

SOUTHWARD HO! AGAIN.

Aurora's Forthcoming Voyage.

MELBOURNE, October 31.

The Aurora will leave Melbourne about November 8 for Hobart, where she will embark the three men who are to relieve Dr. Mawson's party at present at Macquarie Island, and a quantity of stores, which have been collected there. The vessel will leave Hobart on November 15, and Macquarie Island should be reached about November 24. Four days will probably be spent at the island disembarking the stores and taking on board the large collection obtained by the party, which has been stationed there for nearly two years. Arrangements have been made with Mr. Baracchi (the Government Astronomer) to transmit time signals by wireless during the visit of the Aurora to the island, for the purpose of determining its correct longitude. On the return of the Mawson party a correct chart of this little-known appendage of the Commonwealth will be available. The Aurora will then proceed towards Commonwealth Bay, which it is hoped to reach by December 15, when Dr. Mawson will embark. He hopes to continue scientific investigations along the coastline until the advent of winter. The vessel will then return to Australia, which should be reached by the latter part of February, 1914.

The Aurora has been given a thorough overhaul at the State dockyard, Williamstown. Mr. Hunter, of the Sydney University, will join the vessel as biologist on the forthcoming voyage. He and Mr. F. Hurley (the expedition photographer) will be the only members of the staff leaving with the steamer. Capt. Davies hopes to extend the oceanographical work which the Aurora was employed in last winter, and which has aroused considerable interest in England. All letters for members of the expedition now in the antarctic or at Macquarie Island should be addressed to the Aurora at Hobart, to reach there before November 15.

EDUCATION.

From "Perplexed":—"In the Assembly on Wednesday, Mr. Coneybeer appealed to the Government to assist him in getting the recommendations of the Education Commission adopted by the House; but, if other findings are on a par with that referring to the appointment of inspectors, members may well pause and carefully probe the motives underlying, and the probable effects of, some of these conclusions. Mr. Coneybeer, referring to the generally advanced age of head masters, said:—'Evidence before the commission convinced them that the arduous duties of an inspector call for a certain proportion of younger men,' and further on:—'In the recent appointment of inspectors, the Government has read the recommendations in just the way the commission desired.' Now, as the gentleman appointed is practically the same age as several of the head masters, these statements need explanation. At present it seems that it is not age, but the fact of being a head master which is the bar sinister. Moreover, the further recommendation that a junior may become a full inspector in five years, apart from the preposterous idea of advancing a man from £250 to £475 in five years, will in a short time render any influx of 'younger men' impossible, unless it is intended to establish a lethal chamber in connection with the Education Department. Since head masters at from 50 to 55 are too old for inspectorial work, this question will have to be faced when these young men arrive at that age. The matter is further complicated by the fact that one of the 'young men' had reached the advanced age which disqualifies head masters before he was appointed. Mr. Coneybeer goes on to say:—"That" (the policy of appointing young men as inspectors) "was based largely on the Victorian practice." Quite so, but chaos generally results when part of a system is dragged from a harmonious whole and pitched into a set of entirely different conditions. 1. The functions of junior inspectors in Victoria differ fundamentally from those of our inspectors. 2. High university honours are a condition of appointment there; hence the choice is limited. 3. They are specifically appointed to the lower rank at a salary from £372 to £432, and do not automatically become full inspectors, as is here proposed. 4. All vacancies are advertised and applications invited, and this is a matter of vital importance. It is extremely desirable that light should be thrown on this puzzling recommendation before its adoption by the House."

THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

COMMEMORATION DAY FIXED.

A meeting of the council of the University was held on Friday, when there were present the Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Goodman, Dr. Poulton, Professor Mitchell, Mr. Chapple, Hon. F. W. Young, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Talbot Smith, Dr. Stirling, Rev. Dr. Jefferis, Professor Ennis, and Rev. Canon Girdlestone. An apology for the unavoidable absence of the Chancellor was received. Sir Lancelot Stirling, President of the Legislative Council, reported that Sir John Downer had been appointed by the Legislative Council a member of the council of the University in place of Sir John Duncan, deceased. The Vice-Chancellor reported that the supplementary letters patent, authorising the University of Adelaide to confer degrees in surgery and in engineering had been received. The charter was laid upon the table.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the undermentioned members of the council would retire by effluxion of time on November 9:—Mr. F. Chapple, Canon Girdlestone, Mr. W. J. Isbister, Professor E. H. Rennie, and the Hon. F. W. Young, LL.B., M.P. The registrar reported that the meeting of the University, convened for October 9, for the purpose of electing two representatives on the board of governors of the Public Library, had lapsed for want of a quorum. The council re-elected Professor Henderson and Professor Jethro Brown to represent the University on the board.

The council fixed Wednesday, December 17, as the date of the annual commemoration. On the recommendation of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. Rennie, of Sydney, was appointed additional examiner for the fifth year of the M.B. degree, and Dr. H. S. Newland additional examiner in operative surgery. Applications from Dr. R. H. Pulleine and the Rev. W. H. Winter for admission ad eundem gradum were approved. Various alterations in statutes and regulations, submitted by the education committee, were approved for submission to the next meeting of the University Senate.

MR. WAITE'S GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY.

The Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Sir Samuel Way) has received the following telegram from the Governor of Queensland (Sir William McGregor), who is Chancellor of the University of Queensland:—"I offer you very hearty and sincere congratulations on the magnificent gift of Mr. Peter Waite to your University in the interests of higher agricultural education. Such patriotism is inspiring."

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