

WORK OF EDUCATION COMMISSION.

The members of the Higher Education Commission, who left Adelaide on March 23 to take evidence in the eastern States, returned on Thursday afternoon. They began their work in Sydney on March 27, and examined the Chief Inspector of Schools and Acting Director of Education (Mr. J. Dawson), and the Superintendent of Technical Education (Mr. J. W. Turner). A visit was paid to the Sydney University, where the commission were entertained by the Chancellor, and spent four hours inspecting the buildings. On March 30, at the University, they examined the Chancellor (Sir Normand McLaurin), the Registrar (Mr. H. E. Barff, M.A.), the Secretary of the University extension movement (Professor E. R. Holme), the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (Professor Anderson Stuart), Professors David (geology), Carslaw (mathematics), and Warren (engineering), and Dr. H. G. Chapman (Demonstrator in Physiology). Brisbane was reached on April 1, and the party was met by Mr. J. D. Story (Under Secretary of Education). On April 3 the commission inspected the plans for the new Technical College and the additions to the University, and were shown over the present University, which was formerly Government House. They waited on the Acting Premier, and in the afternoon, at the request of His Excellency the Governor, visited Government House. Evidence was taken at Parliament House, Brisbane. The following were examined:—The Inspector-General of Schools and Vice-Chancellor of the University (Mr. R. H. Roe, M.A.), Under Secretary of Education (Mr. J. D. Story), the Superintendent of Technical Education (Mr. L. C. Morris), the Superintendent of the Technical College (Mr. R. McL. Riddell), the Registrar of the University (Mr. S. Cumbræ Stewart), and Professors Gibson (engineering) and B. D. Steele (chemistry). On April 6 the Junction Park and East Brisbane primary and secondary schools, and the girls' and boys' grammar schools, subsidized by the State, were inspected, and the commission (with the Federal Attorney-General, Mr. Hughes) were entertained by the Government. In the evening the members left for Toowoomba, where they visited the Rangeville primary, secondary, agricultural, and floricultural school, which the Chairman of the Commission (Mr. Ryan, M.P.) described as "the most beautiful school in Australia." At Toowoomba the Mayor and corporation gave the party a civic reception, and they were accompanied on that part of their journey by the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Tolmie). They returned to Sydney on April 8, and on the Monday following visited the Hurstville Agricultural and Secondary School, and the Fort Street School—the latter the largest school in the Commonwealth, with 1,950 pupils, and an average attendance of 1,750. They were shown every stage of the work at Fort street, from the kindergarten to the matriculation classes, covering the education of children from four to 18 years of age. The institution is claimed to be the most complete in Australia, and is a free high school. "The party," said Mr. Ryan, "were treated hospitably by Governments, Education Departments, and University authorities, and each of the States vied with the others in assisting us in our work. The members much appreciated the expert assistance of Professor Chapman, whom the South Australian Government appointed to go with them as adviser on university and technical education."

SOUTHWARD HO!

DR. MAWSON'S SHIP.

CHANCE FOR PHILANTHROPY.

LONDON, April 18.

Dr. Douglas Mawson, of Adelaide, is making headway with the preparations for his antarctic exploratory expedition. He has received widespread support and assistance in monetary and scientific matters.

Dr. J. B. Charcot has offered the young Australian his vessel for £8,000. This is the specially built and equipped ship in which the Charcot (French) expedition visited in 1909-10 the antarctic regions below South America, which had been to some extent explored by Charcot six years earlier. It proved itself in every way capable for the kind of work required, and particularly in withstanding the buffeting of the icefloes. Dr. Mawson has suggested that the Commonwealth Government or some philanthropist might seize this opportunity of presenting Dr. Charcot's vessel to Australia, inasmuch as it is considered by experts to be perfectly designed for scientific polar exploration.

Prince Albert of Monaco, whose world-famed and scientifically invaluable hobby is the study of the deep-sea floor, has presented to Dr. Mawson a complete deep-sea dredging apparatus. The Governor-General designate of the Commonwealth (Lord Denman) has expressed his interest in the project, and has promised a liberal subscription.

To a representative of The Register Dr. Mawson expressed himself with some anxiety—on the day of his departure for England—regarding his chances of securing a suitable vessel at a reasonable figure. He said he expected to have to pay as much as £10,000. The type of ship required, constructed on the main principle of immense strength, was rare. Probably his choice might have to be counted on the fingers of his two hands. Moreover, he expected that the unusual demand—comparatively speaking—for vessels capable of polar journeying would have the effect of advancing the market price. All things considered, he would reckon himself fortunate if he secured a desirable purchase at less than £10,000.

Advertiser, April 20/11

MAWSON ANTARCTIC SCHEME.

EQUIPPING THE PARTIES.

LONDON, April 19.

Dr. Charcot, the French explorer, who recently concluded an expedition to the Antarctic in the *Pourquoi Pas*, has offered to sell the vessel to Dr. Mawson for £8,000, for the purposes of his proposed expedition to the southern regions.

Dr. Mawson suggests that the Imperial Government or some philanthropist might seize the opportunity of purchasing the vessel and presenting her to Australia, inasmuch as she is perfectly designed for the work of scientific polar exploration.

The Prince of Monaco, who is deeply interested in oceanography, has offered to present Dr. Mawson with deep-sea dredging apparatus. Lord Denman, the new Governor-General of Australia, has also promised a subscription to the funds of the expedition.

ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR HENDERSON.

Professor Henderson, speaking to a representative of The Register at the Adelaide University on Friday said:—There is to be an appeal made on behalf of the proposed antarctic expedition under command of Dr. Mawson, of Adelaide. A good deal will be said in it about the various objects of the undertaking. I would like to emphasize two aspects of special importance. One is, that at the meetings of the Association for the Advancement of Science, which met in Sydney last January, the council thought so much of the expedition that it voted to it £1,000—one-third of its total funds. There were present 50 members of the council, and after the matter had been explained by Professor Masson (President of the Association) there was not a single dissident against the grant. Thus we have the entire approval of the men who, by reason of their study and research, are better able than any other body in the Commonwealth to judge of the merits of the undertaking. Those present included representatives from all parts of Australasia—experts in geology, meteorology, physics, zoology, and physiology. All these experts signified approval by voting for the donation; and the subjects in which they excel are those which will be of special interest scientifically in the expedition which Dr. Mawson is about to undertake. Another point is that the scheme presents an opportunity for an expression of the rising national feeling that is so marked a characteristic in the Commonwealth at present. Up to the present Australia has been content to help; now she wishes to have control over an expedition which, it is hoped, will render valuable service, scientifically and practically, to the world at large. An expedition of this kind has a great indirect influence which ought not to be overlooked. It is an example of spirited endeavour on the part of a number of men, and the influence of that endeavour will react upon the national life. It appears to me that such an expedition might do for Australia what the many expeditions from England in times gone by for the discovery of the North-west Passage have done for the British people. In those heroic undertakings the British learned to endure and to overcome great difficulties, and have become accustomed to a kind of heroic endeavour which has meant a great deal in the building up of the British Empire. The spirit fostered by such enterprises was necessary to carry men out into various parts of the world, and to enable them to impress their own nationality on those distant regions.

THE PUBLIC APPEAL.

The following is the appeal by the Australian Antarctic Committee through the Editor of The Register:—

—Objects of the Expedition.—

Sir—The attention of the public has been called to this subject by accounts in the press of discussions at the Sydney meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, and more recently by the publication of paragraphs and cablegrams bearing more or less directly on the question. We find, however, that many are still insufficiently informed as to the exact objects of the scheme, and its history and present position; and, as we have to appeal to the more wealthy of Australasia's citizens for that liberal support without which the scheme will certainly fail, we shall be grateful if you will find space for this letter in your columns. Due south of Australasia, and less than 2,000 miles from our shores, lies the long coastline of that part of the great antarctic continent which has been called its Australasian Quadrant. This begins near Cape Adare, the north-western boundary of Ross Sea, and extends thence for over 2,000 miles to the west, in latitudes 70 degrees to 85 degrees S., until it terminates near Gausberg in territory already appropriated by Germany. Much of this coastline lies close to, or even outside, the antarctic circle; in other words, in a latitude corresponding to that of the north of Iceland in Europe or of part of the Yukon Valley in Alaska. It bounds, in fact, the most northerly lands of Antarctica, with the exception of the outjutting portion of Graham Land, to the south of Cape Horn. In all probability its climate, though severe, is quite compatible with permanent occupation by man and is greatly superior to that encountered by Shackleton and other explorers in much higher latitudes. In summer the rockbound coast is probably to a large extent free from ice and quite approachable. The distance from Australasia at the nearest points is