

LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

THE DASH TO THE POLE.

A GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION.

There was a "full house" at the Elder Hall on Saturday evening, when Lieutenant Shackleton delivered a graphic account of the dash to the South Pole and showed his audience a fine series of lantern views of the scenes encountered throughout that perilous journey. His Excellency the Governor, who presided, was accompanied by Lady Bosanquet and the Misses Bosanquet, and attended by his suite. In introducing Lieutenant Shackleton to the audience, his Excellency said they were indebted to the Chancellor of the University (Sir S. J. Way) for having placed that fine hall at the disposal of the lecturer. He had no doubt that had a hall with ten times that space been available, it would easily have been filled, such was the interest shown in the work of the intrepid party who essayed the trip to the South Pole under the leadership of Lieutenant Shackleton. Their speeches of welcome had been made at the Adelaide Town Hall that morning, so he would make way at once for Lieutenant Shackleton. (Cheers.)

The lights were then turned down, and for over an hour and a half Lieutenant Shackleton entranced his audience with an eloquent description of the hardships endured, the gallant efforts made, and the heroism displayed by many members of the party on that memorable journey, from the time the Nimrod left New Zealand for the great unknown till she returned early this year with important tidings that the south magnetic pole had been defined, and that another section of the party had penetrated much farther south than had ever before been reached. As a lecturer Lieutenant Shackleton has few equals, and on Saturday night he had a subject that struck a responsive chord in the hearts of his audience, so the time passed all too quickly. Almost before they realised it the audience had, figuratively speaking, accompanied the gallant explorer to the extreme south polar regions, and were back to the Nimrod and heading for civilisation once more. Hundreds of photographs of absorbing interest were shown, and these, as much as any oral description could give, conveyed to the audience a vivid impression of the extraordinary hardships that had to be faced and difficulties to be overcome in the perilous journey southwards. There were pictures, first of the great storm encountered at sea just as the Nimrod picked up the tow-line and was being towed southwards; then followed admirable views of the south polar regions, including the great ice barrier, Mount Erebus, the awe-inspiring glaciers, the men of the expedition, the ponies, dogs, the depots established, the winter quarters, the Nimrod, the fearful blizzards which wrought such destruction, the planting of the Union Jack at the spot where the magnetic pole was defined, and the historic scene when Lieutenant Shackleton hoisted the Union Jack, which her Majesty the Queen had presented to the expedition, at a point farther south than had ever before been reached by man. At the close Lieutenant Shackleton put on a fine series of pictures depicting the bird life in the south polar region. Referring to the discovery of the south magnetic pole he remarked that the north magnetic pole was discovered in 1821 by a Britisher, Sir James Clark Ross, and the south was located by Mr. Douglas Mawson, also a Britisher. When speaking at the reception in the Adelaide Town Hall at noon Lieutenant Shackleton referred to the numerous instances when, if they had to depend on his leadership alone, they would have perished, and in the evening he gave several instances of remarkably narrow escapes they had experienced, both as a party and individually. Divine Providence seemed to watch over the expedition from the start to the close of the perilous undertaking. In conclusion, he said, the interest in the expedition was in the increased knowledge it would bring in the future, and he felt confident that any future expedition would be watched with the greatest interest by the people of this country.

The Governor, in proposing a vote of thanks to the lecturer, remarked that it was generally believed that the man of action was not gifted with the power of expressing his impressions, but in Lieutenant Shackleton they had a man of action delivering a remarkable lecture in the most eloquent language possible. (Cheers.) The object of the expedition was primarily the advancement of science, and the solving of the problems connected with the variations of the compass and magnetism. They desired to express their admiration of the high qualities of mind and body evinced by Lieutenant Shackleton, Mr. Mawson, and the other members of the expedition, and they wished every possible success and happiness to them in the future. (Cheers.)

The Chancellor seconded the motion, which was carried with three cheers for Lieutenant Shackleton, his Excellency, and Mr. Mawson.

The lighting for the lantern views was supplied by Mr. A. O. Thomas.

brow. There it would remain throughout his life, and not a leaf of it would ever wither. (Cheers.)

Lieutenant Shackleton, who was received with three cheers on rising to respond, said so many kindly words had been spoken that he felt much embarrassed in his attempt to reply for the expedition. (Cheers.) Full well he and everyone of his companions knew their limitations, and they know that they did not do all they set out to do. So kindly was the feeling in Australia and at home, however, that their shortcomings were overlooked, and their work was appraised at perhaps far more than its value. ("No.") Though he, as leader of the expedition, tried to do his best, throughout the expedition, not once or twice, but many times there arose circumstances which no leadership could foresee, and they had to rely, and did rely, on some Power greater than theirs, that helped them over those difficulties. (Cheers.) There were times when they were almost starving. In the plateau, when Mr. Mawson returned from making his journey to the Pole, and when the western party went out; and he could remember instances when, if they had had to depend on human leadership alone, they would have failed. (Cheers.) He wanted to say this carefully and plainly, because everyone in the expedition realised that in their hearts, that the credit for a great deal was not due to them. There was also another aspect of the case. He followed in the footsteps of his former captain. It was Captain Scott, of the Discovery, who did the pioneering work, and every pioneer, as they knew in this young country, went out to pave the way for those who followed. That was his position. The 260 odd miles that Captain Scott pioneered were 260 easy miles for the present expedition, and enabled him, before he started, to arrange equipment suitable for the unknown country that was still before him. (Cheers.) He had also to remember that he came out to Australia desperately in need of funds, and that the Commonwealth Government unanimously voted a substantial sum, which proved very useful in the carrying out of the scientific work. (Cheers.) Therefore it gave him all the more pleasure to feel that the men who came from Australia did such good work, and to know that the money was used, as far as they were able to do so, in a manner that they hoped would be acceptable to the people of Australia, who believed in them in those early days. (Cheers.) He could say no more, except that when he left Australia in a few days he would take with him the remembrance of the kindness shown in this country towards the 15 of them who were in the shore party, and the 20 men in the ship. (Cheers.) Their work was not done by one or two men. They were only able to do what they did by the active co-operation of the whole of the expedition. (Cheers.) As his Excellency said, it was only by the active co-operation of every man of the party, all working for the one object, that, while they did not reach their goal, they were able to do something. (Cheers.) And, therefore, it was with his companions that he would take this kindly greeting of sympathy from the people of South Australia. (Cheers.)

Mr. Mawson, who met with a great reception, said he looked upon himself as one of the ruck of the expedition, and he took it that the meeting that morning was not held in his honor, but rather as a tribute of respect to the leader. He was very pleased to see the spontaneous and heartfelt reception which had been accorded Lieutenant Shackleton. The newspapers had told them the sort of man Lieutenant Shackleton was, and they were able to judge for themselves that morning. (Cheers.) The leader had taken no special credit to himself for the success of the expedition, but all the same, it rested mainly on him. (Cheers.) As a South Australian, for the time being, he was exceedingly grateful for the honor they had done Mr. Shackleton that morning. (Cheers.)

HATS OFF TO SHACKLETON!

ARRIVAL OF ANTARCTIC EXPLORER

CORDIAL RECEPTION.

The Melbourne express on Saturday morning brought to Adelaide the distinguished antarctic explorer Lieut. Shackleton, who will be remembered in history as the man who led the British expedition of 1907-9. People had awaited his coming eagerly, and there was a cordial crowd at North terrace to get a first glimpse of him. Among those who met Lieut. Shackleton were His Honor the Chief Justice, the Speaker of the House of Assembly (Sir Jenkin Coles), the Chief Secretary (Hon. F. S. Wallis), the President of the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia (Mr. W. B. Wilkinson), Professor E. C. Stirling, C.M.G., F.R.S., Messrs. Simpson Newland, W. P. Auld, A. W. Piper, A. W. Dobbie, Douglas Mawson, and E. Kyffin Thomas, and Lieut.-Col. Weir, who, in behalf of the Premier (Hon. T. Price), placed the Government motor car at the disposal of the visitor. The South Australian branch of the League of Empire, through Miss Rees George, extended greetings to the explorer. After a round of handshaking Lieut. Shackleton motored to Government House, and met His Excellency Admiral Sir Day Hort Bosanquet and Lady Bosanquet.

"I do not think it possible to say anything fresh." This was Lieut. Shackleton's courteous, half-laughing reply to the interviewers. "You must have had columns and columns about the expedition one way and another. And as journalists you will readily understand that I have to keep faith with the publishers of my book. You see, I've been lecturing in all the States on behalf of charities, and I have two more here." All this time Lieut. Shackleton was opening letters and telegrams in the room provided for him at Government House, and a business-like secretary was reminding him of a reception half an hour off, and interjecting details of other arrangements. Mr. Shackleton chatted quietly and amiably. "Where is the Nimrod?" Oh, she is leaving Sydney to-day after having been in dry dock for repair. First of all she is going down to McQuarie Island to collect specimens, and then a search will be made in sub-antarctic regions for several islands, the existence of which is doubtful. No one has ever landed on the Emerald, the Nimrod, or Dougherty Islands. This work will be in charge of Capt. J. K. Evans, the skilful commander of the Nimrod. The collection we made in the antarctic will be distributed among Australasian museums.

The writing of the book, which will tell the thrilling and brilliant story of the Shackleton expedition, is well ahead. The manuscript, according to the agreement, is to be in the publisher's hands by July, and they expect to launch it towards the end of the year. Mr. Shackleton is a journalist, and knows the value of going to the public while interest is hot. No time will be wasted, therefore, in issuing the publication. "It will be one of the season's books," remarked the author. "The photographs have turned out remarkably well. Thousands were taken, and probably 1,000 of them are really good. Every phase of the expedition is presented. Yes; I am putting a lot of work into that book. Then we have about 4,000 ft. of cinematograph films, showing life in the antarctic—the emperor penguins and the seals, the camps, and those wonderful landscapes."

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