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MAWSON EXPEDITION.

MEETING IN MELBOURNE.

GREAT ENTHUSIASM.

Melbourne, September 13.

Dr. Douglas Mawson must have felt his position in connection with his Antarctic expedition immensely strengthened by the reception accorded him at the Town Hall to-night. Between 1,500 and 2,000 people thronged the hall and they marked their approval of the project all along the line. Expressions of regret were heard because Mr. Fisher, in his speech, did not announce anything in the shape of Federal assistance, a feeling that Mr. Deakin made pointed reference to. Otherwise the audience bubbled over with enthusiasm. They cheered whenever Dr. Mawson's, Professor David's, or Sir E. Shackleton's name was mentioned. They agreed cordially that Australians ought to provide motive power for the Mawson machine.

Lord Denham (the Governor-General) presided, and in his opening address referred to Dr. Mawson as "My friend." He expressed the belief that the meeting augured well for the success of the appeal to Melbourne and Victorians. "Because," said his Excellency, in a concluding passage, "I admire the gluck and spirit of the enterprise which animates Dr. Mawson and his comrades, because I am a firm believer in the practical value of the objects they are setting out to attain, and because I am satisfied that this expedition will redound to the credit of Australia, I appeal to you with confidence to extend to Dr. Mawson your sympathetic encouragement and support."

Dr. Mawson said the aims and scope of this expedition would rank amongst the big geographical undertakings of modern times, but without the support of all Australians they could count on nothing. (Cheers.) The success of their efforts would add materially to the sum of human knowledge and advance the high status of Australian science. There would be no attempt to reach the south geographical pole. It was a purely scientific expedition, that would seek the important data bound up in the great Antarctic continent. Without further preliminaries, he proceeded to throw light on the subject by means of a lantern and slides. The audience followed him with rapt attention, applauding any reference to the part Australians have already played in the Antarctic.

"We ask you," concluded Dr. Mawson; "fifty-two of us ask you to help us to set out and lift the veil of ignorance from this great south land." (Cheers.)

The Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher) put the case for the expedition tersely. "I am not one of those," he said, "who believe that there is no advantage to be gained from scientific exploration if it does not give an equivalent return in hard cash." The audience cheered. It was an opportunity, Mr. Fisher said, that seldom fell to a young people, and he appealed to Australians to assist to give a young Australian a place on the scroll of fame as high as any of his predecessors. He put before the meeting a motion commending the expedition to Australians.

Mr. Deakin, who followed, took the view that there was something still to be added to Mr. Fisher's remarks. "One of the voices I hope to hear raised most distinctly with that of the Australian people on behalf of the expedition will be the voice of the Australian Government," he said amid cheers. "The Government in New South Wales have acted with noble generosity," and even the ranks of Melbourne could scarce forbear to cheer. "I trust," he added, "that a spirit of emulation will spring up in the sister States, and that the whole edifice will be crowned by the act of the Commonwealth." (Cheers.)

Senator Walker, Professor Masson, Professor Henderson, and the Lord Mayor of Melbourne were among others who commended the scheme. Senator Walker said if New South Wales could give £7,000 it would not be out of place if the Federal Parliament gave £10,000.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIVES £5,000.

Melbourne, September 13.

In the House of Representatives to-day the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher), on the motion for adjournment, informed Mr. Wise that the Government had decided to give £5,000 to the Mawson expedition to the Antarctic.

Mr. Joseph Cook asked—"Are you to be beaten by a State Government?"

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DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

New South Wales Assistance.

SYDNEY, September 12.

It has been decided by the Government to contribute £7,000 towards Dr. Mawson's Antarctic Expedition. Dr. Mawson's claim for assistance from the New South Wales Government was warmly supported by Professor David. Mr. Samuel Hordern has given £2,500 towards the expenses of the expedition, and Mr. Hugh Dixon and Mr. H. R. Denison £1,000 each.

MAWSON EXPEDITION.

Commonwealth Assistance.

MELBOURNE, September 13.

In the House of Representatives on Wednesday evening the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher), on the motion for adjournment, said that the Government had decided to give £5,000 towards the cost of the Mawson expedition to the Antarctic. Mr. Cook (N.S.W.) remarked, "Are you to be beaten by a State Government?" but the query went unanswered.

ENTHUSIASTIC MELBOURNE MEETING.

MELBOURNE, September 13.

A large audience crowded the town hall to-night to hear Dr. Douglas Mawson, who will lead the Australian antarctic expedition. Amongst those present were the Governor-General (who presided) and Lady Denham, the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher), the Leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr. Deakin), Sr. Walker, and the Lord Mayor.

The Governor-General, in introducing the lecturer, said a few months ago Dr. Mawson and Sir Ernest Shackleton had been kind enough to explain to him some of the details of their plans. These plans appealed to him for various reasons. Firstly, it was to be an Australian expedition, and the first of any kind which had sailed from Australian shores. Secondly, there were the scientific and practical purposes. These brave men would earn credit for themselves and Australia. The majority of the personnel were Australians. Dr. Mawson had pleaded his cause so well and created such a favourable impression in London that a considerable measure of support had been secured. He was now undertaking an equally easy task of arousing the sympathy of his own countrymen in this great undertaking. This meeting augured well for the success of his mission in Victoria. Because he admired the spirit of the men, because he was a believer in the objects of the expedition, and because he thought the expedition would redound to the credit of Australia, he appealed to the meeting with confidence to extend to Dr. Mawson and his gallant comrades its sympathy and support. (Applause.)

Dr. Mawson said the expedition would rank among the greatest geographical undertakings of modern times. Without the support of the whole of Australia they could count on nothing.

The Prime Minister moved—"That this meeting hails with satisfaction the prospect of an Australasian expedition under the leadership of Dr. Mawson for the exploration of the Australasian quadrant of the arctic continent, and, recognising the importance of the undertaking on scientific and national grounds, cordially commends it to the consideration and practical support of the people of Australia." He was sure that if the Australian people gave that support to the expedition to which it was entitled nothing but success would follow the efforts of Dr. Mawson. No body could fail to observe that. Gentlemen from other countries had already visited the Australian quadrant of Antarctica, which the people living in this part of the world had done all too little to investigate. No civilized community could really prosper in scientific knowledge unless it was prepared to give some of its means and substance to investigate these things it knew little about. This was an opportunity which seldom fell to a young people. In appealing to the people he appealed, not only to the people as a whole, but to individuals.

Mr. Deakin, Sr. Walker, Professor Orme Mawson, and Professor Henderson supported the motion, which was carried unanimously.