

## THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

"VALUABLE WORK," SAYS PROFESSOR MASSON

DR. MAWSON'S LOCUM TENENS

THE AURORA'S MOVEMENTS.

When the Antarctic exploration ship Aurora arrived at Adelaide with Dr. Mawson and party on board last Thursday part of her cargo consisted of 11 Eskimo dogs. These animals were of the very greatest use to the explorers during the sojourn in Adele Land. Not only were they valuable for the amount of work they could do in drawing heavily laden sledges, but when starvation stared certain of the party in the face dog-flesh proved a means of keeping body and soul together. Dr. Mawson has decided now that the dogs are to end their days in peaceful captivity. He has presented the dogs to such of the members of the party as desired them, so that in future they will live the life of the canine which does his duty to mankind by scaring off burglars by deep-throated barking and a liberal display of fangs. Judging by the fearsome kind of "scrap" which the Eskimo dogs are capable of putting up with each other they should be well fitted to their new task. The only thing is that the butcher or baker will have to keep a respectful distance from the business end of the chain to which the animals are attached.

In accordance with the Commonwealth quarantine regulations the dogs will have to be kept under observation for a certain period. They have therefore been transported from the vessel to the Zoological Gardens, and it will probably be some weeks before their new owners take possession of them. The change from the frigid south to the semi-tropical climate of Adelaide does not seem to be altogether to the dogs' liking. On Saturday afternoon they might have been observed lolling in their cages with heaving sides and tongues hanging from their mouths. However, they are shedding their heavy coats, and when these are got rid of it will doubtless add to their comfort. The Zoo attendants are extending every care towards their new charges, and if plentiful supplies of beef and biscuits can make the exiles from Greenland happy, then they seem to be in for the best of good times.

### The Aurora's Movements.

Although the Aurora has not been officially thrown open to the public for inspection a number of people visited the vessel on Saturday and Sunday and were keenly interested in all they saw. The work of clearing the ship of the cargo of valuable biological and zoological specimens which was brought from Antarctica is proceeding apace, and will probably be completed within the next few days. It is definitely announced that the Aurora will be open for inspection on Wednesday and Thursday next. She is at present lying in the dock at Port Adelaide. At the end of this week the Aurora will coal up and proceed to Hobart, where she will be laid aside until plans are formed for her future use or disposal. The crew will be paid off in Hobart. It would not have been wise to lay up the Aurora in South Australian waters for the teredo worm is plentiful round these coasts and plays havoc with wooden vessels that are not copper sheathed. It does not, however, exist in the colder waters of Tasmania. Captain J. K. Davis will take the Aurora round to Hobart.

### Dr. Mawson's Locum Tenens.

It was ascertained yesterday that Dr. Mawson will not resume his position as professor in mineralogy and petrology at the Adelaide University until after he has completed the great amount of work that devolves on him as leader of the Antarctic expedition. In the meantime Mr. Stilwell, of the University of Melbourne, will act as his locum tenens.

### Interview with Professor Masson.

When an Australian expedition to the Antarctic was mooted the idea was given considerable impetus by the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science.

When there was formed in connection with the association a committee to deal with matters relating to the expedition, and this was done, and one of the members was Professor Orme Masson, of the University of Melbourne, who is now acting-chairman. Professor Masson arrived in Adelaide by the Melbourne express yesterday, and will represent his association at the welcome function to Dr. Mawson at the University. Last evening he consented to give "The Daily Herald" his impressions as to the value of Dr. Mawson's work.

"It is," he said, "rather early to talk about the value of the work that has been done, because Dr. Mawson has not made public any details. I think, however, that when he does it will be found that the work done by this expedition in various departments of science is as good as we hope for, and that is a great deal. The chief directions in which the expedition worked were, in the first place, geological observations of a nature about which almost nothing was known before. In the second place, were the meteorological observations carried out in what appears to be one of the most remarkable corners of the earth from a meteorological standpoint. These observations, of course, have now been continued for over two years, a fact which greatly enhances their value. And then there have been local magnetic observations which are sure to be interesting, and possibly connected with that are records of the Aurora Australis. There has been also a considerable amount of geological and petrological work to which I know some of the members of the expedition attach great importance."

"Of course, all the material which has been brought back will have to be worked up by experts, just as a great deal of the material brought back by the Aurora last time has been under examination for scientific purposes by Mr. Stilwell, who will temporarily take Dr. Mawson's place at the Adelaide University, and who was a former member of the expedition.

"The Aurora evidently had a particularly fruitful cruise after picking up Dr.

Mawson and his party. The vessel went along the ice edge west as far as the position which was previously occupied by Mr. Wilg and his party. Dredging was carried out at various depths, and I understand that the party obtained a very large amount of material, a great deal of which was new. Apart from this, the specimens of bird life obtained by the party will greatly add to our knowledge on that subject. But, as I said before, the biological, geological, and zoological material will have to be worked up by experts, so it will be a matter of time before the full records are available for publication."

Your opinion, however, is that the work has been of great value?

"Yes. I am convinced that when the scientific authorities become acquainted with what has been done they will acknowledge that the results are as good as those of any expedition of a similar nature that has gone before."

Has your association any plans for another Antarctic expedition?

"There are none in view, but I have no doubt that there will be later on. No one expedition can complete such a big thing as the thorough exploration of all that land and ice and water that lies to the south of Australia."

There are also other directions?

"Yes. There is a very good field for exploratory work in the islands of the tropics. However, I want to say that Dr. Mawson and his comrades have carried out their work so splendidly, but it can be pursued much further, if not by Dr. Mawson, then by others."

### Congratulatory Messages.

Since his return from Adele Land Dr. Mawson has received many telegrams and cablegrams congratulating him on his achievements. Some of these are subjoined:—

From the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Samuel Way):—"Heartfelt welcome back. We are grateful that you and your brave companions are safe after your perilous adventures."

Sir Harry Barron (Governor of Western Australia):—"Heartiest congratulations on safe return of yourself and party."

The Royal Geographical Society of London:—"Warmest congratulations on safe return and great achievement."—(Sgd.) Curzon (president).

Sir Ernest Shackleton (who is organising another South Polar expedition):—"Heartfelt congratulations your success and safe return from us all."

Captain Ronald Amundsen (discoverer of the South Pole):—"Welcome home; warmest congratulations."

Dr. Chariot (leader of a former French Antarctic expedition):—"Bravo! Welcome."

Professor Orme Masson (University of Melbourne):—"Welcome home and heartiest congratulations."

Sir Hugh Robert Miel (a great authority on Antarctic geography):—"Heartiest congratulations on magnificent results."

## THE WELCOME

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME.

For to-day's reception at the Elder Hall of the University, graduates are requested to wear academic dress and to assemble in the concert hall at 2 o'clock. The proceedings will commence at 2.15 p.m. at which time the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) and the members of the council and senate and professional staff will march in procession to their seats. The Chancellor will be accompanied by the Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake). So soon as they are seated the Governor-General (Lord Denman) and the Minister of Customs (Mr. Groom) will be conducted to the platform by the vice-chancellor (Dr. Barlow) and Mr. Justice Murray. The Chancellor will extend a welcome to the Governor-General, who will deliver an address, as also will the Premier and the Minister of Customs. Then the Chancellor will confer the degree of doctor of science (ad eundem) on Professor Orme Masson, who is acting chairman of the Mawson Expedition Committee and president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. Professor Masson will give an address, after which Dr. Mawson and Captain Davis, of the Aurora, will speak. Presidents of societies and other bodies participating in the welcome will be accommodated with seats on the platform. As the Governor-General is to leave for Melbourne by the afternoon's express train it is expected that the proceedings will be concluded by 4 o'clock.

The Governor-General (Lord Denman) came to South Australia by the Melbourne express yesterday and left the train at Mount Lofty, where he is the guest of Mr. T. E. Barr-Smith. His Excellency will leave on return to Melbourne by express at 4.30 p.m.

Professor Orme Masson and the Minister of Trade and Customs (Mr. Groom) also arrived by the express yesterday to participate in the welcome to Dr. Mawson.

### MAYOR'S RECEPTION.

The mayor (Mr. A. A. Simpson) will tomorrow afternoon tender a public welcome to Dr. Mawson and his party. The function will take place at 3 o'clock, and all who desire to be present are heartily invited. The whole of the hall and gallery will be available, and the city organist will play selections on the Town Hall organ between 2 and 3 p.m.

## SIR E. SHACKLETON'S VIEWS

WORKING AGAINST DESPERATE ODDS.

LONDON, February 28.

Sir Ernest Shackleton in an article in the "Daily Mail" says that the discovery of ledges on the Continental Shelf in the Antarctic will throw light on many oceanographic mysteries.

The outstanding feature of the Mawson Expedition was the inland journey and the tragic march, in which two lives were lost.

It had shown once more to the world that there were men still living, who were capable of enduring and working against desperate odds without thought of surrender.