

IMPERIAL TRADE COMMISSION.

Mr. Donald Campbell to Represent Australia.

MELBOURNE, March 1.

At the Imperial Conference last year it was decided, on the proposal of the home authorities, to appoint an Imperial Royal Commission, consisting of delegates from the Colonial Office and the self-governing dominions, to enquire into and report upon the natural resources of the dominions and their general economic relations with each other and with the United Kingdom. Some delay occurred owing to the original terms of reference to the commission having been slightly altered by the Colonial Office.

The amended terms of reference, which were recently received by the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher) are:—"To enquire into and report upon the natural resources of the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, and the Colony of Newfoundland; and, further, to report upon the development of such resources, whether attained or attainable; upon the facilities which exist or may be created for the production, manufacture, and distribution of all articles of commerce in those parts of the Empire; upon the requirements of each such part and of the United Kingdom in the matter of food and raw material, and the available sources of such; upon the trade of each such part of the Empire with the other parts of the United Kingdom and with the rest of the world; upon the extent, if any, to which the mutual trade of the several parts of the Empire have been or are being affected, beneficially or otherwise, by the laws now in force other than fiscal laws; and generally to suggest any methods, consistent always with the existing fiscal policy of each part of the Empire, by which the trade of each part with the others and with the United Kingdom might be improved and extended."

The Prime Minister was informed that the remuneration of each member of the commission would be £4 4/ a day during its whole duration, and that all fees would also be allowed. He was asked to send in a Commonwealth nomination by the end of last month. The announcement was made to-day that the Government had appointed Mr. Donald Campbell, LL.B., of South Australia, to be the Commonwealth member of the commission. Mr. Fisher added that Mr. Campbell possessed excellent qualifications. He had for six years been a member of the South Australian Parliament, and was an unsuccessful Labour candidate at the last election. He had in turn been an engineer, journalist, and lawyer. The Prime Minister was asked whether he was in possession of the names of any of the other members of the commission, and he replied in the negative.



MR. D. C. CAMPBELL.

On his return from England last year Mr. Fisher stated that the commission would visit all parts of the Empire in search of information, and it was understood that its labours would be of somewhat long duration, probably three years.

—Biographical.—

Mr. Campbell is a native of South Australia. He was born at Robe on September 16, 1866, and afterwards removed to Millicent, of which progressive town he was one of the most prominent townsmen. He has been distinguished by remarkable versatility, for he has at various times followed journalism, engineering, and river steam navigation, besides having dipped into the law. In 1907 he decided upon taking the University Senior Examination. Having begun to prepare in July, he "got up" the 62 exercises in Smith's Latin Principia, and mastered the intricacies of Postgate's Latin Grammar, with Cicero and

Virgil quantum suit. French and German, and English literature proved no deterrent to the eager student, and English history was at his fingers' ends as the result of steady application and reading, combined with the services of a good coach, in Mr. G. C. Newman, B.A. In every one of the subjects Mr. Campbell satisfied the examiners at the end of the same year. During his period of study he attended closely to his Parliamentary duties as a representative of Victoria and Albert in the House of Assembly, which he served from November 3, 1906, until defeated at the recent elections. Last year Mr. Campbell gained the degree of LL.B. at the Adelaide University, and it was understood that he intended to devote himself to a career in the legal profession. His addresses in Parliament always gave evidence of careful preparation, and were not delivered until he had made himself thoroughly acquainted with the details of the subject in hand. Besides being a painstaking member in watching the interests of his particular district, Mr. Campbell was keenly alive to the bearings of important questions affecting the State and the Commonwealth. Although a member of the Labour Party, he stoutly opposed preference to unionists, which he declared to be foreign to every principle of British law.

GEOLOGIST'S HOLIDAY.

MR. HOWCHIN IN NEW ZEALAND.

Mr. W. Howchin, F.G.S., of Adelaide, and Mrs. Howchin returned overland from Melbourne on Tuesday after a visit to New Zealand, whither they went in December to visit their daughter, Mrs. Uphill, of Lumsden vicarage, South Island. Mr. Howchin spent a large part of his time in scientific investigation, more particularly in relation to present and past glaciations of the country. He proceeded to the Southern Alps in the neighbourhood of Mount Cook, examined seven or eight glaciers, and made excursions to various points of interest to enquire into the evidences of the much greater extent of the icecap in New Zealand. He also visited the cold lakes of the South Island, which are numerous and of great extent, and owe their origin to the glacial erosion.

Mr. Howchin remarked:—"Lake Wakatipu is one of the largest. It is a narrow expanse of water, more than 1,200 ft. deep, with its bottom 2,400 ft. below the level of the sea, which shows the enormous erosive effect which the ice has had in that locality. There were evidences that the whole of the country had been more or less covered by ice at an age corresponding to the great ice age of the northern hemisphere. The glaciers are at present much shrunken, and although some of them are many miles in length, they are but pigmies in comparison with the glaciers which occupied those valleys in earlier times. The redistribution of moranic matter has formed the lowlands and plains of eastern New Zealand. The rivers flowing over these choked-up valleys present a peculiar aspect, as they possess no banks, and simply wander and reticulate in some cases to more than the width of a mile. The time that has elapsed since the retreat of the ice has not been sufficiently long for these rivers to cut beds for themselves down to any depth, and thereby to form gorges. They are, indeed, rivers in a most juvenile state of development."

"The present recent summer season in New Zealand has been almost unique in its cold and wintry conditions. When I left the South Island about a week ago much of the corn was not yet ripe. I was much struck by the wonderful greenness and freshness of the country. The feed was as fresh as though it were the beginning of spring. The weather had been so moist that there had been no fading of the grass, and cattle were almost lost as they lay in the tall herbage. I consider that New Zealanders generally are not by any means getting out of the land what it is capable of yielding by more thorough and scientific methods of culture."

IN WINTER QUARTERS.

Mawson's Antarctic Party.

Return of the Aurora.

HOBART, March 12.

The Aurora arrived at Hobart to-day after having landed the Mawson expedition in Antarctica. The crew learnt the news of Capt. Amundsen's success from the pilot, and as they passed the Fram they gave hearty cheers. The Fram dipped her flag. When the Aurora came in she had on board only nine tons of coal, or about one day's supply. The vessel left Macquarie Island on Christmas Day, and proceeded to Adelie Land. Four days later, in 63 deg. 49 S., several large bergs were sighted. On January 3, in 65 deg. 46 min., a long barrier of ice about 8 ft. high running east and west was seen. On January 6 the vessel crossed the antarctic circle, and a storm came on. The vessel lay-to in Wind Bay, fringed to the eastward by a large number of rocky islands.

—Clarie Land Disappeared.—

Capt. Davis's report continues:—"We proceeded along the coast, searching for a landing place for winter quarters, and on January 8 a suitable spot, with a fairly good harbour, was found in 66 S., 145 E. On January 10 the discharging of cargo was commenced. All hands worked day and night. On January 19 Mawson, Hodgman, Bage, Madigan, McClean, Hunter, Webb, Mertz, Hurley, Murphy, Close, Stillwell, Norris, Whitter, and Gasseron left for the shore. Owing to the difficulties of the coast Dr. Mawson decided to amalgamate the first and second parties, and landed the other party according to the previous programme. The Aurora voyaged westwards, expecting to sight Clarie Land, so named by Durville in 1840, but the vessel sailed right over its position. Apparently it was an ice barrier, which has since broken up. Bad weather came on, and much ice, both pack and bergs, was met."

—Winter Quarters Found.—

Further progress south became impossible, and the Aurora steamed north into open water, and tried to reach Knox Land, but was stopped by a heavy icefloe. The vessel was therefore turned westward to Wilkes's Land, where an ice barrier about 60 ft. high was sighted. A little further to the west an immense glacier was seen. The land was about 15 miles away. There were mountains 2,500 ft. high, all snow covered. As the glacier offered a good site for winter quarters, the party was landed there. Stores were got from the floe to the top of the icediff, 1,000 ft. high by a flying fox. The Aurora left for Hobart on February 21, and after a narrow escape from being caught in the ice came straight to Tasmania.

—Plenty of Ice.—

Capt. Davis said there was a great deal of ice about, and the pack ice seemed to come further north now than in 1910, although the ice barrier had receded in places, as they sailed right over Durville's Clarie Land and Wilkes's Cape Carr. This coast of the antarctic continent seemed fairly unbroken. The region of westerly winds seemed to extend down to 60 deg., and then came a region of strong south-easterly winds, with clear, bright air. There were plenty of seals, penguins, and petrels, and a great many whales.

—Aurora's Movements.—

The Aurora will stay in Hobart for a few days, and then go to Sydney. Afterwards she will probably proceed on a trip for oceanographical work.

Professor Darnley Naylor, of the Adelaide University, is visiting England, and the "Scarborough Daily Post" of February 8 contains a report of a speech delivered by him at the annual meeting of the local branch of the Peace and Arbitration Society. The chairman read a message of sympathy and greeting to the Scarborough branch from the Adelaide Peace Society before the professor spoke. Professor Naylor, who is a vice-president of the Adelaide society, said peace, like honesty, was the best policy, but he was not particularly interested in that which was only the best policy. They could not do without struggle, but the struggle for evolution must be continued on a higher and nobler plane. In the early days it was possible that war should exist, but out of that war there arose the quality which was going to make it in the near future an unthinkable thing.