The Leader Busy.

Dr. Mawson has had an exceedingly busy time since his arrival in Adelaide. His colleagues, too, are hard at work. Among those who have sent congratulations to the leader and the party generally are the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Samuel Way) and many other prominent citizens.

Methodist Felicitations.

The Methodist Conference on Friday morning resolved, at the instance of the President, to send a message of congratulation to Dr. Mawson and his companions on their safe arrival from the Antarctic.

HOW NINNIS AND MERTZ DIED.

LONDON, February 27.

The Daily Mail this morning publishes the personal narrative of Douglas Mawson, leader of the Australian expedition to the Antarctic, which has just returned to Adelaide with his companions, who wintered with him in Adelie Land.

Dr. Mawson says:—"On December 14, a beautiful day, Lieut. Ninnis, Dr. Mertz, and myself were in the highest spirits owing to our imminent arrival in Adelaide. Our trouble seemed ended. Dr. Mertz, the tallest of the party, was five miles ahead of us, and the first dog team. Then came Lieut. Ninnis with a sled, carrying the week's necessaries. This plan was adopted in order that the first dog should arrive in Adelaide, if we came on a crevasse. I unexpectedly found my team crossing a crevasse. We had already negotiated a crevasse, and I thought to put Ninnis on his guard. Looking back, I had seen one eye but an expanse of snow and ice. Then the possibility of a crevasse dawned upon me. Hastening back, we saw a promising abyss. When our eyes became accustomed to the darkness, we saw a dog-mooring on a ledge 150 ft. below.

IN THE EERIE STILLNESS.

"There was no trace of Ninnis. We called for hours without answer. The dog ceased mooring, and an eerie stillness rose from the depth. Yet 15 miles of clean ice and a pair of skis, there was none for the six dogs. We improvised a tent from the tent-skin, a pair of ski, and theodolite. Nine hours after the accident, the men of the burial service and started on the dogs gave out daily. There was no mention on the news of snow in the bones. We were a hundred miles from the hut at the New Year. Dr. Mertz was very weak. Dense snow fell. But still Mertz was very cheerful. I could not have worked for another hour. On January 6 Dr. Mertz was unable to walk, and I dragged the sled, as the result of a much toll, only two and a half miles, with the help of a dip-net. We started at midnight on the 7th. My own condition were little hope, I knew. A daily report of the journey to the British Antarctic Expedition.

LEADER'S SUFFERINGS.

Dr. Mawson concludes:—"I have no wish to be reminded of the following month. It rained nearly every day. Sometimes I fell into crevasses to the length of my legs, and was scarcely able to climb out. My skin, hair, and nails came off, virtually the discovery of a cache enabled us to reach the hutt.

SHACKLETON'S TRIBUTE.

In the course of an interview, Sir Ernest Shackleton remarked that Dr. Mawson was a born leader for a polar expedition, and possessed every quality of a great leader. The manner in which the ship negotiated the pack ice was due to the splendid seamanship of Captain Davis, who would be capable of action when caution was needed, and of going boldly ahead when the occasion demanded.

AN INCOMPARABLE JOURNEY.

Commenting upon the narrative, The Daily Mail says:—"Dr. Mawson's story, touched with the majesty of love and death, reveals the sacrifices which men of our race are prepared to make in the pursuit of scientific knowledge, and their readiness to face death in an uncertain cause. The impression made by that story is confirmed by Dr. Mawson's modest but moving narrative. Nothing in the whole story of the Antarctic exploration compares with this solitary journey in the infinitely savage waste of the Antarctic Peninsula.'

"Brilliant Polar History."

LONDON, February 28.

The Evening Standard, referring to the return of Dr. Douglas Mawson after his memorable expedition to the Antarctic, remarks:—"Through Dr. Mawson's travels, the world will wisely set aside the story of the hero's struggles of Dr. Mawson and Dr. Mertz. There are few more brilliant pages in polar history.

PREMIER WATT'S CONGRATULATIONS.

MELBOURNE, February 27.

The Premier (Mr. Watt) today telephoned to Dr. Douglas Mawson at Adelaide congratulating him on his splendid achievement and his safe return. An invitation to attend the welcome to Dr. Mawson in Adelaide early next week was received by Mr. Watt to-day from Sir Samuel Way (Lieutenant-Governor and Chancellor of the Adelaide University). Mr. Watt replied that other engagements prevented his acceptance of the invitation.

Official Reception.

His Excellency, the Governor-General (Lord Denman), in reply to a telegram from the University Council, has notified that he will attend the official reception to be tendered to Dr. Mawson. It has now been decided that the function will be held at 3 p.m. Monday next. No replies have yet been received from the Prime Minister, Minister for External Affairs, and Premier of Victoria and New South Wales regarding whether they can be present. A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday to make further arrangements in connection with the gathering. Speeches will be delivered by the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way), the Governor-General, and Dr. Mawson. The Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. A. A. Simpson) has decided to convene a public meeting of citizens at Town Hall at 3 o'clock on Tuesday to tender a welcome to Dr. Mawson.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN ADELAIDE.

Last night the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Samuel Way) received from the Governor-General (Lord Denman) definite acceptance of the invitation to attend the special congregation of members of the Adelaide University on Monday, March 2, to welcome Dr. Mawson. His Excellency will leave Melbourne express at Mout Lofty to-morrow morning, and will be the guest of Mr. E. B. Smith until Monday. The congregation of the University will begin at 3.30 p.m. on Monday for the convenience of the Governor-General, who wishes to set out on the return to Melbourne by the express that afternoon.