

ADIEU, DR. MAWSON.

South Australia's Best Wishes.

A Fine Send-off.

Dr. Mawson and his party who are bound for the Antarctic regions, had a splendid send-off at the Banqueting Room at the Adelaide Town Hall on Saturday. The keen enthusiasm with which the expedition is being watched in South Australia, even in its initial stages, was manifested by the large number of representative citizens who assembled. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Day Bosanquet) presided, and on the platform were the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way), the Chief Secretary (Hon. F. S. Wallis), the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. L. Cohen), representative citizens, and officers of the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society.

—His Excellency's Tribute.—

His Excellency the Governor said:—I wish first, to express my appreciation of the honour which has been conferred upon me by the invitation to preside upon this important occasion. As all those present may not be quite aware of the objects of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, I will commence by briefly enumerating them. Although the primary object is scientific enquiry, yet within so short a distance of enlightened Australia exists a huge continent about which we know but very little. Especially are we ignorant of that portion lying nearest to Australia which will be the scene of operations. The charting of this coast line will perhaps be of chief importance. At present there are 2,000 miles uncharted. Meteorological observations of the highest value will result from data accumulated at the Macquarie Island station and from the Antarctic bases. Wireless communications between the oases and Australia will greatly enhance the value of the observations, for the time element will be exactly fixed. The magnetic observations will be very complete and accurate, for the expedition is well equipped in this respect, and has the services of a highly trained man in the person of Mr. Webb, of the Carnegie Institute. (Applause.) The geological and biological prospects are particularly interesting from the point of view of Australians, more particularly in tracing the collateral conditions in the neighbouring continent of Australia. Almost nothing is yet known of the conditions of the deeper waters in the southern ocean, or of its inhabitants. With the aid of the special deep sea gear supplied by the Prince of Monaco the expedition hopes to shed much light upon this problem. The proposed expedition has resulted in universal European interest, and all the Antarctic explorers in Europe have given their best advice and assistance both in funds and material. From time immemorial it has been the custom that the leaders of expeditions for scientific polar exploration, on the eve of their departure, should receive from the representatives of their fellow-countrymen in public assembly, that meed of honour to which in the past their efforts have justly entitled them, together with the expression of those sincere desires for the successful result of their labours in the future, which must ever animate the hearts of the community which sends them forth. Dr. Mawson has already given evidence to the world of his high qualities for leadership, such as self-sacrifice, devotion to duty, determination, endurance, and hardihood—which have caused him to be singled out as commander of the expedition on the exploration which lies before him. (Applause.) South Australia is, therefore, proud of him, the University of Adelaide feels the honour it derives from association with his exploits in the past, and we are all assembled here to express the confidence we feel in his successful leadership of the future. Speaking for myself, I am very proud to be here to assist in giving the leader of this Australian Antarctic expedition, and the South Australian members of his crew—A. L. Kennedy, C. T. Madigan (Rhodes Scholar for 1911), M. H. Moyes, A. J. Hodgman, and P. E. Correll—a hearty farewell and send off, at the same time wishing them the best of good, the utmost success in the aims and objects of the expedition, and in their work as pioneers, and on its conclusion a safe and happy return to us. This is the second time I have had the honour to assist in

sending forth a similar expedition, as in 1907 I was Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, whence Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition sailed for the Antarctic after being inspected by King Edward and Queen Alexandra. Sir E. Shackleton has lately evinced his sincere friendship for Dr. Mawson, and his continued sympathy in Antarctic exploration by raising in London the sum of £8,000 towards the expenses of the expedition. The scientific problems hidden under Antarctic snow and ice are of such tremendous importance to the wellbeing of the human race, as to completely justify not only the highest efforts of each member of Dr. Mawson's expedition, but also the large expenditure which has necessarily been incurred. (Loud applause.)

—The Chief Justice's Eulogy.—

The Chief Justice said the objects and personnel of the expedition to the Antarctic continent, which was shortly to depart from their shores, appealed to the patriotic emotions of every true Australian. (Applause.) The members of the University of Adelaide, as His Excellency had appropriately stated, were proud of the leader of that expedition. (Applause.) He was a member of the staff of the University, and they had had an opportunity of forming an acquaintance, not merely with his eminence as a scientist, but with his fascinating personal qualities, of which his laughing eyes and mouth were the true index. (Applause.) Dr. Mawson would have won fame if he had never left the shores of Australia. (Hear, hear.) I offer no apology in behalf of the University that we have twice and for a lengthened period granted leave of absence to Dr. Mawson for the purpose of joining the Shackleton expedition and leading the present one. It would no doubt be to the advantage of the students of the University, that they should learn from an actual observer something of the petrology and mineralogy of the Antarctic Continent. But the University does not exist solely for the purpose of imparting knowledge. (Applause.) Our function is to increase the sum of knowledge by original research and discovery. (Applause.) It is its highest function to build up character. I am sure you will recognize the advantage that it must be to the students of the Sydney University—the mother University of Australia—to have the example before them of the intrepid and scientific veteran, Professor David. (Applause.) It will be no less to the advantage of the students of the University of Adelaide, to have the companionship and inspiration of the example of that young and scientific hero, Dr. Mawson. (Applause.) Dr. Mawson, as we all know, was a member of the Shackleton expedition, and his name and his achievements stand out in the annals of that expedition. (Applause.) He was one of the three men who ascended Mount Erebus, and looked down into its glowing

crater. He and his companions obliterated Mount Terror from the map of Antarctica. He determined the site of the magnetic pole, and he was one of the three heroes who stood there and planted the Union Jack. The history of Australia begins, and its brightest pages are illuminated by the exploits of the great navigators who sailed along these shores, and the great explorers who disclosed its interior for the benefit of the world. Dr. Mawson, it appears to me, is the living incarnation of the spirit of Capt. Cook, Capt. Flinders, Sturt, Stuart, and Eyre. (Applause.) Your Excellency, if you were 25 years younger you would be one of the first to volunteer to join that expedition. (Applause.) If I could turn the hands of the clock back 50 years, I would gladly and proudly follow your Excellency's example. (Laughter and applause.) But I am not speculating as to what a gallant man like your Excellency, or a venerable fossil like myself will do. (Laughter.) We are happy to know that 30 of the best young men in New Zealand, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia have joined as members of the Mawson expedition. (Applause.) I am going to take the liberty of repeating the names of the South Australian contingent, and I shall place first the Rhodes scholar, Mr. Madigan. (Applause.) Mr. Madigan had reached Oxford, which is really the Mecca of all men who want to become learned in the literature of the history of the world. Mr. Madigan had reached Oxford. The trustees recognized that the Antarctic expedition would be precisely the sort of training that Mr. Rhodes had in view in founding those munificent scholarships. Accordingly they recognised that that was equal to the greatest Elizabethan courage, and gave him permission to accompany the expedition to the southern continent. I must not forget the name of Mr. Noyes. (Applause.) He was a graduate like Mr. Madigan of this University, and I am glad he is here to receive your welcome this morning. (Applause.) Mr. Correll is also a science student of the University. He has not yet won his degree, but when he comes back to receive it the applause of his brother graduates will be still more enthu-

siastic, because of what he has achieved on the antarctic continent. (Applause.) Now I want to mention that another of the

young adventurers comes from the School of Mines, and is well known in the world of sport, and sport trains to manliness and courage—Mr. Kennedy. (Applause.) I like to mention that the South Australian Civil Service will be represented. (Applause.) Mr. Hodgeman, the draftsman of the expedition, was a skilful draftsman in the Public Works Office, and he has given up his appointment under the Government to join the expedition, and I trust that you, Mr. Chief Secretary, will see that he is promoted when he comes back. (Applause.) Now I want to mention a shade upon this expedition. I want to bring to your notice the fact that Sir Ernest Shackleton, the leader of the last expedition, who won fame and was honoured by his Sovereign, had to undertake the financial responsibility of that expedition, and now he has to work as a lecturer all over England and the Continent, because, as an honourable man, he wishes to pay his debts. That, I am sure, is not the will of Australia with respect to the result of this expedition of Dr. Mawson. (Applause.) Mr. Verran, the Premier, I am sorry, is unable to be here, but he is well represented by the Chief Secretary, but I want to recall the fact that his Ministry by an action which won the approval of the Opposition, as well as of his supporters, gave the lead to the Australian Commonwealth and the Australian States by granting £5,000 towards the cost of the expedition. (Applause.) If all the Australian States had seen their way to do what the Commonwealth and South Australia and Dr. Mawson's native State (New South Wales) did, there would be no financial difficulty. (Hear, hear.) The cost of the expedition will be £50,000, and, as you have seen in the papers, £9,000 or £10,000 requires still to be raised. We are sure to be delighted day by day with the messages received by wireless telegraphy of the achievements, success, dangers, and escapes of this expedition, and I do hope that Australia will send a return message—or even before Dr. Mawson reaches Hobart, or before he reaches Macquarie Island, he will receive a message from an enthusiastic Australia that the cost of the expedition has been subscribed, and he will have his energies unimpaired by financial responsibilities, and be able to devote them all to the work of the expedition. (Applause.)

—The Government Representative.—

The Chief Secretary joined with Sir Samuel Way in regretting that the Premier was not able to be present at that special gathering. He knew that Mr. Verran took a very keen interest in the expedition, and it would have afforded him great pleasure to have been present and wished success to the expedition. Dr. Mawson having already taken part in an expedition to the South Pole knew to a large extent the dangers he had to face. He (the speaker) was present at a lecture given by Sir Ernest Shackleton at the University, and in common with all those present he realized the dangers of the expedition which was successfully carried through by Sir Ernest and those with him. He thought they might consider it an evidence of the indomitable pluck of Dr. Mawson that, notwithstanding the many narrow escapes, he was near to death at times, he was prepared to face all those dangers again in the interest of science. (Applause.) He trusted that every member of the party would be animated by a true spirit of comradeship. He had no doubt whatever in his mind that that would be so. It was of the greatest importance that those who banded together for an expedition like the present should enter upon it with a determination to be true comrades from the beginning to the end. (Applause.) They would have in connection with the present expedition what they did not have in the case of that led by Shackleton—the advantage of receiving communications from the party by wireless telegraphy, which would give them news of the progress they were making, and also information regarding various matters which came under their observation. They would be in touch with the expedition. It would not be a case of them disappearing from their knowledge for a lengthy period, nor on the part of the friends a certain amount of anxiety as to whether they would hear of them again. Expeditions had been entered upon to the Northern and Southern Poles in which some members of the parties had never been heard of again, and whose fate had never been known. They trusted that nothing of that sort would be the case in regard to the present expedition. (Hear, hear.) The equipment of the party would be superior to that of any party which had preceded it. Every possible provision that could be thought of to make the expedition a success and minimize the risks unattachable to expeditions of this sort had been made. He trusted that in April, 1913, they would have the pleasure of an assembling there and welcoming back every member of the party, and doing honour to them. (Applause.)