MAWSON EXPEDITION

Deputation to the Premier.

Government Asked for £5,000.

On Monday morning an influential deputation waited upon the Premier (Hon. J. G. G. F. Scott) and requested that he would make a donation of £5,000 towards the expenses of the Mawson Expedition to the Antarctic.

-Money Necessary.-

Mr. Smedley, M.P., who conducted the deputation, said it was of a unique character. Dr. Mawson was organizing his expedition to the south pole for scientific purposes, and while his explorations and investigations would be of worldwide interest, they would be of special and practical interest to Australia. Dr. Mawson was a man of the calm, composed type, yet in his dealings with others he was most genial. His relish for the moral qualities, the philosophic method of inquiry, and the general courage and qualities for the work he was now entering upon, had been recognized everywhere. He was the right man to lead such an expedition. He had long been the subject of one of the ablest and most enlightened of that able band of scholars who, by their devotion to science, had made the world a better place. Dr. Mawson had been called to take his place among the great leaders of the time. The country had been enabled in many ways to take its share in the burden. They were his friends, and should also share in the responsibility of the expedition. It was desired that the Government should grant £5,000 for the purpose, in asking for that assistance, (Applause.)

The Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way) said the deputation was concerned with a movement of a high type of public interest. The expedition would advance knowledge in a field of knowledge that certainly would benefit the great conditions of Australia and New Zealand. Much attention had been given to the Antarctic continent during the last 20 years. Dr. Scott's recent dash and Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition in Antarctica showed that the field was to be greater than that of Europe and Australia combined. Captain Mawson planned to make discoveries which would have a world-wide, particularly coal and mineral deposits, and also important biological observations. The cost of the vessel to make a proper survey of that portion of the Southern Ocean which would be of great advantage in science and exploration. (Applause.)

-Commercial Support.-

Mr. G. H. Prosser (President of the Chamber of Commerce) said the expedition was expected to make discoveries which would be of world-wide importance, particularly coal and mineral deposits, and also important biological observations. He appealed for the support of the Government, (Applause.)

The Spirit of Enterprise.

Mr. J. W. Wilson (representative of the South Australian Chamber of Commerce) said a fact which should carry weight in showing the commercial importance of the expedition was that the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science had been able to secure £10,000 for the purpose of supporting Dr. Mawson. From matter-of-fact men all over the world, people who had gone ahead at different times and in different directions, individually and nationally, to back the enterprise, (Applause.)

They wanted something to stimulate the spirit of enterprise, to develop the resources of those parts of the world in which they were specially interested. (Applause.)

-A Citizen of Adelaide.-

Mr. H. E. Hays, (Chairman of the Adelaide Club) supported the request for the sum, and added that it was up to regard Dr. Mawson as one of its citizens.

An Australian Opportunity.

Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C. (President of the South Australian section of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia) was also present, and warmly endorsed the action of the Premier, and congratulated him on calling the people for support. They had received many appeals from among elderly and prominent men who were presenting it to the Premier, and that the Expedition should be supported by the Government, and by all men who could and would (Applause.)

Mr. L. H. Salmon (representative of the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures) also heartily supported the request.

-South Australia's Share of Credit.-

Dr. Mawson, who was present, said if a huge new continent had suddenly risen from the Southern waters of Australia and had cut them off from Australia than one side of the Commonwealth was from another. The colossus? (Applause.)

-A Sympathetic Reply.-

The Premier said he had listened to the requests with deep interest, but he had to be extremely cautious in his reply, as we had not been in a serious position. The world was in a muchmore serious position now than before, but science was revealing great dormant powers through the work and study of such men as Professor Henderson, Dr. Macleay, and Dr. Mawson. He recognized that Dr. Mawson was a man of such a character, and Dr. Mawson's work was of great importance. (Applause.)

The expedition was expected to make discoveries which would have a world-wide importance, particularly coal and mineral deposits, and also important biological observations. They would be able to make a proper survey of that portion of the Southern Ocean which would be of great advantage in science and exploration. (Applause.)

-End.