

WORLD-WIDE CHORUS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MAWSON.

CABLEGRAMS FROM EXPLORERS AND SCIENTISTS.

Dr. Mawson has received a large number of congratulatory cablegrams, telegrams, and letters since his arrival from Antarctica. These serve to emphasise the importance of the work accomplished by the expedition.

The Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia and Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Sir Samuel Way) telegraphed:—"Heartiest welcome back. We are grateful that you and your brave companions are safe after your perilous adventures."

The following message was received from Sir H. Barron, the Governor of Western Australia:—"Heartiest congratulations on safe return of yourself and party."

The Royal Geographical Society of London cabled:—"Warmest congratulations on safe return and great achievement.—Curzon, President."

The first explorer to reach the South Pole, the celebrated Norwegian, Captain Roald Amundsen, cabled from Norway:—"Welcome home. Warmest congratulations."

This brief, but eloquent, cable message was received from Paris from Dr. Charcot, the commander of the French Antarctic expedition:—"Bravo. Welcome.—Charcot."

From Sir Ernest Shackleton, the famous polar explorer, the following message was received:—"Heartiest congratulations your success and safe return from us all.—Shackleton."

Dr. Hugh Robert Mill, the well-known authority on Antarctic geography, sent the following cablegram:—"Heartiest congratulations on magnificent results."

The telegram from Professor Orme Masson, of Melbourne University, acting president of the advisory committee of the Australasian Association, under whose auspices the expedition was sent forth, read as follows:—"Welcome home and heartiest congratulations."

The Aurora.

It is announced that on Wednesday and Thursday Dr. Mawson's ship, the Aurora, which is lying in the Basin at Port Adelaide, will be open for public inspection. By that time the various collections will have been removed from her. The dogs have already been taken to the Adelaide Zoo, where they will remain until the necessary quarantine regulations have been satisfied. These animals have been allotted to the various members of the expedition.

The Aurora will, it is thought, leave at the end of the week for Hobart, where the crew will be paid off, and the boat will "lie up." She will probably be coaled on Friday. The reason for the move is that if the Aurora were allowed to remain for too long in the comparatively warm water of South Australia she would be attacked by the tredo worm. She is not coppered, and serious damage, it is said, might result. At Hobart there is no such danger, and so Captain Davis has decided she would be better there. He will navigate her himself. The future fate of the Aurora is uncertain. She may, of course, be utilised for another Polar expedition; and, on the other hand, she may be sold for some other purpose. Captain Davis says she is a magnificent seagoing ship and in good condition.

To-day's Welcome.

Arrangements are now complete for the official welcome of Dr. Mawson at the Adelaide University this afternoon. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way), the Premier (the Hon. A. H. Peake), and the staff of the University will be in their places at a quarter-past 2, so that it will be necessary for the public to take their seats a little before that hour. At twenty minutes past 2 His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Denman) and his staff and the Minister of Trade and Customs (Mr. L. E. Groom) will arrive, and will be escorted to the platform. The Lieutenant-Governor will welcome Lord Denman, who will deliver an address. He will be followed by the Premier and by the Minister of Trade and Customs, Sir Samuel Way, in his capacity as Chancellor, will then admit Professor Masson to the Adelaide University, and the professor will address the meeting. Dr. Mawson and Captain Davis will reply.

THE EXPLORERS' WELCOME.

The congratulations of the entire Empire on the safe return to civilisation of Dr. Mawson and his companions, and its praise of their gallantry, and more particularly of his own, under circumstances which were always trying and sometimes dangerous, will not, we may be sure, spoil their enjoyment of the official and popular receptions which await them in Adelaide to-day and to-morrow. Although South Australia cannot claim Dr. Mawson as a native, he has made it his home for some years, and its good name is involved in seeing that on this occasion, at all events, the Scriptural reproach shall not be merited that a prophet hath honor save in his own country. It is more incumbent on us to ensure that the receptions shall not lack enthusiasm because, though it is quite natural that he should have made Adelaide the scene of his first public appearance after his two years' seclusion from the world, the State feels complimented by the attention, quite apart from the advertisement it receives from Dr. Mawson's presence and from its right to claim him as one of its best-known citizens. To ourselves has fallen the happy lot of supplying a leader for the first Australian Antarctic expedition. That his work, however, is not underrated in other parts of the Commonwealth is evidenced by the presence of the Governor-General to grace to-day's proceedings. No higher tribute could be paid to Dr. Mawson, and, in a way, to the community of which he is so distinguished a member.

The expedition, as we may infer from Dr. Mawson's sad story of the tragic death of Lieutenant Ninnis and Dr. Mertz, and from his graphic account of his own very narrow escape, was none the less heroic because it had in view no such dramatic end as cost Captain Scott and his comrades so dearly. No dash for the Pole was attempted or thought of; and yet the explorers' journeys over 2,400 miles at the main base, and 800 miles at the western base, must have involved them "in perils often," the details of which we may hear in due time. Those best acquainted with Antarctic work, like Sir Ernest Shackleton, have been foremost in their commendation of the explorers; and as regards their leader, it does not require much imagination in the uninitiated to realise something of the ordeal he must have undergone when, alone in the pitiless wild, and appalled by the fate of his two companions, he himself stared death in the face steadily and long. The awful journey of over a hundred miles which confronted Dr. Mawson and Dr. Mertz after their food supplies, or the greater part, had vanished with Lieutenant Ninnis down a crevasse; the failing strength of both as their privations told on them, and their footsore and exhausted dogs had to be sacrificed for such food as their withered flesh and marrowless bones could afford the starving men; the death of Dr. Mertz, and the slow crawl of the solitary survivor through the icy solitudes, every muscle strained to reach his goal against odds which he already deemed hopeless—was ever sterner duel fought by man against nature than is indicated here? The spectacle of that infinitesimal figure creeping amid the frozen darkness of Polar skies and the wrath of Polar tempests over ground as treacherous as a quicksand, is one which exalts the reader's conception of human nature, and might have supplied Victor Hugo with another illustration of man's triumph over the brute forces of the universe.

But while the Mawson expedition has its purely human side, which may monopolise attention for the moment, it is by its scientific results that its value will be judged; and already we know that its labors have not been fruitless. They include the discovery of new lands and islands, meteorological and other observations conducted over enormous distances, and extensive trawlings at great depths between Australia and Antarctica. No one would depreciate Amundsen's or Scott's achievements. It is well to be reminded how unconquerable is the spirit of man,

whether he emerges from the struggle successfully or lays down his life in battling on unequal terms with the unknown. Still the discovery of the South Pole is a matter of small importance beside the elucidation of the problems presented by the white continent to the south of us, affecting as it must do the interpretation of problems nearer home. We need not envy Amundsen and his Norwegian countrymen their possession of the South Pole if only we can enlarge our knowledge of the huge land that lies buried under the eternal snow, and of the icy seas that girdle it. To the ocean currents and the atmospheric conditions of the region he has explored Dr. Mawson has paid special attention, no one knowing better than he their important bearing on our own conditions. Largely because explorers have been chiefly bent on getting as near the geographical pole as possible, the great coastline westward of Cape Adare had been neglected till Dr. Mawson took its investigation in hand, and yet from an economic standpoint it is the most important tract of the Antarctic continent. It is known to be rich in coal and well supplied with metalliferous rocks, which are in the same latitude as Dawson. It is therefore not so high a latitude as to prohibit the winning of much wealth should it be the site of another golden city. There is also the probability of the establishment of profitable fisheries of whales, &c. Prophecy is dangerous where Antarctica is concerned and those who look for economic gains from the researches of the expedition would be well advised to wait for the full statement of the leader; but even if no more had been accomplished than an extension of our knowledge of the meteorology of the region, enabling us to settle what proportion of the forces controlling our weather conditions comes from the southern ice, the enterprise would certainly not have been undertaken in vain.

WELCOME TO DR. MAWSON.

A special congregation of the Adelaide University will be held to-day at the Elder Hall at 2.15 p.m. to welcome Dr. Mawson. Graduates are asked to wear academic dress and to assemble in the concert hall at 2 p.m. The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) and the members of the council and senate and professorial 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, and the Premier and the Minister of Customs will also speak. 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 deliver 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.

Professor Masson, who is in Adelaide to attend the welcome to Dr. Mawson at the University this afternoon, arrived from Melbourne by the express yesterday morning. He is acting president of the advisory committee of the Australasian Science Association, under whose auspices Dr. Mawson's expedition went south. He is staying at the Adelaide Club.

Dr. Mawson spent yesterday resting at Brighton. The activities of the past few days have been a severe strain upon him.

His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Denman) was a passenger from Melbourne by the express yesterday. He was accompanied by Lord Richard Nevill, and left the train at Aldgate, where he is the guest of Mr. T. E. Barr Smith. He will arrive in Adelaide to-day in time for the welcome to Dr. Mawson at the University.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Samuel Way) will preside at the gathering in the Elder Hall this afternoon, to give a public welcome to Dr. Mawson and the other members of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. The gathering will be held on Thursday morning.