BACK IN ADELAIDE

DR. MAWSON BUSY

WILL RETURN TO UNIVERSITY

POPULAR LECTURES TO BE DELIVERED.

Dr. Mawson is an exceedingly busy man nowadays. Naturally there is a pile of work on his desk which only drives into that pile with his sleeves rolled up, so to speak. At 10 o'clock tomorrow morning he returns to Adelaide after a three weeks busy time in the eastern States. Several hours later he was caught hard at it in his room, writing away like mad. The desk was surrounded by piles of documents and maps. He willingly conversed for a few minutes as the expedition will be made.

"I came to Adelaide to make final arrangements about my work at the local university," he explained, "and in connection with expedition matters generally.

I shall be leaving for Melbourne again on Saturday. Next Monday afternoon the citizens of Melbourne will tender the members of the expedition and myself a reception at the Town Hall, the mayor as the president, and at night we shall be the dinner of course where the Governor will reside. On Tuesday, of course, as you know, I am to be married."

The ceremony will take place at Holy Trinity church. The officiating minister will be the Rev. Mr. Masters, who is well known in Adelaide. My best man will be Captain Davis. On Wednesday night I shall leave for England by the Orana, Captain Davis being a passenger by the same boat.

The object of your visit to England, doctor?"

"It is chiefly in connection with the publication of a popular account of the expedition, which will be the forerunner of a more detailed account of the scientific results. The popular version will be published in book form. Of course the scientific work will take some time to arrange, and final arrangements regarding its publication are not yet completed. It will take a long time to elaborate the material, but reports will be published as they are compiled, particularly those bearing on the more important branches of the work." Those, of course, cannot be delayed.

How long will you remain in England?"

"It is my present intention to be back in Australia by August. For the big science gathering, as far as I know so far, I shall present the preliminary statements regarding the scientific achievements of the expedition."

Will you lecture in England?

"As soon as arrangements are completed for the publication of the book, I will lecture on a series of popular lectures in Australia, the object of which will be to raise funds to meet the remaining expenses of the expedition. Between £2000 and £3000 is needed for the purpose of completing the scientific results. The money is mostly needed for the payment of salaries of scientific staff during the expedition. The amount, I hope, will be raised by my lectures, and the proceeds derived from the sale of the book."

You state you will lecture in Australia. Do you mean Australia only?

"I will probably deliver one lecture in each of the capital cities, and will return there later. I will take a sea voyage to New Zealand, returning in August, delivering them in the various suburban centres of the capital cities."

The future of the ship Aurora is decided, I believe?

"Yes, it is practically settled that Sir Ernest Shackleton will use her in connection with his forthcoming expedition to the Antarctic. He will have two vessels and will utilize the Aurora for work in the Ross Sea. The Aurora arrived in Melbourne to-day from Hobart, where he has been laying up the ship and paying off the men. He is, as I have said, proceeding to England, where he has a good deal of arranging to do in connection with the work done from the ship, the settling of various plans, &c."

What about the men who accompanied you?

"They are scattered over the world. Some are engaged in elaborating the scientific work accomplished in the north. The data collected during the two years has been handed over to specialists, who are now engaged upon it. A committee of the Australian Society for the Advancement of Science is arranging for the distribution of the materials among the various experts. Mr. Waite, curator of the Adelaide Museum, is examining the fishes, as he is a recognised authority. That is the only portion of the work being done in Adelaide. A large quantity of material was brought up from the Antarctic, there being four tons of rocks alone, these, of course, being broken up to permit of easier transit."

A last question, doctor. How about the future?

"Oh, I am coming back to the Adelaide University to assume my old post of lecturer in petrology and mineralogy. I feel that is closer to the university," the doctor concluded.