Dr. Mawson's Plans.

In explaining how the plans for the expedition were inaugurated, Dr. Mawson stated: "I went to Europe in order to further the interests of the Shackleton Expedition by helping to complete the publication of its scientific results, especially those of the South Shetlands. When I arrived in London, I had to decide whether I would join Capt. Scott on his expedition, which was then being formed. His letter reached me, and we came to a tentative arrangement, but in the light of subsequent events I decided to alter my plans and withdraw. It was, however, so extensive that it would not allow of detailed scientific examination of that part of the coast of Antarctica which was determined to try and get an expedition sent to that coast."

Work to be Halted.

Setting out from Hobart at the beginning of December, 1911, the Aurora first put in at Macquarie Island and assembled wireless apparatus of sufficient power to communicate, on one hand with Hobart, and on the other with South Victoria Land, the nearest portion of the Antarctic continent. From there we sailed south to a point on the coast nearest to the magnetic pole, which was only about 350 miles inland. Here the party, under command of Dr. Mawson, landed. The coast was then swept around, leaving one party at Claire Land, and another at Knox Land. It was hoped that these parties would be able to maintain wireless communication with each other, and with Dr. Mawson, but this proved impossible because of the insecurity in the scientific use of wireless telegraphy for the work of exploration. It was intended that from Knox Land the explorers, passing westward, would probably make an attempt to reach the coast of Antarctica and return by the same route. At this time, the 1,500 miles of ice land between the points at which the first and third parties were to land, and which would necessarily separate the two parties, seemed marked out as a natural possession of Australia. Portions of it are nearer to Hobart than that city, for instance, to Albany or Cervantes.

The second expedition was organized by Dr. Mawson and Capt. Nares, the French captain, who, many years ago, made a dash from Hobart in a sailing ship, and coasted along, conferring the names Sabrina Land, Claris Land, and Adelaide Land on different parts. They arrived at their destination about the middle of June, and were able to remain only seven weeks. Dr. Mawson, however, at the time of his departure, did not expect to return until April, 1913, and by that time hoped to have charted the coast definitely, to have found harbours suitable for sealers or whalers, to have searched for indications of minerals, and to have done valuable meteorological work, in order to make progress in the advancement of the scientific results which are so often difficult. It was expected that with wireless communication the exact work would be done by the men on the coast, and that in many respects the scientific results would surpass in accuracy anything previously obtained. During the winter aconography of the lines followed by the Prince of Wales were to be made. Travelling at a depth of 600 to 2,000 fathoms was to be attempted, and it was thought that in this almost unexplored ocean every hand of the net would bring up species new to science. "Few vessels," said Dr. Mawson, "have the means of working for the coast, and practically none since the days of Wilkes and D'Urville. We desire to raise the Union Jack and take possession of this land for the British Empire."

When the Party Left.

On their way to Hobart to join the Aurora, Dr. Mawson and several of his party were given a splendid send-off at the Adelaide Town Hall on November 24, when was justified the confidence the good wishes tendered, the leader said: "I am one of the speakers have referred to myself, and I appear to be the chief spirit in the expedition. To succeed, it is that too. Everything depends on that. But I only one of the 31 of the land party. I can do nothing more in science. However, the success of the expedition after having chosen to staff. It is an obligation on my part to choose the men who will do the work, for I am a man who will do the work. Of course they are unparalleled from underachievers of this kind. The most important point to bear in members of an expedition like this is character. A reference has been made to the importance of character. I have done my best to choose men of character. The man must go forward with the certainty knowledge that he is facing the risks of life and limb. We shall meet dangers as they come.

TRIBUTE TO BRAVE MEN.

Work of Great Scientific Value.

MELBOURNE, February 25.

The Governor-General made the first public announcement of the news from Antarctica at the speech-day ceremony in the Church of England Grammar School, this afternoon. After having read Dr. Mawson's telegram, and expressed regret at the news, His Excellency said he under stood that Lieutenant Hocken was an Englishman, who had accompanied the expedition in charge of the dogs, and that Dr. Mertz was a Swiss expert in the study of ice and snow. He knew, however, that Australians would mourn for the loss of a man of great respect for race. "I am sure," continued Lord Denman, "that further details are received it will be found that Dr. Mawson's telegram was received in him by Australia, and has done work of great scientific value in behalf of the Commonwealth. (Applause.) I hope that he and his comrades made another winter in the antarctica. (Applause.)"

Message from the Governor.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir D. Beaslake) was advised of the communications from Dr. Mawson. Afterwards he sent the news from Marble Hill: "In behalf of the State of South Australia, His Excellency the Governor desires to express to Dr. Mawson and his companions his regret on account of the loss of their two comrades, and his hearty congratulations upon the success of the exploratory operations."