

Register, Jan. 17, 1911.

## MAWSON EXPEDITION.

### ENCOURAGING SUBSCRIPTIONS.

SYDNEY, January 16.

The example set by the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in voting £1,000 toward the expenses of the Mawson Antarctic Expedition has given the fund a definite start. Dr. Mawson stated this evening that Mr. Robert Barr Smith (South Australia), Messrs. Hugh Dixon and Hugh Denison (Sydney), and Mr. Roderick Murchison (Melbourne), had each promised to contribute £1,000, and six other gentlemen had offered generous help. He hopes that the whole £40,000 will be subscribed by wealthy residents of the Commonwealth. The steamer alone is estimated to cost £10,000 a year. Dr. Mawson within a few days will proceed to London, and he is hopeful that a cable message will await him there conveying the welcome news that Australia has subscribed the money required, and that he will be free to push ahead with arrangements. "We intend," he said, "to explore the coastline between Cape Adair and Grassberg, a length of over 2,000 miles. In addition a party will be sent inland towards the magnetic pole from the north coast. Four parties, wintering about 100 miles apart, will be required for exploring and surveying the Cape Adair-Grassberg coastline. The ship will be sent back to Australia, but so soon as she has coaled will proceed to sea again for the purpose of making a magnetic and oceanographic (sounding, dredging, and determination of currents) survey of the seas to the south of Australia."

Dr. Mawson has made it known, as Sir Ernest Shackleton previously did, that there is to be no attempt to reach the South Pole. This achievement, it is expected, will fall to the lot of Captain Scott during his next expedition. Students of Arctic research are of the opinion that the interests of science will be better served by systematic exploration in the northern regions than by any dash for the pole, however brilliant this may be as a piece of daring and resolute courage. This, of course, does not detract from the honor due to Peary, who seems to have satisfied the scientific societies, as well as the American Congress, that he actually performed the feat, though his failure to take a white man with him as witness when he was well able to do so will always have the effect of casting some doubt on his claim. Leaving to Captain Scott the glory of planting the British flag at the southern terminus of the earth's axis, Dr. Mawson is on science bent. Valuable as was the work carried out by the members of the Shackleton expedition, it was far from being complete. A veritable storehouse of wonders is awaiting the advent of experts in nature investigation, to whom it is ready to yield secrets which may prove of inestimable importance in adding to the sum total of human knowledge. Probably a sentimental value only attaches to the annexation of such territories as King Edward VII. Land, Queen Victoria Land, or even the South Magnetic Pole for the Empire, although it is not difficult to understand the pride of Professor David and those who were with him on January 16, 1909, as they solemnly bared their heads and hoisted the Union Jack while the professor repeated the formula taught him by the leader of the party—"I hereby take possession of this area, now containing the Magnetic Pole, for the British Empire." There is something exhilarating in the achievement of a long-cherished purpose, and to add to the extent of the Empire, even in "a barren land, where no man comes nor ever has come since the making of the world," serves at least as an expression of loyalty.

Dr. Mawson proposes to proceed to England at once to complete the necessary arrangements for the expedition. Naturally the first consideration is financial, but as Sir Ernest Shackleton is so actively interesting himself in this part of the programme, there is little reason to doubt that large contributions will be made in England. Indeed, Dr. Mawson states that one gentleman promised £10,000, and if necessary £20,000; but the former leader expects to raise £70,000. There is, however, a desire that the expedition should be distinctly Australian, and if this is to be the case at least a fair proportion of the cost should be borne by the people of the Commonwealth. The Science Congress made a conditional vote of £1,000 the other day, and the Federal Government is to be appealed to. Possibly, too, the State Governments may feel a desire to assist, and private liberality will doubtless do something to help along the project. There is a certain degree of appropriateness in the expedition being undertaken by an Australian, and in making it Australian in character, for the land to be explored lies directly south of this continent. The first place of call, Dr. Mawson has explained, is to be Cape Adare, where a base is to be established, and the coastline will be explored between this spot and Gauss Berg, in Kaiser William Land, a distance of 2,400 miles. This coastline, the leader says, "is quite as accessible as Alaska," and he sees no reason why gold should not be discovered in these southern latitudes as well as in the north. But even if no trace of the precious metal should be discovered, the main object of the expedition, which is to add in every possible way to existing knowledge concerning these cold latitudes, will doubtless be achieved. An investigation of the in-

fluence of these icy regions on the meteorological conditions of Australia is likely to yield important results, and the former geographical connection between Antarctica, Australasia, South America, and South Africa presents an attractive subject for research and study. Motor cars and sledges will be utilised in locomotion, and wireless telegraphy will add to the completeness of the equipment. With a number of experienced polar explorers and several expert scientists attached to it the expedition should prove one of the most successful that has ever gone south.

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## THE ANTARCTIC.

### MAWSON EXPEDITION.

£5,000 SUBSCRIBED.

Sydney, January 16.

In addition to the £1,000 subscribed by the Science Association towards the Mawson Antarctic expedition, Mr. R. Barr Smith, of South Australia; Mr. Hugh Dixon, of Sydney; and Mr. H. R. Denison, of Sydney, have each subscribed £1,000 towards the fund. Some time ago Mr. Roderick Murchison, of Melbourne, stated that he was prepared to give £1,000. These amounts bring the total to £5,000. There are other wealthy Australians who have promised to support the expedition, but have not yet stated the amount of their contribution. The work of carrying out the expedition is now in the hands of a special committee, consisting of the leading scientific men in the Commonwealth. Professor Davis is chairman of this committee, and in his absence Professor Orme Masson, of Melbourne, will act. Mr. T. S. Hall will act as treasurer in Melbourne. Dr. Mawson, who is to lead the expedition, will leave for Melbourne to-morrow, and later on he will go to England in connection with the enterprise.

Register, Jan. 18.

Dr. W. L. Cleland, the chief officer of the South Australian Lunacy Department, is 64 years old to-day. He has, according to "Johns' Notable Australians," been in charge of the Parkside Asylum since 1878, and has been Colonial Surgeon since 1896. He was born in Hongkong on January 18, 1847, and was a son of the late Mr. John Fullerton Cleland (Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages of South Australia). He is now head of an old Ayrshire family—Cleland of Cleland—related to Robert Bruce and William Wallace, and represents the twenty-second generation in direct descent. He arrived in Australia in 1852, and after having received primary education in Adelaide he went to Berne, Switzerland, and the Edinburgh University, to complete his education. He has been a lecturer in the Adelaide University since 1886, was President of the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association in 1890, of the Royal Society of South Australia during 1898, 1899, and 1900, and of the Section on Mental Science and Education of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1901.

## ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION.

Australians will regard with natural interest the expedition which Dr. Mawson proposes to lead to the Antarctic regions towards the end of the year. Originally it was the intention of Sir Ernest Shackleton to make still another journey south, and in that case he would have been in charge of the party of polar explorers. It appears, however, that the hero of the "Heart of the Antarctic" will be unable in the near future to renew his work in these southern latitudes, and the command of the expedition is therefore to be entrusted to the young South Australian scientist, who won the confidence of all connected with the Shackleton expedition of 1907-9, and especially of the leader and Professor David. After the splendid service rendered to the scientific branch of the operations on that occasion it is not surprising that Sir Ernest Shackleton, when contemplating another trip, should have asked Dr. Mawson to take charge of the scientific work. The assistance he gave in connection with the location of the South Magnetic Pole, apart from his other distinguished work as an original investigator, would have entirely justified his appointment to this arduous and responsible post. But the confidence of the former leader in the young Australian evidently extends beyond appreciation of his scientific attainments and enthusiasm, for when Sir Ernest Shackleton found himself unable to carry out his contemplated enterprise, which was to begin near the end of the present year, he cabled to Dr. Mawson—"I cannot possibly go to the Antarctic, but I am furthering the project for you as much as possible." Thus the opportunity of commanding an expedition from which great results are expected falls to an Australian scholar who has already demonstrated his qualifications for such an undertaking.

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