

**MAWSON EXPEDITION
WIRELESS MESSAGES
CHARGE OF DELAY REPUDIATED**

Canberra, February 5.

The Department of External Affairs emphatically denies an allegation published in Sydney that wireless messages from Sir Douglas Mawson are delayed because of the desire that the London "Times" should receive them first.

It was explained that there would be no advantage to Sir Douglas Mawson in favoring the London "Times," as suggested, because the messages were fully protected by copyright in Great Britain. Earlier or simultaneous publication of the messages in Australia, it was stated, would not in the slightest degree prejudice the position of the "Times."

That there are at times considerable gaps between the dates given in Sir Douglas Mawson's messages, and the dates of the receipt in Australia, is admitted by the department. Similar gaps are to be found in the messages published in the "Times."

Dispatch of Messages

The statement continues:—"What happens is quite clear. Sir Douglas Mawson dates his messages when he writes them. He then gives them to the wireless operator to transmit as soon as he can do so. Sometimes the messages are picked up by Amalgamated Wireless Limited at Sydney. At other times the messages have had to be relayed to London, and from there transmitted to Australia. So far as we know there has been no delay whatever in the transmitting from London. From the time Sir Douglas Mawson left Ker-guelen Island until he approached Enderby Land he was in direct touch with Sydney. He then lost touch, and his messages were relayed, probably through a vessel in the vicinity of South Africa to London, and thence to Sydney. Only to-day the Discovery re-entered the zone from which it can communicate direct with Sydney. To-day we have received two messages from Sir Douglas Mawson. The earlier message, dated February 3, had to be relayed through London, and only reached Canberra this morning. The second message was dated 3.40 a.m., February 5, and we received it first thing this morning."

ANTARCTIC GEOLOGY

ROCKS OF GREAT ANTIQUITY

Canberra, February 5.

The following message has been received from Sir Douglas Mawson:—

The occurrence was established of rocks of continental type throughout the land sector between 45 deg. and 90 deg. east longitude. These rocks for the most part constitute a metamorphic crystalline complex, obviously of great antiquity. In addition to these schists, gneisses, and associated plutonic igneous rocks, both granitic and gabbroic, there are met, although less abundantly, types which, though considerably altered, are obviously of sedimentary origin, such as quartzites and silicified marbles. A broad and general similarity exists between the rocks of this sector and of the known regions of Queen Mary and Adelle Lands.

Continental Region

Evidence sufficiently conclusive has been collected demonstrating the continuity of this newly explored area with the vast continental region of the sector located between longitude 90 deg. and 180 deg. east. This finally disposes of Murrell's reputed claim to have sailed from east to west south of the charted position in Enderby Land. The definite extensive recession of the ice sheet in geologically recent past times has been ascertained. This is evidenced by the glacially eroded flanks of the present nunataks, by the occurrence of erratics from the mainland on the very summit of off-lying islands, even at an elevation of almost 1,000 feet above sea level, by the occurrence ascertained by soundings and dredgings of extensive planated areas of adjacent sea floor, and also elsewhere of vast accumulations of moraine matter as offshore banks. (Reproduction in whole or in part outside Australia forbidden.)

ABORIGINAL SONGS

University Research

DR. DAVIES'S RECORDING

Through the generosity of Sir Joseph Verco, the Board of Anthropology of the University has been enabled to issue a number of gramophone records by Dr. Harold Davies, of Australian aboriginal songs, collected in various field expeditions during the past three years.

These records have been reproduced from the original wax cylinders by the Columbia Company, under the supervision of Professor Davies, and should



Dr. Harold Davies

prove of novel and surprising interest to those who are students either of ethnology or musical evolution. Three 12-inch double-sided discs include about 20 diversified songs interspersed with explanatory notes, as well as a concluding record of 20 English words and their Arunta equivalents spoken alternately. The latter is more or less experimental, and points to the use of the phonograph for securing not only dialectic variations, but also the exact inflection of the native voice in pronouncing a given series of familiar words.

Stone Age Man's Song

The records and explanatory notes, Dr. Davies declared yesterday, would speak for themselves, but although no one who listened to them need expect to hear vocal charm or anything in the shape of attractive music, they were nevertheless strikingly interesting as an indication of the Stone Age man's instinct for pitch relations and varied forms of emotional expression. Two outstanding characteristics would strike even the most casual listener. In the various repetitions of any song, the singer infallibly returned to his starting point; there was not a fractional loss of pitch. The integrity of each melody was quite definite; not one of them was a chance improvisation, but a fixed song outline faithfully recurring in the several stanzas, and often sung simultaneously by two or more singers. The only variations were ornamental inflections, especially of the upper key note. But even that was true to the spirit of musical evolution, in which purely decorative processes played such an important part.

It was expected that the gramophone records now issued would have a wide circulation. For the first time reliable examples of Australian aboriginal songs were available for museums and learned societies throughout the world. Many musical people would be glad to possess such clear evidence that music was not only an intuitive thing, but among the first and most natural attempts at self expression in primitive man.

Quaint, Appealing Music

Listening to the records, the impression gained is one of quaint, appealing music. Such items as "The Rat" and "The Wild Dog" have a curious beauty in their primitiveness. The latter, deals with a wild dog's cry to a visiting canine. "This is my country—Go away," and to any thoughtful hearer has a deep pathos. The frankly erotic love songs are curiously like, yet unlike, the popular Afro-American Jazz of to-day. The explanatory remarks by Dr. Davies are excellent in diction and admirable in their clearness and conciseness.

DR. WOOD JONES ARRIVES AT THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY

Brilliant Scientist Who Is Well Remembered In This State

THE GREAT KANGAROO CONTROVERSY

ADELAIDE has a special interest in the appointment of Dr. Wood Jones as Professor of Anatomy, at Melbourne University.

It was in South Australia that this brilliant scientist first came completely under the spell of the duckbill platypus and the embryonic marsupial. In Honolulu, Dr. Wood Jones looked back wistfully at his time in Adelaide; "I miss the marsupials; I miss the blackfellows' skulls," he wrote.

CERTAINLY one of the most brilliant of all the notable scientists who have made Adelaide University their working place, Dr. Wood Jones is best remembered in bush circles, not for his works on the origin of man or for his adventures on coral tolls; he goes down to history as the man who settled the Great Kangaroo Controversy.

Other scientific writers had, of course, done their little bit to convince the world that the marsupial starts his career in life just like any other animal, and not by any miraculous birth in the pouch. Bushmen simply dismissed their conclusions as contrary to the evidence of their eyes. Other scientists in turn would have ignored the fantastic theories of the unscientific. Professor Wood Jones, being as much interested in bushmen as in marsupials, met his critics on friendly ground.

The Squatters Convinced

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A bushman, writing to The Register, reopened the old story of miraculous marsupial birth. An article followed, in which the true facts were given, with the scientific explanation of the birth of the kangaroo, in a very immature form, and its subsequent transference to the pouch. Immediately The Register was inundated by letters from bushmen, hotly debating the scientific attitude, and scores of bottled joeys, from the size of blowflies upwards, were forwarded by post to floor the professor's arguments.

One day Professor Wood Jones met a party of well-known squatters at the University and showed them specimens and facts which reduced the bush theory to nothingness. The squatters went away convinced, but the army of correspondents was unsatisfied, and finally the professor issued a challenge. The unbelievers were invited to the University to see the specimens, and to make a contribution to charity if he could convince them. The demonstration duly took place, and the bush naturalists, like the Arabs, folded their controversial tents and silently stole away.

The Origin of Man

A more enduring monument to the professor's stay in this State is his work in two volumes, The Mammals of South Australia. No living scientist has made a more important contribution to the fascinating chapter of life which this country has in its keeping; the secrets of which beckoned to Dr. Wood Jones half a world away.

It was to his interest in our strange forms of animal life that South Australia owed the presence of this most distinguished scientist, and his enthusiasm was not only for dissected corpses and bottled specimens. Few Australians born had such love and appreciation for the queer beasts of our bush, and he did the State a service which should never

be forgotten in continually urging the preservation of the native fauna. Finden Chase owed much to his practical interest.

It was when Dr. Wood Jones was in Adelaide that he published his Unscientific Essays, a delightful volume which reveals an extraordinary zest for life and a true sense of beauty. In this book the scientist showed the other side of a personality which had already captivated South Australia—extreme independence of thought and the unconventional opinions of an original mind. In this and "Coral Atolls," an earlier book, he gives glimpses of an eventful life in strange places—wanderings and research in the tropics, an anthropological expedition to Nubia, the far-off days as medical officer in the Cocos Islands, and excursions on our own Pearson Island and in the known parts of South Australia.

An interesting chapter of "Coral Atolls" deals with the strange vicissitudes of the Clunies-Ross family, which has controlled the destinies of the Keeling (Cocos) group of islands for nearly a century. Into this remarkable family Dr. Wood Jones married. His wife, well remembered in Adelaide, is Fellow of the Zoological Society and of the Royal Geographical Society.

This Dr. Wood Jones, who came to Adelaide, a youthful looking man with a vivacious personality and an eager interest in his country, brought with him a vast reputation for scientific and literary work. His evolutionary theories, in his book "Arboreal Man," had been received with respect in the scientific world. His personal fame was briefly indicated by a prominent Londoner who said, "Wood Jones is one of the two or three scientific men who can fill a great public hall in London every time he likes to open his mouth."

As an evolutionist he went further than the Darwinian theory is popularly supposed to do. He traced the descent of man, through the great primates, but from an animal stock which is at the present time represented among living creatures by the lemur. His latest book, "Man's Place Among the Mammals" develops further this line of thought. It is being widely discussed in scientific circles.

Among his many gifts, the Professor is an artist of unusual ability, and his black and white drawings illustrated some of his published works, including "The Mammals of South Australia."

From Adelaide, Dr. Wood Jones went to Honolulu as Rockefeller Professor of Physical Anthropology in the University of Hawaii. His career is a record of important posts held with honour. It began with his appointment as demonstrator in anatomy in the London hospital. As anthropologist to the Egyptian Government he did fine work, and in 1914 he was appointed Professor of Anatomy in the London School of Medicine for Women.



PROFESSOR WOOD JONES