

Admission, May 10th. 1909.

# RECEPTION AT THE TOWN HALL.

## AN ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING.

It was an enthusiastic gathering that assembled in the Adelaide Town Hall at 11.30 to welcome the intrepid explorer. Lieutenant Shackleton arrived with his Excellency the Governor and Lady Bosanquet, and was met by Mr. W. B. Wilkinson, president of the Royal Geographical Society (under whose auspices the welcome was arranged), also by the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher), the Acting Premier (Mr. Peake), the Acting Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. Bice), the Chief Secretary (Mr. Wallis), and several members of the society.

Mr. Wilkinson occupied the chair. He had on his right his Excellency the Governor and on his left Lieutenant Shackleton, and among the others present on the platform were the Lieutenant Governor (Sir S. J. Way), the Prime Minister, the Acting Premier, the Acting Commissioner of Public Works, the Chief Secretary, the Minister of Education, Mr. Douglas Mawson (a member of the expedition), the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. Frank Johnson), the private secretary to the Governor (Mr. W. S. Baillie Hamilton), the following members of the Royal Geographical Society—Messrs. W. P. Auld, E. H. Bakewell, Simpson Newland, A. M. Simpson, T. S. Reed (secretary), and Mr. I. MacGillivray, M.P. Lady Bosanquet also occupied one of the front seats in the body of the hall.

The Chairman said they all felt it was a great privilege and pleasure to welcome Lieutenant Shackleton on his return from the successful expedition to the Antarctic regions, and to congratulate him heartily upon the splendid work achieved. (Cheers.) They also congratulated Mr. Mawson on his brilliant scientific achievements. (Cheers.) Many of them had the pleasure of meeting Lieutenant Shackleton on his arrival from England on November 30, 1907, and of wishing him godspeed on his perilous undertaking. They had watched with the deepest interest all that had happened since that date. They remembered that the stout little Nimrod left Lyttelton, New Zealand, on January 1, 1908, with the members of the expedition on board; that after a tempestuous voyage she landed them at Cape Royds, McMurdo Sound, on February 3, and returned to New Zealand. From that date until the end of March of this year not a word was heard from the south polar regions. An absolute silence had reigned for over 13 months. They all felt some anxiety during that period, but it was difficult to imagine with what anxiety the relatives and near friends of the members of the expedition must have looked for news. On March 23 a cable message was received from Stewart's Island that the Nimrod had arrived from the antarctic; that the members of the expedition were on board; and that "all were well." (Cheers.) It was not too much to say that a thrill of joy and thankfulness was experienced when this news was made known. (Cheers.) For several days following the thrilling story of the expedition was unfolded in the daily press throughout the civilised world. The press agreed that the importance of the achievements recorded, whilst scientists were unanimously of opinion that much had been added to the store of knowledge on geographical and scientific subjects. Congratulatory cables were showered upon the leader from all parts. Her Majesty the Queen, with her usual graciousness, cabled congratulations, and said, how gladly she would receive from Lieutenant Shackleton on his return to England the Union Jack which she had entrusted to his care, and which he had hoisted at the most southerly portion of the earth's surface ever reached by man. (Cheers.) He thought if the readers of the news of the success of the expedition could have all joined together in sending a cablegram to the leader that message would have read, "Well done, Shackleton." (Cheers.) The story of the expedition was fresh in all their minds. It was a story that would ever occupy an honored page in the history of great deeds. He must not, however, dwell upon the details; but there were three events that were worthy of special mention. There was the ascent of Mount Erebus, a height of 13,200 ft., by a party led by that great scientist, Professor David, and in which Mr. Mawson distinguished himself so brilliantly. (Cheers.) There was the reaching of the south magnetic pole, where the British flag was hoisted, and three cheers were given for his Majesty the King. In that expedition Professor David and Mr. Mawson again took a most prominent part.

Then there was the dash for the South Pole by a party comprising Lieutenant Shackleton, Lieutenant S. B. Adams, Dr. Marshall, and Mr. Wild. The party left Cape Royds on October 29, 1908, and after great hardships and privations, battling against severe blizzards, with the thermometer registering from 60 to 70 deg. of frost, in what was described as the coldest and stormiest weather in the world, they literally fought their way until they reached, on a plateau some 10,500 ft. in height, the farthest south ever attained. (Cheers.) That was in lat. 88.23, a distance of only 97 geographical miles from the South Pole. There

they hoisted the Union Jack presented by the Queen, and began their wearisome journey back to Cape Royds. When within a few days' journey from the camp Dr. Marshall became so ill that it was impossible for him to proceed further. Lieutenant Adams, whilst he, accompanied by Mr. Wild, made a forced march for the camp. This they reached after two days and two nights' struggle, and, although weary and in a semi-starved condition, Lieutenant Shackleton, after spending one hour in the camp, actually started out again at the head of a relief party, and eventually reached and rescued his sick companion. (Loud cheers.) It was a splendid achievement indeed, after a journey of 1,708 miles, occupying in all 124 days, during which the leader had never had his clothes off. It was for deeds such as this that Shackleton was described by members of the party as a perfect leader. (Cheers.) It was not simply because Lieutenant Shackleton had attained a "farthest south" record that they welcomed him that morning. It was also because they knew him to be a brave man, a man who had the courage to undertake a great enterprise, and the grim determination to carry it out to a successful issue. (Cheers.) Above all, it was because they recognised him as a great and humane leader, and they rejoiced to know that the name of Ernest Shackleton would be added to that roll of fame in which the names of Franklin, Ross, McLinlock, Nansen, Abruzzi, Scott, and other great polar explorers were already engraved. (Cheers.)

His Excellency said—We are assembled here to-day to honor and welcome amongst us the leader of a band of brothers, who, by their courage and physical endurance have achieved, at the imminent risk of their lives, a voyage of discovery second to none in the annals of Polar exploration and scientific research. We desire to congratulate most heartily Lieutenant Shackleton upon the successful result of the expedition under his command. Lieutenant Shackleton had already experience of Antarctic discovery in Captain Scott's expedition. When it was determined, with assistance liberally provided by the Commonwealth resources, to make a further effort to reach the South Pole, and to ascertain the position of the southern magnetic pole, Lieutenant Shackleton accepted the command of this expedition. Before finally leaving England the Nimrod was anchored in Cowes Roads during the Regatta week in August, 1907, when their Majesties honored the expedition by visiting the ship and presenting a flag. At that time I happened to be present as Commander-in-Chief of Portsmouth, and, together with Lady Bosanquet, had the honor to wish them Godspeed. (Cheers.) Although the scientific results of the expedition are not yet completely before the public, we have before us abundant evidence that Lieutenant Shackleton and his comrades have been successful beyond the dreams of any of their sympathisers. (Cheers.) The discovery of the magnetic pole, and the advance to within 97 miles of the true pole, are results which will cause the names of those connected with the Nimrod expedition to be remembered throughout the history of Polar discovery, and to be bracketed with those of the great Arctic explorers. The feat of maintaining throughout the long winter months the friendship and comradeship of every member of the expedition is a model for the example of all in the display of the moral qualities. It is second only to the qualities of courage and physical endurance throughout the summer months displayed by all those parties engaged in the sleighing expeditions employed in the work of exploration and discovery. (Cheers.) This stern determination, this firm resolution to succeed in spite of all obstacles, is as deserving of the name of patriotism as if the same qualities had been displayed by the commander of an army. A great general may conquer for his country a foreign foe and annex a principality, but here we have a continent annexed without the loss of a single life. I suppose we may now consider the South Pole as a dependency of Australia, and a province of the British Empire. (Cheers.) I observe that although the main work of the expedition is concluded, the papers report that Lieutenant Shackleton intends the Nimrod on her voyage home to search for and

chart some of those southern groups of islands whose position is doubtful. Those on board the Nimrod will carry with them always our admiration for work already accomplished and our best wishes for their future career. (Cheers.) I don't see that laurel wreath which the Mayor of Adelaide's predecessor promised to Lieutenant Shackleton, but, anyhow, the State of South Australia is proud to welcome him and Mr. Mawson here in the Town Hall of Adelaide, and to congratulate them heartily on their successful achievements. We look forward to hearing to-night an account of their explorations and discoveries, and we associate with the success of the Nimrod and her commander the names of David, Mawson, and Armitage, who are Australians, and who, we believe, greatly contributed to the signal success which has attended this expedition to the Antarctic regions. (Cheers.)

Mr. Peake said it was his intention to say only a few words, on behalf of the Government, as an addition to all that had been so well said by the previous speakers. (Cheers.) He was sure Lieutenant Shackleton and that other distinguished member of his expedition present must be exceedingly pleased to see the people of Adelaide present in such large numbers on such an inclement day and at such an hour to welcome him to Adelaide. (Cheers.) He was sure Lieutenant Shackleton would take still further pride in the remarks of his Excellency because of the high position Sir Day occupied as a naval officer. His Excellency's words would carry much greater force than if they came from a mere civilian. (Cheers.) They had all followed with interest the career of Lieutenant Shackleton's party since they left what might be called the shores of civilisation, and they felt a deeper interest in that expedition than would otherwise have been the case because of the Australian, and especially the South Australian scientist associated with it. (Cheers.) They were confident that the name of the Nimrod would be associated for all time with the names of Mounts Erebus and Terror. (Cheers.) Endurance and courage were spoken of, and if the party did no more it showed that these great qualities, which had helped in the past so much to make the British people and the Empire great, were still in existence when called for. (Cheers.) It was a noble contribution to the riches of the British people. (Cheers.) He remembered seeing the picture of an old sailor, having by him his little grandchild, and pointing to the North Pole, saying, "The north-west passage must be found, and England must find it." (Cheers.) He was equally sure that if the South Pole was to be found Britishers would find it. (Cheers.) As his Excellency had said, by the discoveries of the party, a new province had been added to the British Empire, and it might happen that when Australia became too thickly populated—(laughter)—and some of her people looked afield for room, they would be able to say, "There is no need for you to leave the British Empire; you can go to the south polar regions." (Laughter.) On behalf of the Government, he wished to express their highest admiration for Lieutenant Shackleton's achievements, and rejoiced that he had been enabled to make such a noble contribution to scientific, physical, and geographical knowledge. (Cheers.) Further, he wished to express the hope that Lieutenant Shackleton would be spared for many years to win still further credit to himself and the British Empire. (Cheers.)

The Mayor of Adelaide said it gave him the greatest pleasure to welcome Lieutenant Shackleton, on behalf of the citizens, on his triumphant return from the Antarctic. He had now joined that band of intrepid explorers, whose deeds had added islands and continents to the Empire. (Cheers.) Lieutenant Shackleton was back amongst them, looking well, strong, and hearty. (Cheers.) He had carried out the undertaking upon which he had embarked magnificently, and had succeeded beyond all possible expectations. He offered him the felicitations of the citizens of Adelaide upon the splendid work he had accomplished. He had shown to the world that there were still left in the British grit, ability, and determination to carry out hazardous enterprises. (Cheers.) He had also shown that, not only in the old country, but in Greater Britain beyond the seas were men to be found ready to risk their lives in the performance of great deeds. (Cheers.) They had every reason to be proud of the country which could supply men of the stamp of Lieutenant Shackleton and his companions, and when such brave men could be found ready to undertake perilous adventures, there was no fear of the future of their race. (Cheers.) His Excellency had referred to the absence of the laurel wreath with which Mr. Bruce, when Mayor of Adelaide, said he would crown Lieutenant Shackleton on his return to Adelaide from the Antarctic. He did not know whether the wreath was there or not, but the explorer did not require any such artificial acknowledgment. The wreath of honor had been woven by the lieutenant himself, and it rested on his