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**TO INVESTIGATE
 METEORITE CRATERS**

**Sir Douglas Mawson To
 Lead Party
 CURIOSITY OF CENTRAL
 AUSTRALIA**

As soon as it is practicable, Sir Douglas Mawson, of the Adelaide University, will lead a scientific expedition to the 13 great Henbury meteorite craters of Central Australia, south of the Macdonnell Ranges. One of these craters is 220 yards in diameter and more than 50 feet deep, and is the second largest meteorite crater known in the world.

So huge was the meteorite, which formed the craters when it fell ages ago, that its landing in the vicinity of Adelaide would have destroyed the whole of the metropolitan area. Three of these Central Australian craters are larger than the biggest crater made by the meteorite that blasted hundreds of square miles of forest when it fell in the Jenisser district of Siberia on June 30, 1908.

"Important Scientific Results"

Sir Douglas Mawson said last night that he would lead the expedition, which would be a small one, but well equipped scientifically, to the craters as soon as the weather became cooler. The exact date, however, depended upon several factors, including the return of Mr. A. R. Alderman, who was at present in that area. A small grant had been made, but it was not sufficient, and ways and means would have to be found for additional assistance.

"I believe the expedition will achieve important scientific results," Sir Douglas Mawson said. "Very few details in regard to the expedition have been completed yet, but a full announcement will be made at an early date."

Sir Edgeworth David's Interest

Our Sydney correspondent, in a telegram last night, stated that Sir Edgeworth David, Emeritus Professor of Geology at the University of Sydney, referring to the proposed expedition, said that last year, on the representations of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, the Federal Government had renewed the reserve which it had proclaimed in respect to the area of the nickel iron Henbury meteorite craters of Central Australia.

"Sir Douglas Mawson, in taking a party to explore the craters scientifically," he said, "proposes, in the first place, to determine, by an accurate magnetic survey in the neighborhood of the largest crater, the depth at which the nickel iron meteorite that produced it is now lying. Fragments of this meteorite are now being investigated by Professor Paneth, of Konigsberg, with the view of determining the absolute time at which the meteorite consolidated. This of course has nothing to do with the date of the fall of the meteorite, which, geologically speaking, is obviously recent; for, while there are large trees growing in the crater, there has not been time since the fall of the meteorite for the natural drainage of the country to fill up the crater, although it has to some extent obviously been silted up."

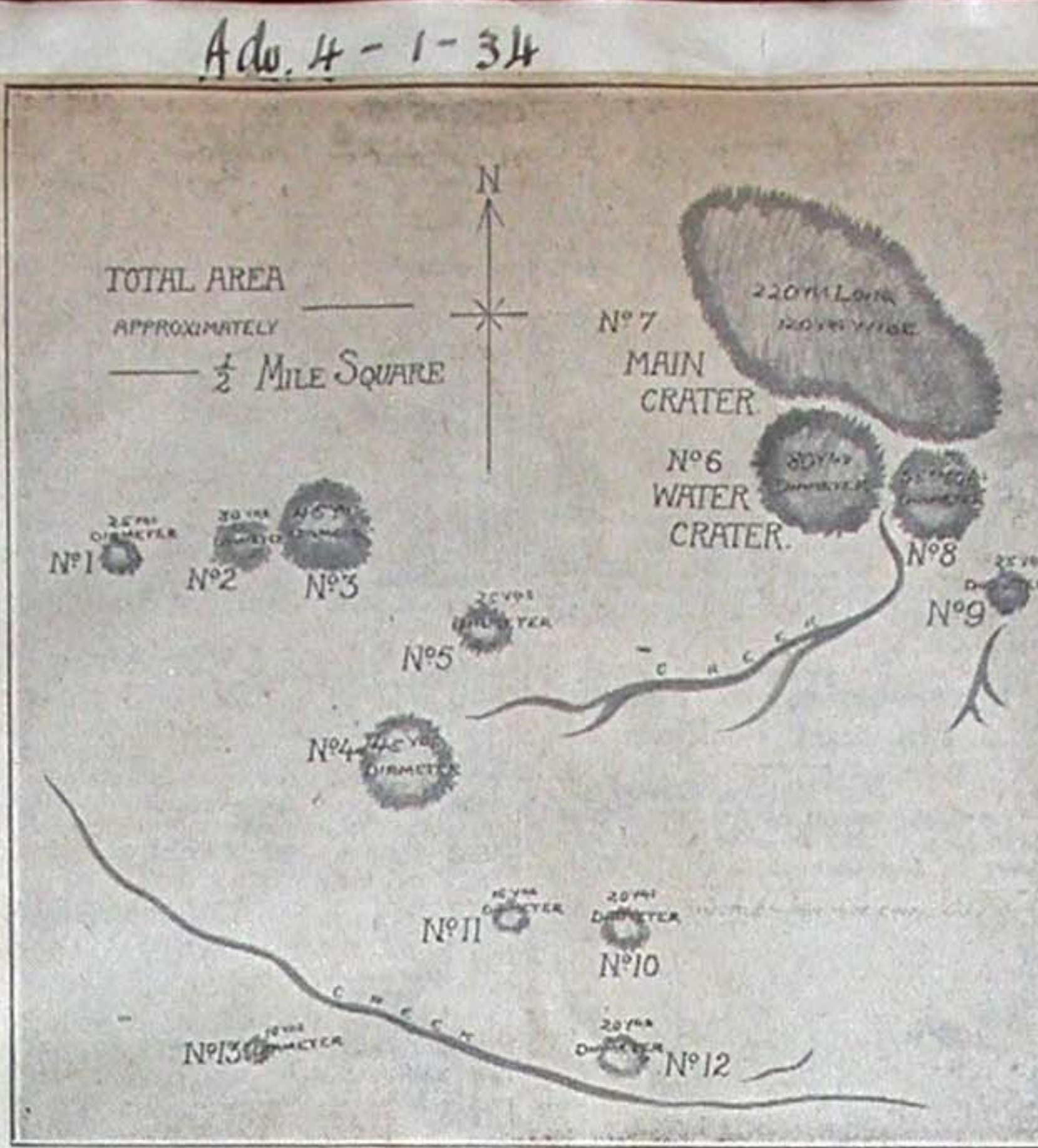
Early Investigations

Scientific attention was first drawn to the craters four years ago, when Mr. J. M. Mitchell, a prospector, of Oodnadatta, wrote to Professor Kerr Grant, of the Adelaide University, stating that there were signs of a large meteorite having fallen seven miles west-south-west of the Henbury cattle station on the Finke River. Mr. Mitchell sent a meteorite weighing several pounds to Professor Kerr Grant as proof. Later, after Mr. B. Bowman, manager of Tempe Downs station, had called on Professor Kerr Grant, the board of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery asked Mr. A. R. Alderman, a lecturer in geology at the University, to make a preliminary survey of the area. Mr. Alderman visited the area in May, 1930, accompanied by Mr. F. L. Winzor, a fellow lecturer at the University.

When he returned, Mr. Alderman said that the craters varied in size from about 220 yards to 10 yards across. Scattered over the surrounding country were more than 800 meteorite fragments, ranging in weight from a few ounces to 50 lb. The fragments consisted mainly of metallic iron and nickel.

Area Half A Mile Square

Mr. Alderman found at least twelve definite meteorite craters and a small one which also is probably genuine. The craters are scattered over an area about half a mile square. Much of the



earth has been washed inwards by rain and partly filled the craters. Large quantities also have been washed out over the surrounding plain, and there is now only a gentle slope up to the top of the crater walls. While this is some indication of the great age of the craters, it detracts somewhat from them as a spectacle.

Their floors and sides are covered with coarse grass, and mulga, acacias, and bluebush also are growing in them, although the surrounding country is a gibber plain on which there are trees only in the beds of the watercourses. A small creek leads into one of the craters, which Mr. Alderman named the Water Crater. After rain it holds water for several weeks. In this crater large trees are growing.

Thousands Of Years Old

No attempt has been made to determine the age of the craters, but everything points to them being thousands of years old. This assumption is supported by the fact that the aborigines in the district have no legends or stories regarding the place, nor do they appear particularly interested in it.

The 800 meteorite fragments located by Mr. Alderman, were found mainly on the western sides of the craters, which suggests that the meteorite came from the east. When the various portions struck the earth, thousands of pieces probably flew off, while the main masses buried themselves feet deep in the ground. The heat generated by the force of the impact was so great that the sandstone rocks in the vicinity were melted, and a number of pieces of such rock are to be picked up there today.

In several of the craters, Mr. Alderman noticed a number of low ridges of rock radiating from the edges. These were probably caused by the impact of the various portions of the meteorite forcing the rock of the district up into ridges. As far as is known this phenomenon has not been recorded in connection with any other similar craters.

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**STRANGE COURSES AT
 U.S. UNIVERSITIES**

**Make-up As B.A. Subject
 PROFESSOR RETURNS**

The efforts of some American universities to broaden and popularise university courses had had a rather startling result, said Dr. A. C. Garnett yesterday. He is an

Adelaide man, who has returned after more than five years in the United States, where he was professor of philosophy and philosophy of religion at the Indianapolis University. He was a passenger on the Mongolia, which reached the Outer Harbor on Saturday.

"Many Australians might be shocked," said Dr. Garnett, "to learn that in addition to public speaking, such subjects as dramatic art, which includes a course of make-up, are included in the syllabus for the B.A. degree." Many of the best universities in America, he said, were not State-controlled, but privately controlled, such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton. In

The location of the Henbury craters.

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recent years there had been, at the same time, an advance and a decline in the standard of education in the universities. The decline had been due to the enormous expansion of university education, and everybody's ideal of "going through" college. That ideal was first established by the famous President Elliott, of Harvard. The example set by Harvard was taken up, especially by the State universities, and carried to extremes which had shocked Harvard and the rest of the world.

Button-Holes For B.A. Degree

"From our point of view, it seems out of place to see university students taking lessons in cooking, and university girls learning to make button-holes," said Dr. Garnett "and it is also strange to us to learn that university athletes earn a certain amount of credit towards their degree by playing football. All those things help to accumulate credit hours for the student."

On the other hand, he explained, very solid work was done in the majority of universities in the recognised academic subjects, despite the fact that even in the departments of literature, philosophy and science a number of courses were included for persons who were spending four years at the university with the definite intention of becoming typists, or shop assistants, or selling automobiles, or getting married. In all of these common avocations, American employers wanted college men and college women, for much the same reason as employers in Australia preferred a boy from one of the public colleges. In America, one found university graduates selling gowns in department stores, and others behind the counter at Woolworth's. The American ideal was that a B.A. should not specialise, but should gain a breadth of culture, and a thorough grounding in "to" subjects for scientific research.

The best medical schools, said Dr. Garnett, were now demanding a complete college graduation, which meant that a man was 22 years of age before he began his medical course. The aim and end of American education was the Ph.D. degree, and, in the greater American universities, that was of a very high standard.

Change In Economic Life

"It is very difficult to realise the tremendous change that has come over economic life in America," continued Dr. Garnett, "and the drastic effects it is having on economic and political thought. From being a land of rugged individualism, America has awakened with a shock to realise that the days of unlimited opportunities are over. Hoover was a thorough-going representative of the classical American philosophy. The President (Mr. Roosevelt) represents a new and different outlook. He represents the rising social consciousness."

Last July and August, Dr. Garnett visited Germany, and summarising his impressions, he said one could not but be impressed by the tremendous enthusiasm of the Nazi movement. Although it seemed like stretching the term, in its way it was a moral enthusiasm. If there was any morality in patriotism, then there was at least that element of morality in the Nazi movement. What was occurring in Germany was the resurrection of national pride after a mood of defeatism induced by the war. German national pride had always been somewhat militaristic, and so its re-assertion of national spirit had taken a militaristic turn.

"At the same time," said Dr. Garnett, "I was impressed by the fact that the Nazis themselves realised that the present was no time to make war, and

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 by their genuine desire to win favor with foreign peoples." Dr. Garnett is in Adelaide visiting relatives, and while here will deliver lectures under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association.

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For Hobart.—The medical conference in Hobart will be responsible for many gaieties, and many of the visiting medical men will be accompanied by their wives. Among those expected from South Australia are Sir Henry Newland, Dr. and Mrs. J. Stanley Verco, Dr. and Mrs. Darcy Cowan, Dr. and Mrs. H. Gilbert, Dr. and Mrs. Bronte Smeaton, Dr. and Mrs. M. Ericksen, Dr. and Mrs. C. E. C. Wilson, Dr. and Mrs. H. A. McCoy, Dr. G. Brown, Dr. H. Jay, Dr. and Mrs. Rex Matters, Dr. and Mrs. J. MacBain Ross, Dr. G. W. Smith, and Miss Smith, Dr. L. C. E. Lindon.

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**University Of Tasmania To
 Receive Carnegie Grant**

HOBART, January 9. Advice has been received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York that an appropriation of 12,500 dollars (approximately £2,500) has been made to the University of Tasmania for adult education in the State.

The grant will be spread over five years, with an annual appropriation on a declining scale.

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**NEW LABORATORY
 DIRECTOR**

**Dr. McLaughlin To
 Succeed Dr. Bull**

IMPORTANT WORK

Yesterday Executive Council appointed Dr. E. McLaughlin, at a salary of £680 a year, to succeed Dr. L. B. Bull as director of the laboratory of bacteriology and pathology at the Adelaide Hospital.

Dr. Bull, who, as deputy director and director, has been connected with the laboratory for 18 years, resigned recently to take up a position with the Commonwealth Government as Deputy Chief of the Division of Animal Health in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.



Dr. E. McLaughlin Dr. L. B. Bull

search. He will begin his duties immediately, but before beginning his work in Australia will leave Melbourne on February 30 for 18 months in Europe and England to study his subject further, and establish contact with scientific workers there.

Valuable Work

In his work at Adelaide Hospital Dr. Bull established a wide reputation. The laboratory of which he was chief plays a most important part in the community welfare. Besides assisting in the diagnosis and treatment of patients at the hospital, and investigating obscure complaints and diseases, the laboratory performs valuable work for the public through the Hydraulic Engineer's Department in its service in connection with water supply and sewerage, and helps other public utilities such as boards of health and the Criminal Investigation Branch of the police force. It is associated also with the veterinary pathological work of the Stock Department.

Dr. McLaughlin, the new director, has worked with Dr. Bull as his deputy since 1928.

Born at Millicent in December, 1897, Dr. McLaughlin graduated in Adelaide, was house surgeon at the Adelaide and Children's Hospitals for a year, and then spent three years at hospitals in England. In 1927 he secured a Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, and came back to Adelaide in the following year. He was appointed deputy to Dr. Bull only a few months after his return.