed to the Crown						Not formally appropriated
"	Reserve at Birkenhead	0 1 34	in exchange for Crown L.						
"	Reserve 31521 Long Cove	0 1 35	Partly by exchange and partly Crown Lands	...	...	...	Notified	22 Sep., 1900	
Endfield	Enfield Park	25 3 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Resumed 17 July, 1885...	35,013	17	7	Proclaimed	11 Nov., 1893	
Erskineville	Erskineville Park (Part) (Macdonaldtown)	8 0 0	" 20 Oct., 1882...	(for whole area)			"	28 July, 1885	
Fivedock	Fivedock Park	21 2 27	Crown Purchase	5,000	0	0	"	28 June, 1887	Not formally appropriated
The Glebe	Nil								
Hunter's Hill	Boronia Park	62 2 0	...	...	...	...	"	16 Dec., 1846	
Hurstville	Peakhurst Park	112 0 0	...	...	...	...	"	29 May, 1888	
"	Hurstville Park	7 0 0	"	1,050	0	0	"	28 June, 1899	
"	Reserve at Como	11 1 38 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	2,000	0	0	Dedicated	23 April, 1895	
Kogarah	Kogarah Park	10 2 6	"	...	...	...	"	...	
"	Dover Park, Tom Ugly's P.	4 0 39	...	...	...	...	"	21 Aug., 1897	
"	Reserve 26444 Kogarah B.	0 0 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	Notified	4	
"	Reserve at Gore Cove	0 0 16	...	...	...	...	Dedicated	25 Mar., 1887	
"	" Tambourine Bay	2 1 4	...	...	...	...	"	20 Feb., 1874	



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Municipality.	Park or Recreation Reserve.	Area.	Acquisitions.		Appropriations.		Remarks.
			Nature of Acquisition.	Cost.	Nature of.	Date.	
		Ac. r. p.		£ s. d.			
Lane Cove	Reserve Burns Bay ...	1 0 0	...	...	Dedicated...	13 Mar., 1877	
"	" Fig Tree Bridge	1 1 22½	...	...	"	10 Sep., 1886	
"	" Cove Park at	4 0 39	...	...	"	11 Jan., 1889	
"	" Longueville	1 0 22	...	...	"	"	
"	Central or Federal Park	3 0 0	...	...	"	"	
"	at Longueville						
"	Reserve at Greenwich ...	0 2 0½	...	...	"	27 June, 1893	
"	Longueville Park, N'wood	4 2 21	Resumed 1 Dec., 1900 ...	1,410 10 2	Proclaimed	27 Feb., 1901	
Leichhardt	Leichhardt Park ...	1 0 38¼	...	...	Dedicated...	22 Sep., 1888	
"	Reserve 30970 Long Cove	31 3 0	(See remarks)	5,694 11 0	Proclaimed	20 Sep., 1887	24a 2r 18p resum.
Manly	Manly Park ...	4 1 39	...	...	Notified ...	19 May, 1900	rest recl. land
"	Esplanade Park ...	12 2 22	(See remarks)	7,306 10 0	Proclaimed	30 Sep., 1887	2a 3r 36p resumed
"	East Esplanade Park ...	14 0 0	...	...	"	19 Feb., 1892	7 June, 1887,
"	Central Park ...	2 2 0	Resumed 7 June, 1887...	...	"	20 Sep., 1887	9a 2r 29p Cr.
"	Kangaroo Park ...	1 3 22	"	...	"	"	Purchase
"	Tower Hill Park...	3 0 0	"	...	"	"	
"	Gilbert Park ...	1 3 20	"	...	"	"	
"	"	0 0 31	"	...	"	"	
"	The Steyne ...	8 3 6	...	...	"	"	
"	South Steyne ...	1 2 0	"	...	Dedicated...	14 Nov. 1879	Used as part of
"	Reserve at Balgowlah ...	5 2 23	"	...	Proclaimed	20 Sep., 1887	"
"	"	10 3 0	...	...	Dedicated...	30 May, 1890	"
"	"	29 0 0	...	...	"	"	"
"	" port. 84	4 0 15	Private dedication, ves-	...	"	5 May, 1876	
"	" adj. The Steyne...	0 2 20	ted in Mun. Council	...	...	...	
"	" Esplanade Pk,	0 3 31	"	...	...	...	
"	"	0 0 10	"	...	...	...	
"	"	10 3 8	By Exchange ...	...	Notified	10 Nov., 1900	
"	" 31732 Cabbage Tree			...			
"	Bay			...			



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Municipality.	Park or Recreation Reserve.	Area.	Acquisitions.		Appropriations.		Remarks.
			Nature of Acquisition.	Cost.	Nature of.	Date.	
Marrickville	...	Ac. r. p.	Crown Purchase	£	Proclaimed Dedicated	13 Oct., 1893	Field of Mars Act
	Reserve on Cook's River at Tempe	10 0 0		10,516		27 July, 1895	
Marsfield	...	4 0 19	...	...	Dedicated	17 May, 1895	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Reserve portions 652, 653, 658 and 659	23 1 7	...	...		4 Oct., 1890	
Mosman	...	2 0 16	...	...	Proclaimed Reserved in Field of Mars not formally appropriated	Subdivision of Common, but	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	" 12560 ...	19 0 0	...	...		Common, but	
Mosman	" part of port. 512	18 2 32	...	...	Proclaimed	2 Sept., 1887	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	" Brown's Water Hole	22 3 35	...	...		appropriated	
Mosman	" Blaxland's	3 2 7	...	...	Not formally Proclaimed	9 Mar., 1886	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Curraghbeena Park	18 1 2	...	...		23 July, 1898	
Mosman	The Spit Reserve	8 2 10	...	...	Proclaimed	8 Feb., 1902	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Balmoral Park	2 0 28	...	...		1 Sep., 1900	
Mosman	Reserve Chinaman's Beh.	16 0 6	...	...	Dedicated	7 Dec., 1886	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	" 27961 George's Head	14 0 14	...	...		4 Sep., 1891	
Mosman	" 27962 Bradley's	0 0 23	...	...	Dedicated	19 May, 1868	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Head Road	6 1 10	...	...		2 May, 1893	
Mosman	" 23919 Mosman Bay	48 3 21	...	...	Proclaimed	8 Oct., 1898	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Mosman Park	40 2 11	...	...		29 Oct., 1898	
Newtown	Nil	1 0 32	...	...	Dedicated	14 July, 1897	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Canaray Park	0 1 32	...	...		30 Sep., 1887	
North Sydney	St. Leonards Park	4 1 16	...	...	Proclaimed	...	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Lavender Bay (Baths &c.)	1 1 34	...	...		...	
North Sydney	Reserve Town N. Sydney	2 1 37	...	...	Dedicated	...	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Warringa Park, Neutral Bay	14 0 22	...	...		...	
North Sydney	Kirribilli Park, Careen- ing Cove	8 3 3	...	...	Proclaimed	...	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	Hampden Park	...	...	...		...	
Petersham	Petersham Park	...	...	...	Dedicated	...	Reserves made on Military Land by consent of authorities who retain right of entry at any time £300 contributed by residents
	By closing of Street	...	...	...		...	



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Municipality.	Park or Recreation Reserve.	Area. Ac. r. p.	Acquisitions.		Appropriations.		Remarks.
			Nature of Acquisition.	Cost. £ s. d.	Nature of.	Date.	
Petersham	Petersham Park add. area	0 3 0	...	...	Proclaimed	17 May, 1899	
Randwick	Randwick Park ...	25 0 0	...	...	Dedicated...	29 April, 1884	
"	Bangor Park ...	3 3 36	...	...	Proclaimed	29 Dec., 1887	
"	Milton Park ...	2 1 10	...	...	"	"	
"	Neptune Park ...	1 0 25	...	...	"	"	
"	Smithfield Park ...	3 0 0	...	...	"	"	
"	Hampstead Park...	1 2 30	...	...	"	"	
"	Writtle Park ...	1 0 19	...	...	"	"	
"	Blenheim Park ...	3 0 15	...	...	"	"	
"	Centennial Park (part)...	abt. 585 0 0	...	...	Proclaimed	16 Feb., 1900	See also Sydney
"	Reserve at Allison-street	4 2 1	...	...	Dedicated...	4 Feb., 1876	and Waverley
"	" Little Coogee...	2 2 2	...	...	"	23 April, 1895	
"	" " " "	5 2 0	...	...	"	17 May, 1895	
"	High Cross Res. Avoca-st.	0 2 38½	...	...	"	23 May, 1879	
"	Reserve Swamp-st. Coogee	2 1 20	...	...	"	"	
"	" " " "	2 2 14	...	...	"	"	
"	" Neptune and Dudley-sts.	2 1 4	...	...	"	11 June, 1886	
"	" " " "	1 1 37	...	...	"	"	
"	" Shark-st., Coogee	10 2 0	...	...	"	2 May, 1893	
"	" Coogee Beach ...	8 3 16	...	...	"	1 June, 1866	
"	" " " "	2 1 28	...	...	"	"	
"	" " " "	4 0 0	...	...	"	"	
"	" " " "	4 3 0	...	...	"	"	
"	" " " "	3 0 16	...	...	"	"	
"	" 23068 Botany ...	727 0 3	...	...	Notified ...	30 Nov., 1895	
"	" 26569 La Perouse	4 2 5	...	...	"	2 Oct., 1897	
"	" Cricket Gd. Coogee	4 0 0	...	...	Dedicated...	1 June, 1866	
"	" Orange-street and Frenchman's Rd.	0 1 26½	...	...	"	4 July, 1896	



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Municipality.	Park or Recreation Reserve.	Area.		Acquisitions.		Appropriations.		Remarks.
		Ac.	r. p.	Nature of Acquisition.	£	s.	d.	
Randwick	Reserve Randwick Race C.	202	0 0	...	...			Crown Grant 15 June, 1863
"	" 32795 at Long Bay	62	0 0	...	...			Notified ... 22 May, 1901
"	" 32796 "	320	0 0	...	...			"
Redfern	Redfern Park	11	3 24½	Crown Purchase	34,834	0	0	Proclaimed 10 Nov., 1885
Rockdale	Arncliffe Park	9	2 13¼	"	4,000	0	0	" 22 Mar. 1889
"	Scarborough Park	97	0 0	...	...			Dedicated... 23 May, 1879
"	Cook's Park, Botany Bay	64	0 0	Resumed 20 Oct., 1885...	1,270	12	1	Proclaimed 30 Mar., 1886
"	Rockdale Park	8	1 27	Crown Purchase	700	0	0	" 10 Feb., 1900
"	Reserve ...	15	1 30	...	...			Dedicated... 25 Oct., 1892
"	Reserve 4685	85	2 28	...	...			Proclaimed 3 Dec., 1887
Ryde	" at Buffalo Creek...	19	1 20	...	...			Reserved in Subdivision of
"	" Pitt Water Road	5	1 13	...	...			Field of Mars Common but
"	" Lane Cove, Por- tions 368, 369	10	2 6	...	...			not formally appropriated
"	" " "	7	1 23	...	...			"
"	" " part port. 512	15	0 0	...	...			"
"	" at Ryde	0	0 14	...	...			Dedicated... 25 July, 1884
Strathfield	Nil			...	...			"
St. Peters	St. Peters Park	10	0 0	...	...			15 Sep., 1891
"	" addition	1	3 21¼	Resumed 2 Dec. 1892	...			Not yet
Sydney	Moore Park	378	0 0	...	...			5 Oct., 1866
"	Phillip Park	3	1 15	...	...			3 May, 1878
"	Cook Park	3	2 3	...	...			"
"	Prince Alfred Park	18	3 0	...	...			"
"	Belmore Park	10	0 0	...	...			22 Dec., 1865
"	Hyde Park	40	0 0	...	...			19 May, 1868
"	Observatory Park	6	1 0	...	...			3 May, 1878
"	Wynyard Park	2	0 0	...	...			6 Nov., 1887
"	The Domain	90	0 0	...	...			7 Oct., 1887
"	Botanic Gardens and Garden Palace Gds.	60	0 0	...	...			6 Jan., 1855
"	Reserve at Church Hill...	0	2 37¾	...	...			" 21 Dec., 1866

Field of Mars Act

For balance see  
Marsfieldformally set apart  
This area includes  
the whole of  
Moore Park as  
now set apart  
for recreation,  
the Associa-  
tion Cricket  
Ground, Royal  
Agricultural  
Ground, and  
the Zoological  
Gardens



PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES WITHIN THE CITY OF SYDNEY AND ENVIRONS.

Municipality.	Park or Recreation Reserve.	Area.			Acquisitions.		Cost.		Appropriations.		Remarks.
		Ac.	r.	p.	Nature of Acquisition.		£	s.	Nature of.	Date.	
Sydney ...	Reserve Argyle Place ...	0	0	33	...		...		Dedicated...	6 Dec., 1867	
" ...	" Macquarie Place	0	1	21	...		...		"	5 Oct., 1887	
" ...	Rushcutter's Bay Park (pt.)	abt. 13	0	0	Part reclaimed and part resumed under Rushcutter Bay Act of 1878.		...		Proclaimed	11 Dec., 1885	For balance see Woollahra rate subdivision.
" ...	Bare Park, Elizabeth Bay	...	1	0	Reclaimed by Municipal Council, and adjacent		...		acent land reserved in private subdivision.	31 Aug., 1875	
" ...	Green Park, Burton-st....	0	1	14	...		...		Dedicated...	15 Aug., 1871	
" ...	Wentworth Park (part)	abt. 6	2	0	...		...		"	10 Nov., 1885	See unincorporated.
" ...	Centennial Park	30	0	0	...		...		Act 51 Vic. 9	16 Feb., 1900	See Waverley and Randwick
Vaughan	Gap Park ...	9	1	4	...		...		Proclaimed	28 June, 1887	
" ...	Camp Cove	0	2	20	Resumed 18 Jan., 1887...		...		"	29 Mar., 1887	
" ...	Reserve 33853	0	1	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	...		...		Notified ...	8 Feb., 1902	
Waterloo	Waterloo Park	7	1	1	Resumed 1 Oct., 1886 ...	12,572	7	11	Proclaimed	25 Jan., 1887	
Waverley	Waverley Park	27	2	10	Crown Purchase	7,500	0	0	...	Not formed	
" ...	Dickson Park	2	2	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...		Proclaimed,	30 Sep., 1887	ally appropriated
" ...	Varna ...	3	2	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...		"	"	
" ...	Simpson ...	0	1	33 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...		"	"	
" ...	Macpherson Park	0	2	30 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	...	...		"	7 Oct., 1887	
" ...	Bronte Park	14	0	0	...	6,386	12	4	"	25 Jan., 1887	
" ...	Bondi Park	28	0	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	Resumed 22 Oct., 1886... { Crown Pur. 0 2 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ Res. 9/6/82 25 2 16 } Crown Land 1 3 0	11,153	14	6	"	29 Oct., 1889	
" ...	Centennial Park (part)...	130	0	0	...	...	...		"A. 51 V. 9	16 Feb., 1900	See also Sydney and Randwick
Willoughby	Chatswood Park ...	4	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Crown Purchase	1,377	10	0	Proclaimed	7 June, 1899	
" ...	Beauchamp Park	11	0	32	"	1,680	0	0	Notified	25 Oct., 1899	
" ...	Gore Hill Park, R. 29836	17	2	10	...	...	...		"	28 Oct., 1899	
" ...	Naremburn Park, R. 30156	6	3	32	...	...	...		"	4 Nov., 1899	
" ...	Reserve Mowbray Point, Middle Harbour	5	0	23	...	...	...		"Dedicated...	20 Aug., 1886	
" ...	" 43 Sugar Loaf Bay Middle Harbour	37	0	0	...	...	...		Notified	1 Oct., 1879	



PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION RESERVES WITHIN THE CITY OF SYDNEY AND ENVIRONS.

Municipality.	Park or Recreation Reserve.	Area. Ac. r. p.	Acquisitions.		Appropriations.		Remarks.
			Nature of Acquisition.	Cost. £ s. d.	Nature of.	Date.	
Willoughby	Reserve Portion 259 Parish Willoughby	5 1 25	...	...	Dedicated...	16 Dec., 1884	
"	" " " "	0 2 11	...	...	Notified ...	" 15 Sep., 1894	
"	" 21525 Elizabeth Rd.	0 3 23	...	...	" ...	11 Aug., 1900	
"	Artarmon Park, R 31309	7 0 0	...	...	" ...	6 Dec., 1867	
Woollahra	The Steyne, Double Bay	3 0 35	...	...	Dedicated ..	19 Oct., 1894	
"	Rose Bay Park ...	0 1 4	Resumed 2 Dec., 1892 ...	3,139 10 6	"	14 Feb., 1888	
"	Rushcutter's Bay Park (part)	6 2 17	Resumed 18 Nov. 1884 }	15,425 2 6	Proclaimed		
"	Bellevue Park ...	abt. 14 1 13	Deed of Gift to Crown }	partly reclaimed }	"	11 Dec., 1885	For balance see Sydney
"	Harbour View Park ...	abt. 1 0 25	Partly Resumed and partly under Rushcutter's Bay	Act of 1878 }	"	2 Nov., 1888	Deed of Gift to Municipal C.
"	Wentworth Park (part)...	23 1 32	Resumed 11 May, 1888	...	"	10 Nov., 1885	For balance see Sydney
Unincorporated	Federal Park, Res. 30122	16 1 20	Private Dedication ...	...	Notified ...	11 Nov., 1899	
"	Kurnell Park, Cape Solander	35 2 13	Resumed 22 March, 1899	...	Proclaimed	12 April, 1902	
"	" " "	2 0 8	" 26 April, 1899	1,780 12 4			
"	" " "	25 2 19½	" 2 May, 1899 ..				
"	" " "	184 2 39½	Crown Land ...				
"	Clark Island Pt. Jackson	1 2 35	...	...	Dedicated ..	16 April, 1879	
"	Schnapper,,	0 1 24	...	...	"	"	
"	Rodd	1 0 23	...	...	"	"	
"	Shark	2 3 27	...	...	"	"	

NOTE—The term "*Proclaimed*" under the heading of "Appropriations" unless otherwise specified refers to action taken under the "Public Parks Act of 1884." The terms "*Dedicated and Notified*" refer to action taken under the "Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861" and "Crown Lands Act of 1884."



It will be observed that the Sydney district has a creditable list of parks, but they are somewhat unequally distributed. Thus Randwick and Manly possess far more than the average, while an important Municipality like Strathfield does not possess even one. Burwood, Enfield, Canterbury, Marrickville, and perhaps others should secure additional public reserves before the price of land is further enhanced. Could not some areas of land be dedicated by public spirited persons to commemorate the Coronation? A park is the most enduring of all monuments and a perpetual source of good. I do not suggest that further applications should be made to Government for park-lands at the present time.

d. *Park-lands should be inalienable.*—I think I may state as an axiom that portions of most public reserves in the district are liable to be built upon or to be used for purposes other than park purposes. It is simply a question of expediency that some of our parks or reserves are not diminished in area. My opinion is that in this democratic country it should be at least as difficult to alienate public recreation reserves (or any other portion of them) as it is in Europe. In most European countries the attempted alienation of a public reserve would be followed by disturbances. In those countries so many areas have been secretly enclosed by adjoining landowners that organizations exist, supplied with voluntary contributions and officered by resolute men, to enquire into and if necessary, take suitable action in regard to any reported filching of the public estate, or curtailment of public liberties.

Parks should be inviolable, because diminution of area means diminution of opportunity of recreation. But there is another very important consideration in regard to taking from the area of a park. If a man sets himself to improve a certain area from a landscape point of view, his plans may



be destroyed, and the money expended on the park largely thrown away if an area be excised or the park cut into two. New conditions thus arise and he has to prepare new plans with the view of meeting the changed conditions. And while he is progressing in this matter there is no guarantee that a fresh interference with the park may not again destroy what has been done. Again, trees which are planted for shade and sylvan effect, or simply to hide unsightly views or objects are of slow growth. Suppose a farmer were to cultivate a twenty-acre paddock; if two acres of this be resumed, in most cases the result is that his operations continue on the smaller area just as they did on the larger, the only difference being that his work and crop are alike reduced ten per cent. But the matter is usually totally different in treating a landscape. The resumed area may become an eyesore to the main portion, distinctly injuring it from an æsthetic point of view. And in a park æsthetic considerations come only second to hygienic ones.

Mr. John Barlow, President of the Institute of Architects of New South Wales, has in his official position made numerous protests against any diminution of the area of public parks by the introduction of anything which will damage them from an æsthetic point of view. His remarks have been warmly applauded by his confrères, all trained lovers of art, and our Government Architect, Mr. W. L. Vernon, has always lent the weight of his influence to improve our public parks along right lines.

## II. POLICE AND TRAFFIC REGULATION.

a. *Police*.—In my opinion the rangers or bailiffs of all public parks should be members of the State police-force, and under the control of the Inspector-General of Police. With such an arrangement the rangers would be under suitable discipline, and they would be all trained men, for a policeman is a product of long and careful training. They



would not be permanent rangers, but would be detached for this special duty for a period to be fixed by the Inspector-General, and they would thus be available for transfer, on promotion, or otherwise, like any other policeman. A great advantage of the arrangement would be that the rangers would be in close touch with their superior officers, and thus the difficulty of bad characters making habitual use of parks for criminal and vicious purposes would be much increased. Last, but certainly not least, I am a great believer in the value of a police-uniform for the maintenance of order, particularly amongst young people, in a public park. The mere presence of the uniform has a wonderful effect. When detective work is required, the services of plain-clothes constables can be called into requisition.

b. *Traffic regulation.*—Wheeled traffic in parks is permitted only so far as it enhances the public enjoyment of the park. By means of a vehicle a citizen (whether invalid or not) can take the air and visit distant parts of a park without fatigue. The driver of a vehicle should be especially considerate to a pedestrian in a public park. Miscellaneous traffic is undesirable in a park, as it interferes with its restfulness and beauty.

There are several reasons why carriages are not permissible in public parks at night.

1. No matter how well a park is lighted, vehicular traffic is more dangerous to the pedestrian at night than by day, and a feeling of insecurity takes away the restful feeling which it is one of the objects of a park to secure.

2. The regulation of vehicular traffic at night is costly.

3. Vehicles may deposit rubbish in a park under cover of the darkness.

4. Vehicles provide facilities for certain forms of vice, particularly amongst the well to do.



The word "carriage" in common use in by-laws of parks has been held, by a Judge of the High Court in England, to be large enough to include a machine, such as a bicycle, which carries the person who gets upon it, and such person may be said to "drive" it. The opinion of the Crown Solicitor of New South Wales is that in the Domains Regulation "the word 'vehicle' used in the Regulation referred to which provides that no person shall ride or drive any kind of vehicle within the Domains except on the roads laid out therein, includes 'cycles'." This is a matter of considerable importance in the proper control of parks. The drivers of motor cars are amenable to the law as far as furious driving is concerned in precisely the same way that drivers of other vehicles are.

### III. ROADS AND PATHS, FENCES, SEATS.

a. *Roads and Paths*.—It is an axiom in park management that people will make their own paths if permitted. This is quite true, but we must be careful not to give false interpretation to the public wish. Given a uniform open plain the public may well be left to make their own tracks which may form the route of the future road. But people always avoid obstacles,—such as water, mud, hard and especially broken stone, smooth pebbles, tree-stumps, and so on. So that the pioneer road, even in a park, is a sinuous track. All that these go as you please roads are useful for are as indications of the general trend and volume of the traffic.

I prefer gravel paths, well rolled and with good blinding material. They are cool and pleasant to the feet and contrast well with the grass. Asphalt paths are suitable for steep grades and for places where there is much traffic, as a clean, uniform road is thus secured.

Visitors to Europe are struck with the absence of side drainage in the parks and gardens there. This shows that



in that continent, although the rainfall is considerable, it is gradual, and that the tropical downpours we have in Sydney seldom occur. Our Sydney paths have to be carefully graded and usually drained on both sides with gutters, (I prefer semi-circular glazed tiles). Without side drains those dainty well raked gravel paths of Europe would be frequently washed away. With all our precautions no human foresight can prevent much damage from this cause in Sydney.

A good macadamised road is one of the best for a park, but during our long spells of dry weather it requires watering and a good deal of attention in other ways, to prevent the stones working loose.

An asphalt (or to speak more strictly tar-paved) road is a rarity in Sydney, though roads of true asphalt are common enough in London and other large cities. Such roads have the very great merits in a park of cleanliness, smoothness, and consequent quietness, but have the disadvantages of dismal colour, and of reflecting too much heat. The tar-paved roads of which I speak, possess some of the merits both of macadam and true asphalt, but are inferior in durability to the latter. The finest asphalt (tar-paved) road in Sydney is in the Centennial Park; it is 33 feet wide, and is at present 100 chains long, fresh portions being converted from macadam into tar-paving each year.

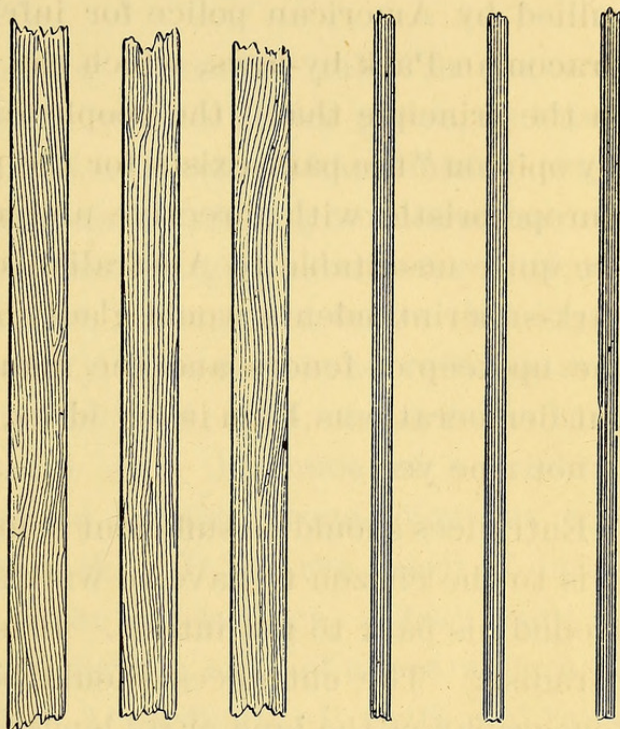
We have a grass Ride in the Centennial Park 39 feet wide and 192 chains (*i.e.*,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles, 12 chains), long. I have not figures in regard to similar Rides in public parks in Europe, but they are apparently not numerous. I observed one in the Thiergarten of Berlin, about 20 feet wide, but it was much cut up when I saw it.

b. *Fences*.—A park should be securely fenced, but the fence should be artistic. In city parks I prefer the stone coping and iron-railing. Galvanised iron should not be



permitted as a park boundary; where a close fence is desired, it should be of overlapping weather-boards. Picket fences are a compromise between the close fence and the iron-railing. The diagram herewith shows at once how a picket fence interferes with people looking in-to and out of a park.

I am averse to a close fence, as it is apt to encourage untidiness. Fences accumulate rubbish and make plants tender and unsymmetrical. Therailing enables people to see into the dark corners, and rubbish and badly grown plants, are at once noticed. Close fences enable bad char-



*Picket Fence*

*Iron Railing*

acters to conceal themselves. An open railing is a good policeman. I am afraid that we are not sufficiently advanced yet for the abolition of the fence or railing, leaving only a dwarf stone coping as in parts of America and England.

A railing is looked upon by many people as contributing an element of security, without which there can be no enjoyment in a park. It keeps out stray or bolting animals from the streets; it also, renders protection of plants and other park property more easy. America is often quoted as the country where people respect their parks, but citizens even in that country have still much to learn in regard to the care of parks. The annual report of the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army on the Washington parks is pitiful reading, showing that human nature is much the same in the United States as anywhere else.



Further, green swards are kept in order in New York and other parks at a cost to the freedom of action of the public that would never be tolerated in democratic New South Wales. I know law-abiding citizens who have been bullied by American police for infringement of petty yet Draconian Park by-laws, which can only have been framed on the principle that "the people exist for the park." In my opinion "the park exists for the people." The parks of Europe bristle with directive and minatory notices which are quite unsuitable to Australian conditions. I think all park-superintendents would gladly be without the worry of the up-keep of fences and the management of entrances, but democratic as I am in my ideas, I repeat that the time is not ripe yet.

Entrances should be sufficient in number. How irritating it is to the citizen to have to walk a considerable distance around his park to get into it. It is like being shut out of paradise. The entrances should be as numerous as the topography of the land or its landscape design will permit. Entrances are the beginnings of paths and roads, so they cannot be made haphazard. They should be made with careful consideration of the flow of traffic in the streets outside the park boundary.

Trees in parks should be protected by guards. Iron tree guards made of half-inch round iron are best, and can be made graceful. Where there are stock, it is desirable to further protect the tree by means of a low single arris rail at some distance from the iron tree-guard.

c. *Seats*.—The question of seats is an important matter in a public park. In those that are closed at night, a light moveable seat, made of wooden laths and thin wrought iron framework is comfortable and neat in appearance. In parks open all night, the benches or seats should be heavier in character and fixed in the ground. I have adopted a



pattern in which the seat itself is curved so as to afford comfort to the sitter. In setting a bench the seat itself should not be horizontal, but should be raised a little in front, thus throwing the occupant a little back, as that posture conduces to rest.

The question of paint for seats and rails<sup>1</sup> in parks is sometimes debated. Some people prefer green, as being theoretically the most natural colour, harmonising with everything around. Unfortunately, during our hot summers, trees and grass etc., are often not green, but even with all vegetation "in verdure clad," it may not follow that inanimate objects in the vicinity, such as fences, railings, and seats should be similarly coloured; also, owing to its lack of durability, green paint soon becomes of a sombre, unattractive hue. I prefer a quiet stone-colour as the most appropriate for our parks. It has the merit of durability, and has a bright clean appearance. Clean paint is necessary in a public park for the sake of appearance and also on sanitary grounds. Accordingly all seats and rails should be painted once a year. This arrangement is also most economical in the long run, because of the improved durability of the wood or iron.

#### IV. PLANTATIONS, GRASS, DEPASTURING OF STOCK.

a. *Plantations*.—The planting of a park can only be touched upon, at this place, in a general way. In its laying out, the indigenous trees should be conserved if possible; I do not say at any price. Some trees should be cultivated for the purpose, mainly, of giving shelter to the public. The problem of producing beautiful landscape effects is not one suitable for discussion here, except in very general terms, for one cannot go into essential details except with

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<sup>1</sup> Since the above was written an article has appeared on "Green Paint in the garden landscape."—(*The Garden*, 22nd March, 1902, p. 185). The article mainly discusses the tints of green for plant boxes, and the subject deserves more ventilation than it usually obtains.



a particular block of land in view. Trees in a public park must have their lower branches removed or children will break them down, and improper characters will use them as places of concealment. In a private park we see noble specimens of trees, some of them with branches close to the ground. When for public-park purposes we prune them we not only seriously detract from their beauty, but in the case of some trees, particularly Conifers, we inflict great injury upon them from a physiological point of view. Trees often require a little judicious pruning, either because of accidents to branches, or to prevent branches becoming unduly heavy and tearing themselves away during winds or by their sheer weight. Then we require special precautions in regard to the danger from trees in a public park, particularly in those used by large numbers of people. Just as a man periodically taps the wheel of a railway train to detect a flaw, if any, so it is the duty of a park officer to frequently inspect his trees to see if any of them present symptoms which will cause them to be dangerous to the public. Are they getting top-heavy? Are the branches or the trunks becoming unsound? The pruner and the axeman must be ever on the alert, especially as, with all our care, trees sometimes fall without warning. In such cases examination of the roots or inner portion of the trunk reveals insidious disease caused either by micro-fungi or by insect pests.

The chief time of anxiety from falling trees is during a period of heavy rain accompanied by strong winds. The ground becomes sodden and holds the roots with difficulty, while the more umbrageous the tree the less able is it to withstand the strongest blast of a gale. And it is sometimes one blast that does the mischief. The climbing of trees by boys is a very serious cause of their injury, and even destruction. If a boy intends to climb a tree one cannot, in practice, prevent him, but he can be hindered by



tree guards, and also by loosely twisting barbed wire around the first fork. Insect pests are a constant source of anxiety in parks, and frequently require a spraying plant to cope with them.

While many trees in our genial climate grow more rapidly than they do in Europe, one must not lose sight of the fact that they attain maturity quicker and then show signs of failure. In applying remedies to unhealthy trees, one must carefully distinguish between those which are suffering from the effects of accident or from a passing ailment, and those in which the real cause is senile decay.

The question of the establishment of wind-breaks is a matter of importance to all custodians of parks which are not blessed with a sheltered situation. This is one of the most difficult problems those in charge of parks have to face. The problem is to establish the first line of defence which, in its turn, may protect the second, and so on. Each man must work out the problem for himself, and he of course considers the contour of the land and the direction and force of the prevailing winds. Those interested in the matter may be inclined to study the methods by which wind-breaks are being established at the Centennial Park.

I do not propose to enter into details in regard to methods of tree-planting, for no intelligent local authority will entrust the planting of trees to a person other than a gardener, any more than he will entrust the repairs of his watch to anyone who is not skilled in that particular kind of work. Let me, however, point out that a large part of Sydney, including some Sydney parks, consists mainly of sandstone or of pure sand. To plant trees in the former requires extensive blasting and much good soil; to plant trees in pure sand without the admixture of good loam is not only a waste of time, but is a misappropriation of public



funds. Our natural difficulties are quite numerous enough without making pretences to perform impossibilities.

b. *Grass*.—Grass gives charm to a park, which can be obtained by no other means. Refreshing to the eye, it is Nature's own carpet on which the weary citizen may rest. The grass in most of our Sydney parks is the Indian Doub or the "Bermuda Grass" of the United States, (*Cynodon dactylon*, Linn.) which is universally known in Sydney as Couch Grass. It is a native of Australia as well as of other parts of the world; at the same time it is an immigrant in certain districts in which it is now well established. It forms a fine, smooth, durable lawn.

The other grass is known by all Sydney people as Buffalo Grass (*Stenotaphrum americanum*, Schrank.). It is a coarse, springy grass much approved by some people, although too coarse for tennis or croquet lawns or for cricket. It is an American grass, but not the Buffalo grass of America,<sup>1</sup> which is *Buchœ dactyloides*, Engelm. The grass called Buffalo grass in Sydney is so called because its first discovery in Australia was made on the shore of Buffalo Creek, a small tributary of Port Jackson.

c. *Depasturing of Stock*.—In most Sydney Parks stock are allowed to be depastured on agistment. In the State parks they are used as a substitute for scythes and lawnmowers. Financial considerations partly weigh with us as regards the Domain; for example, by stock a revenue of £60 to £100 per annum is secured (the lessee of the grazing being responsible for the stock), while the manure fertilizes the ground. To mow the Domain grass as well as the stock do it would be impossible, as the ground is too irregular in contour; to keep it moderately well cut would cost at least £400 a year. On the other hand the

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<sup>1</sup> In the United States it is known as Mission Grass, or St. Augustine's Grass.



presence of cattle is sometimes objectionable through deposits of manure on the paths, and frightened horses sometimes chip the stonework of kerbs and steps. Sheep are better animals for keeping the grass of parks in order, but the Sydney climate does not suit them, and it is usually inconvenient to make suitable arrangements with butchers for the loan of them. Then, as they are so readily interfered with by children and others, they cannot be employed in parks unless there is a shepherd, or where there are special circumstances which render the supervision of them convenient.

While the use of stock as lawn-mowers has the drawbacks stated, I am of opinion that, in some parks, the advantages of their employment far outweigh their disadvantages; certainly complaints on the part of the public in regard to them are few and far between. The plantations (if any) in a park require to be fenced if stock are to be admitted, while the condition is always insisted upon that none but quiet animals are admitted. I think a few horses quietly grazing, or cows peacefully chewing the cud in a park, supply an element of beauty and of rural peacefulness that gives an added charm to a people's park, particularly in crowded cities where children are usually debarred from the pleasure of seeing animals under rural conditions.

#### V. BUILDINGS ETC. IN AND ABBUTTING ON PARKS.

a. *Buildings*.—It is a truism that no structures should be erected in a public park which are not necessary to carry out the objects of the park. Thus, administrative offices, places for the storage of material, such as road-metal, tar, timber, tree-guards, soil, etc.; also workshops (including plant-frames and other appliances for the propagation of plants), are necessary; so are buildings for public refreshment, lavatories etc., band-stands, shelter-pavilions,



fountains and so on. All these buildings should be designed so as to be neat and ornamental in appearance and in harmony with their surroundings.

I have already laid stress on the necessity for the inalienability of lands reserved for park purposes. At present parks are liable to be built upon, to be encroached upon by railways or tramways, or to be otherwise contracted in area. The temptation to the erection of a building in a public park, be it museum, library, or picture gallery is an insidious danger. The display of beautiful and useful objects *inside* a building may be secured at an appalling price in regard to nature's beautiful and permanent vistas *outside*. The danger of the erection of buildings in public parks is enhanced by the feeling that sometimes obtains that the money value of a piece of park land need not be taken into consideration. Thus if it be desired to put a building, costing £10,000, on a piece of park land whose market value is £5,000; the cost of that building is £15,000, and it is not fair to represent that its cost is £10,000. Furthermore, public buildings once erected in a public park are not always limited by fixed boundaries as is the case where the land has to be paid for. Cases have been known in which the land taken from a public park has been found inadequate, and additional ground has been obtained by the simple process of putting back the fence.

The question of the erection of buildings in public parks is one of paramount importance to the public, and to the landscape gardener. A building in a park is an item in the landscape, and it must be subordinated to the park as a whole.

In Europe the relation of buildings to private and national parks and gardens is well understood, and incongruities are few. The United States has passed through the trial stage which new countries such as ours have to pass



through before the sacredness of the public parks is respected. Following are some pertinent extracts from "The Garden and Forest" of New York, Vol. x. (1897), which are worthy of perusal.

"What we wish now to point out is that it seems probable that more and more schemes to further definitely intellectual or æsthetic ends will be prosecuted without due regard to the integrity and beauty of our parks as works of landscape art, and that the patrons of science and literature and of art of other kinds are likely to try to injure our great artistic creations like Central and Prospect Parks. And this is, of course, a very insidious danger, as the schemes may be worthy in themselves, and the people who urge them are those whom the public has been told it should trust most implicitly in intellectual and artistic matters. . . .

"These few instances illustrate one phase of apprehension,—the danger that buildings for public purposes will more and more absorb the narrow and precious spaces set apart for the people's refreshment and enjoyment. Each such instance is deplorable in itself, and as a precedent for future enterprises of similar kind. Nor is New York the only city which needs to be warned along these lines. The beautiful park which Mr. Olmsted laid out in Buffalo is threatened with the erection of buildings which would be public benefits if placed elsewhere, but public misfortunes as features in a naturalistic park. Even the small and incomparably precious State Reservation at Niagara Falls has had to be defended against a misfortune of a like sort; and there is no town in the United States whose parks are safe in this respect. It is high time that the public should awaken to the fact that no buildings whatsoever, except those absolutely required for park purposes proper, should be allowed within a park, and that the projectors of all others should buy their own sites or, if these must be purchased with public money, that they should be placed outside of park limits.

"This is not merely because every foot of open public land is precious as such, and should be held sacred to serve the health, the refreshment, and the outdoor pleasures of the people. It is also because, almost without exception, our pleasure-grounds are works of landscape-art in the exact sense—naturalistic parks—and are necessarily injured in their artistic character by the intrusion of buildings even of the most beautiful kinds. This is the point which many artists do not understand, and, therefore as they are naturally regarded as the highest authorities in artistic matters, the damage which may be done to our parks by those who have not a true comprehension of them is, perhaps, more to be dreaded than that from any other class of men."—(p. 439).

And again:—



"Yet the old idea that any person ignorant of art but possessing a "feeling for nature" is competent to decide any question with regard to a naturalistic pleasure-ground has not yet died out, and, on the other hand, those who are expert in artistic questions of some different kind do not yet understand that, nevertheless, they may be incompetent to deal with problems of naturalistic landscape-gardening.

"Vast formal pleasure-grounds such as were created around the palaces of the Old World, for the delectation of the frequenters of luxurious courts, are inappropriate to the needs of modern times; and this is especially true in our democratic country. Our parks, large and small, exist for the greatest good of the greatest number; and this good can best be secured by making them, within the bounds laid down by art, as much like Nature's landscape as possible. Only in this way can they fulfil the need of the populace for rest and refreshment, and bring Nature's peaceful, soothing, inspiring influences to bear upon the minds and bodies of those who live and toil amid the noise and stress of modern civic conditions; and only thus can they be genuine and characteristic works of American art, expressing the ideals and the temper of American civilization."—(p. 499.)

b. *Wharves*.—The "Sydney Harbour Trust Act, 1900," gives power to the Harbour Trust Commissioners to deal with frontages below high-water mark. The value of the numerous water-side parks as pleasure resorts, and of which the Botanic Gardens and Outer Domain are by far the most important, depends largely upon æsthetic considerations. If a portion of the water frontages are to be taken for utilitarian purposes by the Harbour Trust, the value of these reserves, which cannot be gauged in money, may be deteriorated to an extent that it may not be possible to compute.

No wharf, jetty, etc., ought, in my opinion, to be erected on any water-frontage to park lands by any authority without the consent of the Minister controlling the park in question. A Minister would doubtless be advised in the matter by his responsible officers as to the probable effect of the proposed structure on the park.

I venture to express the opinion that it was never the intention of the Legislature to place the National Recrea-



tion Reserves (Domain and Botanic Gardens), in the power of the Harbour Trust. I only mention these two reserves because they are the most important, and I imagine that a clause for the protection of these national reserves might fitly be inserted in an Amending Act of the Sydney Harbour Trust Act. These reserves are, I feel sure, in no danger from the present enlightened Harbour Trust Commissioners, but they might be succeeded by gentlemen who would be inclined to look upon public parks simply from a commercial point of view.

As an instance of the way in which the utilization of a park frontage for wharfage purposes may deteriorate a park, the south-eastern part of Woolloomooloo Bay affords an instructive example. Wharves are creeping along the Domain in that direction, and we already have nuisances from:—

1. *Smoke of steamships.* If a man on shore own a smoky chimney he is prosecuted, but the funnel of a steamship can belch forth smoke, darkening the air for a considerable distance and disfiguring the ground with smuts, but no prosecution follows. The north-easters (our prevailing winds during the summer months) blow this smoke into the Domain to the discomfort of citizens and to the injury of the vegetation.
2. *Stinking cargoes.* I have been made nearly sick when passing bags of horns and bones, hides and other abominations on the Woolloomooloo Wharf. What a regrettable arrangement it would be for a continuance of the wharves along the Domain frontage, especially since it would follow that these pestiferous odours would be wafted into the Domain and Gardens by the prevailing north-easter. It would be impossible to forbid our staple articles of export from being placed on a public wharf.



3. *The noise and bustle of shipping.* Noise and bustle are inseparable from shipping. The donkey-engines are noisy by day and night, and the varied and loud noises incident to shipping operations detract from the restfulness of a public park.

4. *Rats and shipping.* No matter what precautions are taken it is difficult to prevent rats leaving a ship for the land. In a public park food-refuse is always lying about and encourages the rat-scavengers. We have special reason to dread the presence of rats, and a public park should be an ideal health resort for the people.

I have dealt with the small wharves necessary for people to enjoy facilities for bathing, boating etc., and to obtain the maximum enjoyment from their parks, at p. 36.

#### VI. SPECIAL PUBLIC REQUIREMENTS.

##### a. *Necessities*:—

1. *Lighting.* Why do we want light in a public park? For the same reasons that we want it in the public streets. We want it in order that we may see our way. We want it that we may walk as we choose, without being disturbed by the foot-pad or the larrikin. As matters stand, during the greater portion of the time (the evening hours) that promenade in a park is possible to the average man or woman, they are precluded from this pleasurable and health-giving exercise. The old stupid idea is that museums and picture-galleries are only to be opened during the period that the average citizen is at work. Parks certainly are available longer than that, but at night they should not hold out special inducements to criminal and vicious persons. On moral and hygienic grounds, therefore, let us have light in our parks.

It seems strange to have to insist upon light as an essential in a public park. Hyde Park, London, the prin-



cipal park of the principal city of the world was not safely lighted up till 1899, and then only the path from the Marble Arch to the Statue of Achilles. A leading London newspaper asked for still more light, stating that it would be the means "of relegating crime and vice to those obscure portions of the park remote from the frequented footways." In 1901, during the summer months, portions of the Outer Domain and Hyde Park, Sydney, were lighted by electricity, but the work was discontinued for financial reasons. Nevertheless the experiment was a useful one, and I now advocate the extension of gas-lighting. Incandescent burners give a brilliant light, and the average gas lamp is of a convenient height above the ground, giving the light where it is most needed. The gas is entirely under control, and noisy, dirty engines, hideous buildings and overhead wires which appear to be necessary where electricity is generated are entirely done away with, matters of supreme importance in a public park.

The lighting of Hyde Park, London, made one of the minor poets break into song less than three years ago:—

"For well I know what danger lurks  
 In all such mad progressive movements,  
 Electric lighting once obtained,  
 London will call for more improvements.  
 And I shall live—ah, cruel fate!—  
 To see Hyde Park, spite my endeavour,  
 Become a people's Paradise,  
 Bright, light, and beautiful for ever."—(*London Truth*, 1899).

2. *Sanitary matters.* The provision of water-closets and urinals in public parks is a matter of absolute necessity unless these conveniences are well provided outside in the vicinity of a small park. In large parks they are necessary, no matter what may be the arrangements outside the park-area. In the Botanic Gardens there is special accommodation for women and children; such has not been provided in our parks, so far as I am aware. All our most im-



portant parks ought to have such accommodation, and each chalet should be in charge of an attendant. I also think that each of the men's conveniences should be in charge of an attendant; this would prevent people stuffing boots and clothes down the pipes and performing other selfish actions. We have much to learn yet before we attach as much importance to public conveniences as people do in England. They are a necessity of existence, and their fittings and walls should be of the most approved hygienic patterns it is possible to obtain.

Rubbish bins are an essential in a public park. I am in favour of iron ones similar to those used by the Sydney Municipality, and which have been introduced into the parks under my control. In Europe baskets of all shapes and sizes are used for the purpose, but they become filthy, have an untidy appearance, and are readily injured. Iron bins of the kind referred to are readily emptied and cleaned and effectually preserve edible rubbish from being eaten by rats. Nevertheless it is a matter for regret that large numbers of people refuse to put scraps of paper and food-rubbish into any receptacle whatever, sometimes even displaying considerable ingenuity in depositing it on the grass, etc., when the attention of the ranger is directed elsewhere. This cross-grainedness in human nature is to be deplored, for the public parks cannot be kept in an ideal condition except by the active co-operation of the people themselves. The state of a public park as regards tidiness in a measure reflects the habits of the people themselves. A dirty, carelessly kept park points to a neglectful community.

3. *Water Supply.* Drinking fountains in public parks should be sufficient in number and should have an adequate water supply. Certain mischievous boys and other people delight in wrenching off the cups, damaging the spouts and injuring



fountains in various ways. In consequence, special arrangements have to be made to guard against wilful injury. Fragile fountains should have no place in a public park open day and night; this is to be regretted, because slenderness of construction is sometimes inseparable from an artistic object such as a fountain.

Some years ago the attention of the Board of Health was directed to the drinking fountains of Sydney and the Board stated :—

“ It has been pointed out that large dogs and other animals drink from those which are so arranged that water remains in the cisterns under the drinking taps; and, as children and others drink from these instead of from the taps, and hydatid and other diseases are likely to be in this way propagated, the Board is very strongly of opinion—

1st. That wherever there are cisterns they should have a runaway at the bottom, so that no water can collect; and—

2nd. That cisterns for dogs should not be allowed in fountains placed near Public Schools, as it is found that young children drink out of them.”

An adequate water supply is also necessary for the watering of roads, the flushing of gutters, the watering of plants (even large trees have to be watered during droughts), and various miscellaneous park services.

4. *Public baths and boat-sheds.* The matter of baths for the public is one of special importance to us in a semi-tropical climate. In the case of those parks at a distance from the water the matter of the erection of public baths, such as are seen in every large town in Europe, is a matter for consideration. In most cases, however, there is no special advantage in having baths in a park, while the objection to the erection of a building in a park when provision can be as well and even better made for it in a public thoroughfare, is one deserving of very serious consideration. But many Sydney parks have water-frontages to Port Jackson, and it seems desirable that, wherever possible, facilities should be given for utilizing a portion of



such water-frontage for public baths. I am of opinion that public baths can be provided for in most of our waterside parks, and buildings from which swimming contests can be viewed can be provided in a few instances.

Then I would provide every possible facility for the hiring of boats and for the accommodation of boating-clubs. At present boat sheds are usually ramshackle affairs, often half concealed from view on the park side, whereas the boat-wharves should be well in view, for the starting and return of boat-crews gives an element of picturesqueness which is very pleasing to park visitors. Let us be in touch with our boating citizens, for Sydney is a port and we are proud of our prowess on the water. Furthermore, to have well appointed places would encourage many people to indulge in the healthy recreation of a blow on the harbour who feel that few inducements are offered to them at present.

5. *Refreshments.* Unless a park has restaurants or refreshment rooms outside, close to its entrances, it is usually desirable to provide refreshment rooms or fruit-stalls within the park area. Permanent buildings should be of an ornamental character and there should be seats in the immediate vicinity for the convenience of people who desire refreshments in the open air. These seats should be under the control of the lessee of the refreshment room. Any citizen can claim to use a seat which is placed in a public park, but people as a rule do not press their rights where the seats are in the vicinity of a refreshment-room, and, when they bring their own food, they usually purchase tea or hot water from the lessee. The details of arrangements in regard to refreshments depend so very largely upon the special circumstances of every particular park that I do not propose to enter into them.



Besides the more substantial refreshment pavilion, of which there should be one in every large park, there is no doubt that the public convenience demands opportunities at the principal entrances of the large parks for the purpose of buying minor refreshments, such as biscuits and fruit, the former being largely used by the children for the delightful occupation of feeding the land-birds and water fowl. This should be encouraged not only because of the evident pleasure it gives children, but also of the lesson it teaches of kindness to animals. At present these small articles are purchased from moveable, rickety hand-barrows or fruit-stalls, but these should be replaced, wherever possible by small kiosks—permanent structures of artistic design.

b. *Luxuries*:—

1. *Games and Gymnasia*. I have put games etc. under the heading of luxuries, but personally I look upon them as absolute necessities. The games that are most commonly played are cricket and foot-ball. The former game is specially catered for at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Moore Park, and the latter at the Agricultural Ground. As regards the Outer Domain cricket is under the auspices of a small Trust, appointed in 1856, who employ a man for the purpose of keeping in order a small area known as the Cricket Ground. On other parts of the Domain, cricketing (mostly by boys) is permitted in so far as it does not interfere with the comfort of other citizens who desire to use the Domain.

In the Centennial Park every encouragement is given to outdoor games. A polo club has a ground allotted to it, and it is kept in order at the club's expense. Following are the special arrangements in regard to cricket and football respectively.



Cricket.—(1) Permits to play cricket are issued annually by the Officer-in-Charge, and must be applied for previous to the commencement of the cricket season in every year—usually towards the end of August. The permits are usually renewed from year to year provided no well-grounded complaints have been made against the conduct of members, and in the case of a wicket becoming vacant care is taken to apportion it to the club best entitled in point of numbers and age of members, giving where other things are equal the preference to a local club. (2) No charge is made for wickets. (3) All clubs obtaining permission to play cricket must join the Association formed by the clubs playing cricket in the Centennial Park. (4) Any alteration of grounds in the shape of levelling or top-dressing must only be made after the sanction in writing of the Officer-in-Charge has been obtained.

The Association referred to above is called the Centennial Park Cricket Association and consists of a number of clubs playing in the Centennial Park. Office-bearers of the Association are annually elected and further information may be obtained from a hand-book published annually by the Association which gives a list of office-bearers, rules, competition rules, fixtures, etc.

This Association during the playing season employs a man to keep wickets and ground in proper repair; further, the Association controls the letting of wickets, in this way preventing clubs from obtaining a wicket merely for money making; it also deals with the misconduct of any players belonging to clubs which are affiliated. The existence of the Association has been the means of improving the status of cricket in the Centennial Park, and of assisting the park officials in the control of both the players and the onlookers.

Football.—(1) Football permits are applied for and obtained in a manner similar to that observed for the



obtaining of cricket permits. They are usually issued early in the month of May in each year. (2) No charges are made for grounds. (3) No conditions in regard to joining an Association are insisted on for football clubs, but the clubs have each to mark out their own grounds, and find and erect their own goal posts.

Latterly gymnasia have been established both in the Outer Domain and in the Centennial Park. These are the first instituted in Australia, although in Europe they are common enough. The specification of the Domain gymnasium is as follows, that of the Centennial Park being nearly the same. I trust that we shall soon have them in everyone of our parks, particularly those that are situated in densely populated districts.

A range of six horizontal bars of different heights, and four sets of parallel bars for children of different ages. Two giant strides of eight ropes each. One set of five travelling rings. Four swings. Two trapezes. One climbing rope ladder. Two climbing ropes (one knotted and one plain). One sliding plank. One inclined ladder. Two see-saws. A sand heap for very young children, and a climbing pole or mast for the most venturesome, and which will also answer as a flag pole.

I have touched upon boating, an exercise that should receive every encouragement in Sydney, at p. 36.

2. *Music.* Commodious band-stands should be provided in every public park. The design of the band-stand should be artistic and in keeping with the park. If we want good music we must make the musicians comfortable, and hence a good band-master should always be consulted in the erection and furnishing of a band-stand. The band-stand should not be on a windy eminence; the sound passes away, while the musicians may be chilled and their sheets of music blown away. They should have Venetian blinds to protect them



from glare. Suitable seats and music-stands should be provided for the performers, also mugs or tumblers, and proximity to a good water supply. The lower portion of the band-stand should form a room for the storage of the seats, music-stands, etc.

Then seating accommodation for the public should be provided as far as possible. In our climate there is less necessity for seats than in wet and cold districts, if a nice grassy sward is available. Then it is impossible to provide fixed seats to accommodate all the listeners, otherwise that portion of the park, in the vicinity of the band-stand will, except during the period of a performance, have the appearance of a deserted cattle sale-yard. If there is a building in the park convenient for the storage of a large number of chairs, these might be brought out for each performance and returned at its close, but, in spite of the objections of people who want the Government to perform every petty service for them, I remain at present of the opinion that in most cases the best plan would be to arrange with a contractor to supply chairs for each performance, who would recoup himself by a charge of a penny a head, certainly not an unreasonable demand. This is a common practice in Europe, even in parks where one has to pay a fee to listen to the performance whether one stands or not.

3. *Statuary*. The question of the nude in art is one to which the custodians of public parks must give attention to at one time or another. When the matter is spasmodically dealt with in newspapers and professional journals, pictures in an art-gallery or advertisement posters have usually raised the points at issue. Then the matter is usually discussed from the life-class or artist's model point of view, while certain artists express themselves in emphatic terms, sometimes chiding the general public for possessing in-artistic souls. No work in which the question of the



nude in art is discussed as regards public parks is accessible to me. In a public gallery the officials can readily make arrangements for restricting the view of a picture from those to whom it is considered undesirable to show it, whether it be young children, or mixed gatherings of both sexes, but in a public park art objects must be open to public view all day long.

We have very few objects in our Sydney parks to whom any person may take exception on moral grounds, but there are one or two in regard to which persons whose judgment should be respected have raised protests. My own view in this matter can be very simply expressed. There should be nothing in any public park to wound the susceptibilities of any citizen. A man should be able to pass through a park without seeing anything that will bring a blush to the cheek of his wife, his daughter, his sweetheart or any other woman or child. Further, there should not be any objects that require (so to speak) to be apologised for or slurred over, for an art object should not only not be a source of pain or discomfort to some, but it should be a source of pleasure,—an aesthetic ideal maybe, to all.

I am sorry to say that there are so few statues or other art objects in the Sydney parks, exclusive of those (Botanic Gardens and Garden Palace Grounds) that are closed at night. Most of the statuary is to be found in the Centennial Park and Hyde Park. Although creditable for a young country, candour compels one to admit that much of it does not reach a very high standard of art.

Statuary in public parks is often looked upon as a target for mischievous people and one has to frequently repair it. In consequence art objects of considerable value cannot be exhibited in a public park unless they are practically proof against wilful damage or unless they can be specially protected.



Of course such objects as fountains and national memorials of various kinds may be artistic in character and suitable adornments for a public park. But they should be few in number and have suitable settings.

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### POSSIBLE RELATION BETWEEN SUNSPOT MINIMA AND VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS.

By H. I. JENSEN.

(Communicated by Prof. David, B.A., F.R.S.)

[With Plate II.]

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[*Read before the Royal Society of N. S. Wales, June 4, 1902.*]

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DURING the past three months the world has been startled by a series of volcanic and seismic phenomena, which, in point of extent and violence, are almost unparalleled. Within a few months we have heard of a great earthquake at Cheviot, in New Zealand, synchronous with a violent volcanic eruption in the Kermadec Islands. This was succeeded by a violent earthquake in Transcaucasia that ruined numerous towns. Then came the West Indian earthquakes accompanied, or rather followed by the eruptions of Mount Pelée, La Soufrière and Mount Tacoma, and synchronously great earthquakes devastated ten cities in Guatemala. Since then we have heard of a succession of rumblings in the Auvergne district of France, an area spotted with extinct volcanoes; a serious earthquake at Corfu, another near Paris; and lastly we hear that Mount Redoubt in Alaska is in violent eruption, and that poisonous gases are issuing from Mount Trabochetto, an extinct volcano between Genoa and Nice.





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