THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

There should be a large and enthusiastic gathering of South Australians in the Adelaide Town Hall at 2 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, at a meeting arranged by the Register. The purpose is to discuss the Antarctic expedition, and to support the plan to send a vessel to the Antarctic. The meeting is expected to be well attended, and there will be an opportunity for all to express their views on this important matter.

"Good luck" to Dr. Mawson and his comrades, who a few hours later will leave the city for Hobart, en route to the South Polar regions. Appropriately, His Excellency, the Governor, presented Mr. Mawson with a large amount of support, which will be forthcoming, mostly from Australians. The amount donated to the sum of £2,200, Mr. W. A. Horn gave £1000; Lord Northcliffe gave £500; Mr. W. T. Wordsworth gave £300; and Mr. Eugene Sandow, a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club, gave $1000. Other important donations come from all classes of the people. In addition, offers of supplies, provisions, and other necessary equipment have been satisfactorily received. It is now the task of the committee to organize and prepare for the expedition.

"Serenity Labour."

Dr. Mawson left London a day before the other members of the expedition, and is already on board the vessel that will take him to Australia, where he will take his place at the head of the expedition. The expedition is expected to depart from Sydney in a few weeks, and large donations of money have been received from the States of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. This is a matter of great importance, and the success of the expedition will depend entirely on the amount of the donations in cash and in kind.

To the recent extension of the scope of the expedition by the addition of the wireless station at Macquarie Island, the expedition is to be congratulated, and there is every likelihood that there will be further additions to the expedition forthcoming. The fact that the State Government of South Australia has been generous in this matter has been an important factor in the success of the expedition. The island is nearly 1,000 miles from Hobart, and it has been a matter of great interest to the people of South Australia to see how the forecasts of the Federal Government will be carried out with greater accuracy. The practical value of this project is enormous.

But when this extra expenditure is added to the cost of the expedition, the question of the Government's willingness to contribute something towards the funds of the expedition is raised. It is understood that this additional financial weakness, the expedition is new, but the directors have the support of the people of South Australia, and it is hoped that this will be sufficient to carry the expedition through.

Among the Australian contributions were—Lord Denman, £500; Mr. W. A. Horn, £300; Mr. S. R. Schuflin, £100; Mr. Mackellar, £100; Mr. G. N. Hodgson, £100; Mr. L. E. Gledhill, £50; Sydney Morning Herald, £50; Dr. M. E. Mawson, £50; Sydney Sunday Mail, £50; The Register, £30; Professor David Pacific, £50; and Mr. A. E. A. Church, £30. The contributions received in England included the following: Lord Northcliffe, £100, and Mr. Algermissen, £50. Besides these there are many contributions coming from all quarters. In more than one case the amount of money sent will contribute towards the fitting out of the expedition.

"An Appeal."

The question is—Will Australians support this expedition to save from Hobart with the burden of debt hanging round their necks? Considering that this is an Antarctic expedition composed of South Australia's most experienced men, and that they are setting forth to do a great work for the advancement of knowledge in the southern hemisphere, and that may some day form an important part of the history of the world, it would hardly be to the credit of South Australia if they were to fail in this national undertaking, and if the same time be taken to secure a vessel that will have to be bought when they return home.

The expedition is not a "wild goose chase," nor is it undertaken chiefly from love of adventure—which, within the limitations of the project, is an admirable enough sentiment. Taking high ground, it may be said to have originated in reverence for the memories of brave geographers and seamen who, generation after generation, endeavored with only slight success to unravel the secrets of the long stretch of coast and the vast hinterland which Dr. Mawson proposes to visit. The spirit of these pioneers is in us, and it is moving a band of hardy Australians to resume and complete a task which was scarcely begun when the first expedition of 1914 was made. With a little more encouragement, the expedition may be attributed to the Divinity-inspired impulse which prompts and serves to continuous investigation of the wonders of the natural world; the impulse that is guiding the nations toward a home race a temporary home. Intelligent men restless hunger for light and knowledge; and because the mind of the Creator is perfectly expressed in the earth, sea, and sky, they are impelled consciously to search for new marvels. Thus the labours of the explorer, as of the scientist, may be prosecuted from a deep and glorious sense of solemn duty—the sacred obligation of unlocking Nature's secrets and bringing to light new treasures, which may prove of incalculable benefit to mankind.

To the very Many of his friends, Rigs for exploiters and mighty enterprises.

The example he and his companions are setting, in boldly attempting to perform the work of the South, will be worth much to the minds and imaginations of "young Australians. The stories they may have to relate, and the surprising information they may impart, can hardly fail to make them a permanent feature of the study of geography, zoology, and botany. As Dr. Mawson points out, extensive commercial and industrial developments are not likely to follow from the expedition. Sceptics may smile incredulously at these "speculations," but in all ages the men of imagination, who are the pioneers in the pursuit of hidden knowledge, are the heroes of all true progress.

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BOTANY, VEGETABLE PATHOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY

The Commonwealth Government is inviting applications for the positions of Botanist, Vegetable Pathologist, and Parasitologist, at a salary of £500 per annum. The successful applicants will be engaged in vegetable investigations in connexion with the Department of Agriculture, and their duties will include the study of vegetable pathology and parasitology. Applications should be made to the nearest Government Department of Agriculture and made within the specified period.

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