

AUSTRALIA WIDE WELCOME

MINISTER OF CUSTOMS SPEAKS

PROFESSOR MASSON VOICES THE FEELINGS OF SCIENTISTS.

The Hon. L. E. Groom voiced the sentiments of the people of Australia. He desired to say that the welcome would be Australia-wide. (Applause.) The Australian Parliament gave a fine contribution to the expedition. Representatives of all shades of political opinion united in contributing towards the expedition. (Applause.) If the occasion again arose the money would be forthcoming. (Applause.) Dr. Mawson and his associates had more than repaid the amount expended. The people of Australia gave money—the members of the expedition offered their lives. The spirit which raised Great Britain to her high pinnacle was inherent in the members of the expedition. Adelaide was rich in memories of exploratory parties. Sturt, who discovered the Murray; Eyre, who went out into the desert; Sir John Forrest and Stuart, were closely associated with Adelaide. (Applause.) The artistic spirit was growing, and they would not rest until a fitting monument was made to the heroes of the south. (Applause.) Australia was proud and gratified at their splendid record. (Applause.)

THE SCIENTISTS' WELCOME.

Professor Masson said that he represented the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science, which society was proud of the achievements of the members of the expedition. The society had gone through three phases, so to speak in connection with the expedition. First, there was the work of organisation. Dr. Mawson's work did not commence amid Antarctic snows. He had accomplished a terrific amount of work which had to be done prior to going south, and if he were a little tired he (the speaker) was not surprised. The second phase was the period of suspense—the two years in the Antarctic. Now came the third stage, which was just beginning. Dr. Mawson had to write his book—(applause)—the book that would

tell them all. Then he would have to give a more technical description of the journey. The working up of the material gathered during the trip would take some years. When the results were known it was certain that the expedition would stand second to none from the scientific viewpoint. (Applause.)

GOOD OUT OF EVIL.

There was this to be remembered, that the tragic episode which resulted in the death of Mertz and Ninnis had turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because it gave the members of the expedition another year for work in the Antarctic and invaluable work had been done. (Applause.) Dr. Mawson was welcomed back by his brother scientists, who rejoiced to have him with them again. (Applause.)

ROYAL SOCIETY'S WELCOME.

Dr. Verco (president of the Royal Society) said that Professor Henderson, just when on the eve of leaving Adelaide, said, "Mind you look after Mawson." That was the sentiment which had animated them all for months. Dr. Mawson had shown himself well able to look after himself. (Applause.) Now Mawson was back and had been "warmed up." (Laughter.) He was rather to be envied his Antarctic experiences, for it would be a marvellous memory. They had had in part, and were expecting in full, the story of the stay in Antarctica. The thrilling experiences had been the accidents of the expedition, the real pith and marrow were scientific results. He had gone to seek, to find, and to bring home vast stores of knowledge, and he had a tremendous collection on the Aurora. He had something for them all. The Royal Society was proud of Mawson and his achievements. (Applause.) His name must stand first among Australian explorers. (Applause.)

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE WORLD

WHERE THE ICEBERGS GLARE

DR. MAWSON FURTHERS HIS STORY

HOW MURPHY "RETRIEVED" THE MEAT.

Thunderous applause greeted Dr. Mawson when he rose to respond. The welcome extended to him by the people of Australia was greatly marred by the fact that their party was incomplete owing to the death of their two companions in the Antarctic. Neither Ninnis nor Mertz was an Australian, but they were both gallant and devoted members of the Australian expedition. Ninnis was a son of the head of the medical service in the British Navy—(Inspector-General Ninnis)—himself a well-known polar explorer by reason of his connection with the expedition of 1878. Years prior to that he was known to South Australia. He (the speaker) had seen a letter from the Government of South Australia to Surgeon Ninnis thanking him for his very great scientific work in the Northern Territory. Mertz' great claim was his fine character and character was a talisman of pure gold.

A FINE SUGGESTION.

He ventured to suggest that the people of Australia, while congratulating the survivors, should remember those who had given their lives to the cause, and he believed that the Commonwealth Government would cable the deep sympathy felt by Australia to the relatives of the two deceased, if his Worship the Mayor made a request in that direction. That was what he and his comrades wished most of all—that they would remember the men who had died. Professor Henderson had said, "Look after Mawson." He considered that Mawson had been looked after too well. (Laughter.) He would have preferred to be a little less

HOW THEY LIVED IN ANTARCTICA.

The inevitable Irishman accompanied the expedition. He was a party by the name of Murphy, and like all true Irishmen, made himself famous. "Mr. Murphy was our storeman," explained the doctor, "and he dealt with the meat question. After our hut had been built there was considerable space under the floor. A trapdoor led down to our cellar. Anything placed therein remained frozen. The first year we had eggs, which we brought from Australia, which were placed underground, and the second year we gathered a number of penguin eggs. These, together with carcasses of mutton, seal steaks and penguin meat were also placed in the cavity. You see, it was rather a shallow cellar, and snow got into it and rendered it somewhat difficult to gain access to. Here the ingenuity of Mr. Murphy asserted itself. He had a method, all his own, of getting the meat out, which was far better than scrambling into the cellar himself. He would put one of the dogs into the cellar, and the animal in a moment or two would leap out with a joint of meat or a piece of penguin. Murphy would be on the watch, just outside the trap door, and grab the canine as it came through and secure the meat. That's how Murphy got his meat out of the cellar.

THE TUNNEL THAT LEAKED.

"It was so difficult, on account of the almost eternal blizzards, to go outside to empty the slop water. Therefore a long tunnel was built from the doorway out into the snow, down which the water was drained. Unfortunately for us the tunnel leaked, and the slop water

drained back into the cellar and froze round our supply of provisions, so that one fine day we discovered our meat frozen into a hard lump of dirty slop water. That meat took some digging out. We had to use crowbars to dig it out. In fact, a party was at work for two days with sledgehammers and crowbars breaking up the mass. The eggs—well, you could play ball with them without any fear of breaking them.

"FOOD DREAMS."

"Something has been said this afternoon about dreaming of food. We used to have what are known as food dreams—and pretty bad ones, too. They became more acute as the food supplies dwindled. I remember one I had—a most weird affair. Strangely enough, I was back in South Australia, travelling in a train, when someone told me where I could get a cake voted specially good. I seemed to be in the country. Following directions, I duly arrived where the supposed cake was to be had. To my joy I observed a huge cake, which brought thoughts of the hungry party. When I asked for it, however, the manager became somewhat diffident, evidently considering that I could not manage to eat it myself. After undergoing several more weird experiences I dreamed the cake was mine, and that on my setting alight to a fuse attached to it something wonderful would happen. I cannot remember whether I ultimately got that cake back to the party, but the dream is typical of many others. Members of the expedition extracted a certain amount of fun in exchanging dream stories.

AN ACUTE EXPERIENCE.

In a breath Dr. Mawson can change from gay to grave. The thrilling experiences he, in company with Ninnis and Mertz, went through are vividly impressed on his memory. "I thought it was all over at one time," observed the doctor. "Mertz and I were quite agreed on the point, and I shall never forget the acute agony I suffered when he died. The poet Keats talked about 'standing outside the shores of the wide world until fame and love as to nothing did sink.' So to speak, I stood on the outside and looked on the world. But Keats never visited the Arctic regions, or he would not have written in that strain."

TRIBUTE TO COMRADES.

The doctor touched a right note. He knew that everybody was looking for the real story of the expedition. That story was a voluminous one and could not be told yet awhile, he said. It would be necessary for some 70 men to collaborate in preparing the various chapters—scientific, geological, biological, meteorological—of the yet unwritten book. He desired specially to thank the comrades who stood so loyally by him, not forgetting those who had remained on Macquarie Island. He had sent a wireless message to them from the Antarctic telling them that any one who desired could go home. But they had all elected to remain. (Loud applause.)

DR. MAWSON'S SUGGESTION ACCEPTED.

The mayor announced that the Hon. E. L. Groom would authorise the sending of a cablegram to the relatives of the late Dr. Mertz and Lieutenant Ninnis, as Dr. Mawson had suggested.