the brief period at their disposal. Commonwealth Bay, Adelaide Land, or Dr. Mawson had established his base, is only accessible during a short time of the year, and when the Aurora called for him and his companions they were temporarily absent, and valuable time was spent by the vessel in beating up and down the coast.

When their whereabouts was discovered it was hoped to attempt to reach them through the belatedness of the season, which kept driving the vessel out of the shelter of the shore. Captain Davis was forced to abandon the expedition in order that he might be in time to despatch a party waiting for him westward at a speed approaching that of a steamer by traversing 1,500 miles of ice-cored water. As their base, unlike Dr. Mawson's was not provided with ice-breakers in the ice, all have agreed, as the leader himself has doubts about, that unless they can get back to themselves, there was no alternative but to leave Dr. Mawson and his companions to continue their work and to return on their own resources until the next season. That they will have to endure the perils of their scientific career is of little doubt. Already it is known that the two main objects of their expedition have been achieved, the exploration of the long and previously unknown coastline from Cape Adare, and the attainment of the South Magnetic Pole from a direction opposite to that by which it was reached by a section of Dr. Mawson's of the last Shackleton expedition. Both branches of science were represented in Dr. Mawson's party, and they made sure of the existence of another Klondyke, amenable and exploitable. Possibly their geological researches will be in advance of all others in the field of the problem whether the South Pole region like the north, has passed more than once through periods of temperate climate. We shall have to wait until there is any truth in the theory that Australia and South America, and even South Africa, are parts of the great Antarctic continent. And the expedition will not fully have answered expectations unless we are enabled to establish the existence of atmospheric phenomena, as affecting our own part of the world, on a larger basis, and, perhaps, to solve problems connected with the chain of anticyclones by which the continent of Australia rejoices at the safe return of the gallant little band, whose combination of the spirit of their enterprise with devotion to the cause of science shows that British or shall we say Australian— which is one of those questions of time, exhibits no sign of decadence.

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BACK FROM ANTARCTIC ICE.

RETURN OF THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

ALL IN GOOD HEALTH.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE LEADER.

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE.

An event of unique interest in the history of Antarctic exploration was the arrival at the Seminole yesterday afternoon of the Aurora, with Dr. Mawson and the members of his Antarctic expedition on board. It was not a spectacular return, but it was one in quiet harmony with the unostentations but vital message that it is known the expedition has accomplished in the land of eternal ice. The arrival of the vessel was attracted by a certain air of unvoiced unavoidable mystery. No one knew with any degree of certainty when the vessel might be expected, and the wildest guesses were made. So it was that the scenes that marked the return of the Antarctic ship were apparently lacking in enthusiasm. There was little display of feeling. The Aurora steamed slowly into the roadstead off the Seminole and anchored under a gun salute from the officer of the guard. Three launches containing officials and a few relatives of members of the party, together with half a dozen press representatives hovered round her, but there were singularly few greetings exchanged.

Leader's Quiet Landing.

The reception accorded Dr. Mawson when he went ashore at the Seminole was something in all the Seminole world which might have been expected in such circumstances that it was with difficulty one persuasion could be discerned. The other ship had journeyed from any far away place. The Aurora at the moment was, along the jetty, adrift in white feather компании and the floor which was equally such that he might have been mistook for the Aurora's for her. He might easily have been misinterpreted him and instead of being ignored raised their eyes from their pleasant and light and complacent. It is doubtful whether they realized that anything unusual was happening, and the many professional photographers who were present might have been expected it, but added explanation of the unknown, for lack of public demonstration, was small.

The Real Welcome to Come.

One could not but feel that the reception accorded a calculated picture of the spirit of the home-coming adventurers in Adelaide Land. Norwithstanding the unexpectedness of their arrival and the unpreparedness of the general public for any event of such interest, the Antarctic voyagers might surely have anticipated some demonstration of enthusiasm. They looked in vain for the cheering roar of the crowds which are normally associated with the home-coming of their countrymen. However, they were not without something in the hearts of most of the men who watched the Aurora take off and laboriously stream towards the Seminole at 2 o'clock. A puff of smoke was visible from the funnel of the Aurora, and the Aurora's signal gun fired twice, and the smoke and one of her company presently told a Customs officer that they had passed the Seminole some time before, that she was doing only five knots, and would not be expected to arrive before 8 o'clock in the evening.

Sighted.

In the meantime the courteous officials of the Seminole signal station kept an alert watch, and kept their wheels oiled, for fear of all that they could do in the circumstances. At about noon they were entertained by the appearance of the Troubridge light station at 10 a.m. and were told that the Seminole was at the Seminole at 2 o'clock. Ever this expectation was not fulfilled, and the fresh calculation was being made. A puff of smoke from the funnel of the Aurora, and the Aurora's signal gun fired twice, signifying the arrival of the unknown vessel. The little group of people turned to their work, looked at the Seminole, and then at the Seminole station. The little group of people turned to their work, looked at the Seminole, and then at the Seminole station. The little group of people turned to their work, looked at the Seminole, and then at the Seminole station. The little group of people turned to their work, looked at the Seminole, and then at the Seminole station. The little group of people turned to their work, looked at the Seminole, and then at the Seminole station.

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council of the University at their meeting by the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way).

Weary Waiting.

Possibly some of the interest that the Aurora's arrival could easily have been aroused left out of the course of the weary waiting for her appearance, and in the absence of any definite information to the time of her arrival. During the morning there was practically no sign of any approach to the Seminole, although, for anything that was known to the contrary, she might have been there at any moment. The watchful expectancy with which her boat's arrival was awaited was sustained to a few in official excitement and generally, the public appeared to be in ignorance of the fact that the Aurora had entered the gulf. Those who knew that the Aurora had no definite knowledge of the time of her arrival means of estimating this, since the speed of the Aurora could only be guessed at. A liberal estimate of her speed, totally in excess of her possibilities, gave rise to an impression that she would be sighted in the early hours of that day. It was held that she might be expected to anchor off the Seminole between 11 and 12 o'clock, and as a result, several passengers were put on the Seminole before half past 5. Two hours might have been saved, in the expectation that the Antarctic adventures would be a proper subject for a debarkation.

Miscellaneous.

The hours of waiting which followed allowed ample time for speculation. The ship's charge, was on the subject of half an hour's time of her arrival. Captain Richardson, the pilot, is said to have been the only person who could give an estimate of the time, and of his professional knowledge he was not expected to be accurate. He pointed out that since the Aurora has such a large coal accommoda- tion, her engines are small, and her speed is strictly limited. She is not capable of more than eight knots, and it was evident that with a diminished coal supply she would not be able to maintain her present rate of progress, because the coal rate which formed the basis of the calculations was diminished, and it was estimated that the Aurora would arrive between 11 and 12 o'clock. A puff of smoke seen in the sky near the Seminole was followed by the Aurora, and one of her company presently told a Customs officer that they had passed the Seminole some time before, that she was doing only five knots, and would not be expected to arrive before 8 o'clock in the evening.