The story of the world is the story of man's fight for freedom. In that fight England had her Magna Carta, France her revolution, America her Declaration of Independence and Australia Eureka Stockade ...
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costumes by Dahl Collings

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music composed by
John Greenwood

played by
The Philharmonia Orchestra
conducted by
Ernest Irving

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A
Australia a hundred years ago, a continent of empty silence. Already a land of great pastoral wealth, and vast estates, but also a land of great poverty where, under the blazing skies, water was life, and only those who controlled it lived easily, but always there were rumours, rumours of a new wealth and always they were scoffed at, until in 1851 Edmund Hargraves alone in a creek at Ophir shouted (Hargraves: Gold) and Australia had to face the problem that she had become a nation … (montage: various people saying 'gold, gold, gold')

Man looking at Port Phillip News headline: gold at Ophir eh. Suppress it … the madness this'll start will ruin fifty years work in a day. Journalist: you can't stop it, it's news …

Narrator:

1851 Turon
1852 Bendigo
1853 Creswick …

1854 Ballarat …