

The Register
April 18th 1914

The Daily Herald
April 21st 1914

located the spot with his instruments. Now the South has claimed him again. Over 2000 miles of hitherto unknown coastline he has now mapped. Long journeys have been made into the interior of that great frozen continent. Observations have been taken under immensely hard conditions of great scientific importance; observations, too, that have notable significance for the economic world.

Dr. Mawson is the first man to use wireless installation in the Antarctic, and he has demonstrated both the feasibility of such modern methods and their utility in the world of everyday. Throughout the whole expedition we read that almost daily messages were transmitted direct to Australia warning the Government Meteorological Office of the approach of those southerly gales that destroy shipping and ruin crops. Thus the man searching for mere economic reasons for Polar work such as this has his answer. The discovery of the ledges of the continental shelf will throw light on many oceanographic mysteries. Indeed, science has everything to be grateful for in Dr. Mawson's achievement and nothing in which to find disappointment. From the scientific side the expedition has been eminently successful. From its sentimental side—I use the word advisedly and not in the meaning to which it has been debased to-day—it has been equally remarkable. Sentiment and science have so far gone hand in hand. It will be a sorry day they are divorced.

The outstanding feature of Mawson's inland journeys has been that tragic march in which two lives were lost. It has been a march that has shown once more to the world that men are capable of enduring and working against desperate odds without a thought of surrender. As I write I can visualise that endless white undulating plateau, wind-swept and cold even in the height of summer. The little party of three is steadily working south to see what lay beyond their horizon. I can feel their relief at having apparently come out from the treacherous maze of crevasses—some of unplumbed death. And then there comes the sudden change from relief to the shock of disaster. But no one can realise what Mawson's feelings must have been when he looked back, and instead of seeing his principal sledge, dog team, and companion following sturdily behind—saw nothing but an empty white expanse! And looked down into the yawning cavern in which he could just see the moaning dog far below and knew that at a much greater depth lay not only his trusty comrade, but, practically speaking, the means of retreat! We read:—“Decided that by eating dogs we should have food enough to reach but across plateau. Sea ice breaking up.

Nine hours after accident read burial service and started return. Food apportioned on mileage basis. Owing delays had weather and reduction in rations, dogs gave out. Soon none left. No nutriment in their flesh and no marrow in their bones.”

“And I can picture that terrible march back through the area of crevasses; Mertz becoming weaker day by day, the food giving out, and at last Mawson, no thought of desertion in his mind, placing his sick comrade upon the sledge and dragging him painfully those weary miles—short distances in reality if you will, but age-long in effort and anxiety! Then came the death of Mertz. Then the final struggle alone, utterly alone day after day with no adequate shelter, no nourishing food. What those 30 lonely days must have meant to Mawson he alone can tell.

“Fifteen hundred miles away was the Mawson western party in command of Wild, a man who has had more experience of the Antarctic than any other living man. He is now my second in command. They made similar journeys, happily without loss of life, and the information brought back by this section of the expedition is bound to be of the greatest importance. To the seamanship of Captain Davis the expedition owes more than a little. Without the glamor of long marches, without the excitement of the discovery of new land each day, Davis steered his ship through snowstorm and blizzard, and by icebergs contact with which would smash his little craft in a minute. Four times he passed through these seas with the Aurora and brought her safely home with the men on board, after encountering the worst weather on the worst side of the Antarctic continent, where the average wind velocity for months together is not less than 50 miles an hour. And so ends this remarkable enterprise, which must link together forever those who have taken part in it.”

WORKERS' EDUCATION ASSOCIATION.

FRUITS OF MR. MANSBRIDGE'S VISIT.

Following the visit of Mr. Mansbridge, the apostle of the Workers' Educational Association (a body which has as its ideal the widening of the bounds of knowledge), considerable interest has been taken in the work of this association by the Trades and Labour Council and the various bodies affiliated with it in Adelaide. The constitution to govern the new body was accepted by delegates a few weeks ago, and the first annual council launching of the ship “Educational” took place this week in the new council room in the Adelaide Trades Hall. In addition to the various industrial bodies represented there were present University representatives in the presence of Professor Jethro Brown and Professor Mitchell. The South Australian School of Mines, through its President, sent hearty good wishes, and it was owing to the fact that the council had not been able to meet and officially appoint a delegation that it was not represented last night, but the delegates present received with marked approval Mr. T. Ryan's statement that in the School of Mines President and council, the new association would find warm supporters. The same reason was responsible for the absence of the official delegates from the Public Library and the Art Gallery. Here again through the President (Mr. W. J. Sowden) best wishes for the success of the association were conveyed. Mr. Sowden expressed his desire for a useful career for the new association, and promised to help to push the chariot along, a promise which was cordially received. Correspondence was received from Dr. Rivett, announcing that Professor Goner (the President of the economic section attending the British delegation to visit Adelaide in August) would lecture under the auspices of the new association, and possibly Sir Arthur Cunningham, another distinguished educational political lecturer, to speak in Adelaide in August.

The election of the first executive resulted:—President, Mr. T. Ryan (President of the Trades and Labour Council); Vice-Presidents, Messrs. J. Burgess (Furniture Trades' Union) and W. C. Melbourne (Typographical Society); Treasurer, Mr. A. J. Beresford (Restaurant Employees Union); Secretary, Mr. T. B. Merry (Secretary of the Trades and Labour Council); Assistant Secretary, Mr. Kromer. The council of delegates will consist of delegates from the

evidence adopted by witnesses was voiced by Messrs. Swinburne and Lockyer, of the Interstate Commission, to-day, during the hearing of an application for an increase in customs duty on wrought iron and steel pipes. Commissioner Swinburne presided in the absence of the Chief Commissioner (Mr. Piddington, K.C.), who is in Sydney. An application was also made for a reduction of the duty on beaver wood. Evidence was given in opposition to the request of Messrs. John Ponder & Co., for additional customs duty on horseshoe nail Charles Montieth, of Messrs. C. Mo

The Advertiser
April 21st 1914

Mr. A. E. Dawkins, who last year graduated B.Sc. at the Adelaide University with first-class honours in chemistry, has been awarded a Victorian Government research scholarship. On Saturday he left for Melbourne, where he will prosecute scientific research under Professor Masson, in the Melbourne University.

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

WHY AND HOW THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION WAS FOUNDED.

By A. C. D. Bivett.

It is not so many years since one might justly have complained in Great Britain that the privilege of laboring to extend the boundaries of knowledge was the glory of a chosen few, that rigid barriers enclosed an aristocracy of science, and that this limited aristocracy cared little about widening its own portals. The indifference of the public to its aims and its work, an indifference for which it itself was very largely, if not entirely responsible, was complete. By far the greater portion of the population of Great Britain was quite unable to form an estimate of the value of scientific work, and from its pedestal of ignorance looked down with the most crude contempt upon those who pursued it. Science to them meant crude theorising and wild speculation, and was the cult of men, who for their theories, would be guilty of any length of extravagance. Under a democratic Constitution it was but natural that in such circumstances a Government should be like the people it represented. Whether a benevolent despotism might have seen farther into the possible influences of scientific thought upon national progress is an interesting question. It may well be that the great appreciation shown to-day in Germany of pure “unpractical” theoretical science might have been delayed much longer had such appreciation depended solely upon the suffrages of electors, whose sole qualifications for forming conclusions were age and house rent. However that may be, it is certain enough that in the earlier decades of last century no British Government considered its duties to extend so far even as the recognition, let alone the assistance, of scientific men. Governments, like the great mass of those who elected them, thought little and cared less for any likely connection between theoretical science and the development of the industrial arts and of the nation's resources. Their faith was in the “practical man,” but it was never an unchallenged faith. The famous Dr. Lyon Playfair, and many before and after his time have felt no scruples in asserting that “the reliance on the practical or common sense of our population is the sunken rock directly in the course both of our agriculture and manufactures,” and that the term “practical men” is nothing more than a “title erroneously used by Englishmen to envelop their ignorance.” This indifference to the low state of science and the almost complete neglect of scientific men in England was the cause of much comment from leaders in science, quite unconnected with one another, and laboring on totally different lines of investigation. Names that stand out are Sir Humphry Davy, Sir John Herschel, Sir David Brewster, and Professor Playfair. In strong and deliberate language they expressed their opinions regarding the superiority of foreign to British scientific institutions, and regarding the national indifference towards scientific men in England, amounting as it did to almost complete discouragement of their labors. The decreasing interest taken by the wealthy and titled families received strong comment from the pen of Sir Humphry Davy. “In looking back,” he writes, “to the history of the last five reigns in England, we find Boyles, Cavendishes, and Howards, who rendered their great names more illustrious by their scientific renown, but we may in vain search the aristocracy now for philosophers, and there are very few persons who pursue science with true dignity. It is followed more as connected with objects of profit than those of fame, and there are 50 persons who take out patents for supposed inventions for one who makes a real discovery. In similar language the great Cambridge mathematician, Babbage, whose name is known to posterity, if for nothing else than for the invention of a calculating machine, bewailed the inferiority of England's position in the abstract sciences as compared even with several nations of lower, let alone of equal rank, and bewailed, too, the gradual decline of mathematics since the days of Newton. “The abuses existing in the management of our scientific institutions, the imperfect system of instruction which