A VICE FROM ANTARCTICA.

WIRELESS MESSAGES.

HOBART, September 27.

To-day the Hobart wireless station received the following message, sent by Mr. Sawyer (wireless operator at Macquarie Island) to Dr. Elliot (Secretary of the Australian Antarctic Expedition):—"At 8 p.m. last night last signal from Adelaide. I answered as soon as possible. Only a short distance away. The only distress signal given was from Hope and Penguin Hills if working. Also the words 'I cannot call tonight. I am kept urgently at sea and conditions are extremely unfavourable.' This is the distress signal. Both Hope and Penguin Hills are still in distress, and Mr. Elliot encloses the distress signal that replied that careful watch would be kept. It is thought that, whereas the Macquarie Island station was being hunts, the transformer was damaged. Mr. Hoppin, who worked at Hope and Penguin Hills on H.M.S. 'York,' said on Thursday, 'I can understand that, and took it with the idea that it had been damaged.'

Mercury, September 27.

The job of sending it was a lesser one than had been expected.

A BIG HULL.

EDUCATION IN VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, September 27.

The South Australian Royal Commission on Education took evidence at the State Parliament House today. The witness examined was Mr. Frank Tate (Director of Education). Mr. Tate gave an outline of the work of the education Department and the State system of education. The Board of Education and its functions and that of the Board of Classmasters were explained at length, and Mr. Tate stated that not only did they inspect all the districts frequently, but also schools, and that they inspected once every six months. They visited each inspector once every six months and the reports of other inspectors.

The Commissioner (Mr. Patten)—That is the time when I have heard in Australia.

Mr. Tate—It is, if the commission proposed to recommend that provision be made in South Australia it would be doing it with my own eyes. They have been taken for granted that system may be used to point out where improvements could be made.

Mr. Tate—The system of inspection has been continued and established in good times. When there are good times outside it means bad times in the education Department.

The Commissioner—Proof positive that the teachers are working to the best advantage as well as they might be.

Mr. Tate—I assume the cost of the teaching was £67,853, and the expenditure for the current year was £71,250. The rate of instruction was given as £52,000, so the cost of the instruction would be £1,000, or a reduction to be made by £12,250.

The Commissioner—A wonderful jump. How many teachers have you?

Mr. Tate—There are 300,000 permanent and junior teachers, 10,000.

The Commissioner—Next to New Zealand you had the largest number of students.

The Commission inspected the work of the classes at the Working Men's College this afternoon and will meet again to take evidence tomorrow.