

**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.**

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LONDON, February 27.

The Daily Mail this morning publishes the personal narrative of Dr. Douglas Mawson, leader of the Australian expedition to the antarctic, who 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 arrival on an unbroken plateau. Our trouble seemed ended. Dr. Mertz, the trailbreaker, was a quarter of a mile ahead of myself and the first dog team. Then came Lieut. Ninnis with a sledge, carrying most of the vital necessities. This plan was adopted in order that the first sledge should suffer if we came on a crevasse. I unexpectedly found my team crossing a crevasse. We had already negotiated scores. I called out, 'Crevasse,' to put Ninnis on his guard. Looking back soon after, nothing met my eye but an expanse of snow and ice. Then the possibility of a crevasse dawned upon me. Hastening back, we came upon a yawning abyss. When our eyes became accustomed to the dark-blue light we saw a dog moaning 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 moaning, and an eerie stillness rose from the depths. Our remaining sledge had only one and a half weeks' human food; there was none for the six dogs. We improvised a tent from the tentcover, a pair of ski, and theodolite pegs. Nine hours after the accident we read the burial service, and started to return. The dogs gave out daily. There was no nutriment on the flesh, and no marrow in the bones. We were a hundred miles from the hut at the New Year. Dr. Mertz was very weak. Dense snow fell daily. Still Mertz was very cheerful. I could not have wished for a better companion. On January 6 Dr. Mertz was unable to walk, and I dragged the sledge, as the result of much toil, only two and a half miles, with the help of a sail. He died at midnight on the 7th. My own condition offered little hope, but I determined to push on."

**THE LEADER'S SUFFERINGS.**

Dr. Mawson proceeds:—"I have no wish to be reminded of the following month. It snowed daily. Several times I fell into crevasses to the length of my sledgerope, and was scarcely able to climb out. My skin, hair, and nails came off. Finally the discovery of a cache enabled me to reach the hut."

**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 Capt. Davis, who would be capable of caution 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 unselfish cause. The impression made by Capt. Scott's story is confirmed by Dr. Mawson's modest but moving narrative. Nothing in the whole story of antarctic exploration compares with this solitary journey in an unutterably savage waste."

**"Brilliant Polar History."**

LONDON, February 26.

The Evening Standard, referring to the return of Dr. Douglas Mawson after his memorable expedition to the antarctic, remarks:—"Though Dr. Mawson's tragedies are eclipsed by those of the late Capt. Scott's Expedition, the world will not willingly let die the story of the heroic 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) to-day telegraphed 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 at the Elder Hall. It has now been decided that the function will be held at 2.15 p.m. on Monday next. No replies have yet been received from the Prime Minister, Minister for External Affairs, and the Premiers 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 the 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 the Melbourne express at Mount Lofty tomorrow morning, and will be the guest of Mr. T. E. Barr Smith until Monday. The congregation of the University will begin at 2.15 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.