

# Mr. Bruce Announces Australian Antarctic Expedition

## SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON WILL BE LEADER

To Start at End of Year, Will  
Use Discovery, Lent Free

### 'PLANES IN £16,000 GEAR

CANBERRA, Thursday.—An Australian expedition to the Antarctic, led by the Professor of Geology at Adelaide University (Sir Douglas Mawson), will leave Australia at the end of this year, the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) said in the House of Representatives to-night.

THE expedition will explore the region extending south of Australia from the Ross Sea in the east to Enderby Land in the west. It will carry out meteorological and scientific investigations, and examine the region's economic resources, especially as regards whaling. It will be equipped with aeroplanes, so that inland surveys can be made.

THE British Government would place the *Discovery*, specially built for ice work, at the disposal of the expedition, free, the Prime Minister said. Australia would have to find £16,000 for equipment, and of this New Zealand had promised £2,500.

AFTER having fully considered the question for several years," said the Prime Minister, "the Commonwealth Government has decided the time is ripe for an Australian expedition to that part of the Antarctic immediately south of Australia.

"In view of his great experience and knowledge of Antarctic conditions, and his world-wide scientific reputation, the Government asked Sir Douglas Mawson to lead the expedition. He agreed."

The interest of the Commonwealth in the Antarctic region extending from Ross Sea to Enderby Land, generally known as the Australian sector, had been often affirmed in the past, said the Prime Minister.

Of various expeditions there, the richest so far in scientific and other achievements was Mawson's expedition of 1911-1914.

The expedition the Government would organize this year would, it was hoped, complete and crown this previous Australian effort.

The British Government had placed the

*Discovery* at the disposal of the expedition. She was now in the service of the Falkland Island Dependency. She was the best ship at present afloat for the purposes of the expedition.

The N.Z. Government had been invited to co-operate in the expedition. The British Government had been invited to include representatives in the scientific personnel, and it was hoped New Zealand would co-operate in the same way.

The expedition, while predominantly Australian, would thus enjoy the advantage of the active co-operation of other parts of the British Empire.

The expedition would explore and map out that part of the coastline which could not be completed by the Mawson expedition of 1911.

"The exact locality of the coastline of this sector of the Antarctic in which Australia is interested is of material importance," said the Prime Minister. The expedition will therefore find its correct location, and chart coasts, islands, rocks, and shoals.

### Leader in Party which Discovered Magnetic Pole

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON, who is 47, and is Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at Adelaide University, had his first experience of the ice as a member of Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic in 1907, and was one of the party which discovered the South Magnetic Pole.

In 1911-14 he commanded the Australian expedition to the Antarctic, when 1,000 miles of new coastline were charted.

The expedition spent the winters of 1912 and 1913 on Adelie Land, and returned to Australia in February, 1914.

Lady Mawson, whom Sir Douglas married in 1914, soon after the return of the expedition, is a daughter of Mr. G.D. Delprat, of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, Ltd.