

Advertised June 18th, 1910 Register, June 17th

Professor Chapman said a great deal of good had already been done by the conferences of the Australian sections of the association, and it was reasonable to expect that at the congress proposed they would meet some of the greatest men, and that accordingly greater benefits would result to Australia.

Mr. W. Howchin, in supporting the request, said up to the present two congresses of the association had been held in Canada and one in South Africa. At the last Toronto meeting 376 papers were read and among the delegates were 52 Fellows of the Royal Society, the most select scientific body in the world. In South Africa, in 1905, 277 papers were read on various scientific subjects. The total membership of that conference was 2,130, including 380 oversea members of the association. The South African Government contributed £6,000, and private subscriptions to the amount of £3,000 were raised.

The Minister, in reply, said the Government would be prepared to give every reasonable assistance to any proposal for the advancement of scientific research. The sum they were asking for was a large amount, and after he had submitted the request to his colleagues they would have to get the approval of Parliament. Probably the best course would be to set aside say, £1,000, and take the opinion of Parliament on that, with the understanding that the balance would be placed on the Estimates, which were usually dealt with towards the end of the session. He understood it was necessary to get an early expression of opinion from Parliament in order that the invitations could be issued, and the course he suggested would enable that to be done. He could promise them that he would bring the question before his colleagues without delay. He did not attach so much importance to the value of the congress as an advertising gathering. Its real value would be in the stimulus given to scientific research and the clashing of scientific minds in deliberation on scientific subjects under differing conditions. He quite recognised the strength of the argument that Australian scientists were working under disadvantages through being placed so far from the centres of old-world scientific associations, and he felt confident the Commonwealth would be justified in inviting members of the British Association to assemble in congress in Australia. He would place the request before his colleagues and urge them to take an early vote in Parliament on the subject. He would like to know also what the State Governments intended doing, because they could help materially in the success of such a gathering, having at their disposal the means of travel and all the other necessary conveniences.

Mr. Howchin said the State Governments would be approached and asked to assist.

THE CALL OF THE ICE REGIONS.

DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

ITS AIMS AND OBJECTS.

Dr. Douglas Mawson returned to Adelaide on Friday, after a seven months' absence in England and Europe, in connection with the work of the Shackleton Antarctic expedition, of which he was a prominent member. Interviewed by a representative of "The Advertiser" shortly after his arrival, with regard to the proposed Australian Antarctic expedition, Dr. Mawson stated that, having definitely refused an invitation to accompany Captain Scott in his dash for the pole, he considered what could be done in the way of scientific exploration of that great length of coastline south of Australia. He mentioned the matter to Lieutenant Shackleton, who agreed to organise an Australian expedition to the Antarctic, to have its headquarters in the Commonwealth, and to start early in 1911 for the purpose of making scientific research and investigation along the 2,400 miles of unknown territory between Cape Adair and Gaussburg. In the event of Captain Shackleton being unable to conduct the expedition on account of business matters, he himself would be placed in charge. The required funds would be raised by subscription, and supporters of the expedition would be able to arrange for experts to accompany the party to make a search for discoveries of commercial value, in the ownership of which they would participate.

"I am certain," said Dr. Mawson, "that never was the time so opportune for the dispatch of such an expedition. It would go to the only region in the Antarctic full of economic possibilities, as it is the only part where ships can safely ply. Our object would be to accumulate data relating to all branches of science. Of course we would pay attention to the possibilities of economic development, such as the likelihood of discovering coal and other mineral deposits, and guano, and note what opportunities are afforded in that vast unexplored territory for the establishment of industries in connection with seal oil, seal pelts, and whaling. Scientific observations in connection with the earth's magnetism and meteorology, would also be made, and should be of the highest value in their bearing on Australian conditions."

You have seen the Commonwealth Meteorologist's comment on your statements previously published? Dr. Mawson was asked.

"I hold the same opinions still," he said. "Mr. Hunt suggests that what are required are meteorological stations at certain positions south of Australia, and he said a station at Antarctica would be of no use. But there is no land where he suggests that stations are needed, and commonsense tells that then the next best situation might be of advantage. Even if experience showed that the cost of keeping a permanent wireless station there was not justified, a year's records taken there would be of incalculable value to meteorology. Until we have those records we cannot finally discuss the conditions of temperate Australia. The geology of the coast is certain to yield greater results than could be obtained by any Antarctic expedition. I expect this projected visit to the far south to result in lasting benefits for Australia, and I confidently hope for its fruition."

CONSERVATORIUM ORCHESTRA.

It is probable that the greater part of the audience on Monday night considered it had been rewarded by the finest orchestral performance yet presented in the Elder Hall. Mr. Heinicke and his instrumentalists require to be congratulated straightway. The best one can say of last night's programme is that one longs to hear it again. Can it not be? Must one be patiently content with these rare opportunities of hearing great orchestral works—well played? Briefly, the conductor swayed a well-disciplined, strongly balanced, and unusually highly trained company. Miss Sylvia Whittington made a spirited leader, and was supported by violinists of capable experience, while the brasses and wood-winds were in almost always pleasant evidence. Beethoven's No. 1 Symphony (in C) opened the programme. This early work bears the mark of the great man's originality, if not of his highest genius. It was excellently performed, particularly the rapid and remarkable third movement; a spectacular feature was the rhythmic pulsing of the drums which dominated the slow movement. The next item was Schumann's "The two Grenadiers"—the soloist, Mr. Lionel Clark. The orchestration had been cleverly and most effectively scored by Mr. Winsloe Hull, of the singing staff. As to the quality of the vocalist, one was somewhat obliged to guess, for the instruments overpowered the deeper range of his not over-resonant baritone voice. Mr. John Meegan was the soloist in the ethereal andante movement of Mendelssohn's E minor concerto. A gifted violinist, he infused expression into the lovely work, albeit there might have been occasionally more purity of sustained tone. The orchestral shading was exquisite. There followed the superb "Peer Gynt" suite. Mr. Heinicke achieves a thrilling portrayal of these unearthly incidents, and the Greig suite will have to remain, by request, at least an annual delight for concert goers. At the conclusion of the four components, a stormy appeal was quelled by the repetition of "Aase's Tod." It was given with a realism which truly conjured fluttering, fading, heart-breaking death itself. In Beethoven's song "Adelaide" Mr. Alexander Cooper excelled himself. He was recalled in genuine appreciation. Miss Ethel Doenau made triumphant capital as soloist in the Arensky concerto (in F minor) for piano and orchestra. This magnificent composition, and for equally superlative treatment, was forthcoming—to the prolonged delight of the audience. Finally was given the overture to "Maximilian Robespierre." Another "immense" number, this, with crashing air of the "Marseillaise" woven.—Encore, Orchestra!

Register June 27th

Mr. L. F. Burgess, B.Sc., was on Friday appointed by the Council of the University of Adelaide Angus scholar for 1910. This distinction carries with it a grant of £200 a year for two years to enable the winner to study engineering in the best European or other centres. A successful candidate may go to whatever institution he choose so long as it is approved by the council. The two previous winners proceeded to America. Mr. Burgess has had a particularly brilliant career ever since he left Prince Alfred College. Formerly the appointment was made as the result of an elementary examination, but this year there was a new departure in the direction of deciding by thesis. The candidates were asked to write a thesis on an engineering subject, and Mr. Burgess dealt with the electrification of the Glenelg Railway line. The successful candidate is in the employment of the Municipal Tramways Trust at one of its converter stations.