AUSTRALASIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Dr. Mawson's Project.

[By Dr. Mawson.]

Notice has already appeared in the press concerning the organization of a scientific expedition to the Antarctic Continent, expected to leave Australia during the year 1911. The idea was first made public by the Duke of Antwerp at the Colonial and Expositions in Oxford, April 18, when certain details have, however, been confined to a very limited circle. At the request of the late Sir Ernest Shackleton intended to command the expedition, and to accompany himself as scientific director. Shortly afterwards, however, it has been prevented from him from adhering to his intention, and his place has been taken by Sir William Gosse. It is necessary to explain these changes as fully as possible, if genuine support and further the expedition is to be led by myself. Naturally I am most desirous that it shall be Australia that will find the means to carry out the enterprise.

Various notices of the projected expedition have continued to appear in the London and Australian press, and much comment has been made on the subject. No doubt such notices have, however, been of limited use from time to time with a view of securing from foreign countries the area has been approached by Dr. Adolph and Gano Benito, and thus keeping the ground clear for the Australian expedition. The Australian exploration has, so far, been confined to two areas on opposite sides of the continent, and it is to be hoped that the success of the enterprise will be its means to secure the south geographic pole. A large part of the explorations and information obtained can be of no use until nothing more than a wall of ice, and there is a natural interest in Australia, where it is our intention to proceed. This includes 2,089 miles of November covering the greater part of the continent, and fundamental importance to the scientific and commercial interests of the region. We are in a position to offer a wide and valuable skeleton. The skins and fur are now being marketed, and the value has been increased, and at the present time a large part of the product will be the result of this enterprise and the direction.

The possibility of the existence of fur seals is also not excluded. The area in which the Australian hearing facilities of the expedition have volunteered for the scientific part are: any one or any combination of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, which will be carried out under the auspices of the Government of New South Wales, and the proceeds of the sale of the product will be devoted to the advancement of the cause of this and in a few weeks.

It is proposed to be held that Australians will not allow to escape the opportunity of fostering an undertaking which, being carried out in a manner that is of the highest value, will stimulate the public interest and knowledge. This will be my personal contribution individually by many of our philanthropic bodies.

Through the support of Sir Ernest Shackleton, this new preparation has been made, and I have arranged to proceed to London on an official mission for the purpose of taking final steps with regard to purchases and the arrangements for the expedition in Australia. Before such steps can be taken, it is necessary for the expedition to be provided financially and, in so far as it is possible, for the expedition to be assisted to a foreign nation, several of which are already pressing upon Australia to contribute to the cost of the expedition.

Professor David, of a number of other great universities, who have declared their intention to take part in the expedition, and the financial assistance which they can give to the expedition. It is understood that the Government of Great Britain will also give financial assistance to the expedition. It is understood that the Government of Great Britain will also give financial assistance to the expedition. It is understood that the Government of Great Britain will also give financial assistance to the expedition.

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