

manly eloquence of Capt. Davis, who took the Australian Titanic to the southern seas. (Applause.) The sojourn, or it was more fitting to say, the imprisonment, for 12 months in the ice of that gallant little party was thought heroic. He had been told that for a long time the men lived on an extraordinary mixture of sago and sea elephant. (Laughter.) The foundation stones of the success of the expedition had been loyalty to its chief, loyalty to comrades, and a determination at all hazards to do their duty. "Dr. Mawson," concluded Sir Richard. "Well done! South Australia is proud of you, and Australia is proud of you, and will always remember your glorious achievements." (Applause.)

—Adelaide the Historic Centre.—

The Minister of Customs said the meeting was a splendid gathering to show their high appreciation of the noble work of that great Australian expedition. It was his privilege to tell them that all over Australia they desired to extend to Dr. Mawson, Capt. Davis, and his friends a hearty welcome. They on the olive-clad slopes of Adelaide were not alone in their enthusiasm, for it spread right far north to his own State, to the people among the pineapples, bananas, and sugar of Queensland. (Laughter and applause.) The Australian Parliament rose to the occasion when it gave a fine contribution to the expedition. Dr. Mawson and his colleagues had carried out a great work, not only for Australia, but for the British Empire. (Applause.) If the occasion came again the Commonwealth Parliament would vote every penny. They did not ask for payment. They asked for nothing. All they desired was to aid and assist the noble-minded leader, who had a noble ideal, and by courage and determination had given it execution and design. "Dr. Mawson," said the speaker, "you and your associates have more than repaid the Commonwealth the money it has cost. Taxpayers, we gave your gold. These men offered their lives, not for their own gain, but that they might have glory and renown in the highest possible sense, as traditions to Australia as a whole." (Applause.) It was most particularly fitting that this Australian reception should take place in Adelaide. The city was surrounded by fine traditions in exploration. Almost at their very port flowed out that noble river, the Australian Nile, "our Murray." There was hardly anything finer in the history of English exploration than that to the credit of Capt. Sturt, who navigated the unknown stream in 1829. Then from the City of Adelaide went Eyre on that marvellous expedition which was attended by all sorts of difficulties and obstacles. That was a great triumph, and added something else to the glory of their traditions. In that city his own colleague, Sir John Forrest received a welcome, something like that which they were now giving Dr. Mawson, as a recognition of his splendid work through the heart of Australia. (Applause.) He hoped the artistic sense of Australia would lead to the establishment of an imperishable memorial with the fame of the members of the Australian Antarctic Expedition, for the heroes of the south. (Applause.) He had only spoken to tell the members of the party how Australians felt personally towards the party. The people were proud of Dr. Mawson and those associated with him. Although the names of the party had not been mentioned he assured them that they would occupy a noble place in the history of antarctic research. In behalf of the people of Australia he tendered to Dr. Mawson and Capt. Davis and the members of the party a hearty welcome home, and he assured them of the gratitude and pride that Australia felt at their splendid record. (Applause.)

—A Science Welcome.—

Professor Masson, in behalf of the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science, which from the beginning had been associated with the expedition, joined in the welcome. The association, in following the history of the expedition, had gone through three stages. In the first place it had had something to do with the preliminary organization of the expedition, and because of that he saw the prodigious amount of work which was involved in the expedition. They had heard of the hardships which Dr. Mawson had undergone in the antarctic, but he had had a tremendous amount of work thrown on his shoulders in the organization of the tour. If Dr. Mawson was a little tired, it was not to be wondered at. The wonder was that he was alive at all. (Applause.) The second stage was when they heard that the leader had been left behind, and that two of the party had been lost. The third period was one of tremendous relief when they heard that the Aurora was in the gulf, and had reported all well. The next stage to be reached would be when Dr. Mawson went to England to write his book, and then came back to Australia to give the British Association a technical account of his labours. There were years of work before Dr. Mawson to collaborate the splendid

amount of scientific knowledge which he had brought back from the antarctic. In all probability when the results were described the verdict of those who could judge would be that the expedition was second to none from the point of view of science. Even after the first return of the Aurora Dr. Hugh Robert Mills, one of the greatest authorities of antarctic science, published a statement that the work already accomplished—if nothing else were done—would more than justify the expedition, and would build up the reputation of Dr. Mawson and his companions. Since then how much more had been done! Before long they would have a great deal more information. From one point of view the leaving behind of Dr. Mawson was a dire calamity, but it had turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as it gave the expedition another year to round off its scientific knowledge. During the home voyage magnificent results had been added to what had been done before. (Applause.)

—Royal Society's Greeting.—

The President of the Royal Society (Dr. J. C. Verec) said when Professor Henderson was leaving Adelaide he shouted back from the outgoing train, "Look after Mawson." (Applause.) That thought had been the general sentiment for months. The Royal Society in November chose a committee to welcome and honour its distinguished Fellow in what way it deemed best. As for "looking after Mawson," he had proved he was quite able to look after himself and those in his charge under most novel and difficult conditions. (Hear, hear.) They had all felt some anxiety when they learned he had to spend another dark winter in Adèle Land, and a profound sympathy in the loss of his brave companions; but those feelings were mitigated by their admiration for him, for his physical endurance, his indomitable will, his splendid stability of mind during his lonely 30 days' walk over those wastes of ice, with the fearsome memory of his two comrades gone, left behind dead, and the bare but fearful possibility of his other comrades gone, and himself left behind alive. (Applause.) But, thank God, Mawson was home again, safe and sound, back from "the thrilling regions of thick-ribbed ice," with their blinding blizzards, frost-biting cold, yawning crevasses lurking for men's lives, long winter nights, and spells of semi-starvation, which begot tantalizing waking visions, and sleeping dreams of some simple, satisfying food it was not possible for them to get. (Applause.) Mawson and his company were home, and warm again, which must be quite a novel sensation. Down in the south they had not even the chance Tom Hood's arctic explorer had, who wrote—

Our food is solid; ere we put  
So biting is the air,  
I never have been warm but once,  
When hugging with a bear.

For Antarctica seemed too cold even for polar bears. He hoped he had enjoyed to the full those hot suet puddings which so filled the mind of hungry explorers, dragging through the snow. So different the diet Tom Hood described—

Our food is solid; ere we put  
Our meal into our crops  
We use sledgehammers to our steaks,  
And hatchets to our chops.

Mawson was back and might now be envied his antarctic experiences, which, when the pains and perils had been toned down by time would ever remain a marvellous memory, a storehouse of remarkable reminiscences, the recalling of which would be a pleasure to himself and the recounting of them a delight to others. He assured Dr. Mawson the Royal Society was proud of him and his achievement, as one of its Fellows, and it hoped he might have health of mind and body so as to utilize and distribute the material he had gathered, and extract from it himself or through others all it contained of immediate and permanent scientific value, so that he might enjoy the full fruition of his venture. (Applause.) Mawson had carved his name on the scroll of fame indelibly; it never could be erased. It must ever stand first on the list of Australian antarctic explorers. However many might follow in his steps, and probably many would, Mawson must ever be first. And surely his honour would not wane as the people of Australia multiplied, and made history, and when, perhaps, they acquired the frozen south land as part of their expanding territory. (Applause.) He trusted that such fame might be the smallest of his honours, and might be wholly eclipsed by the valuable scientific and economic results of his observations already made, and of the knowledge yet to be gained from the wealth of material he had been able to bring home to Australia, results which should in measure interest and enrich and benefit the world. (Applause.)

—The Leader.—

Dr. Mawson, who met with a most enthusiastic reception, after recounting in humorous vein some of the experiences of the party, said Dr. Verec had stated that, having got through all their experiences, that they were to be envied. There was a great deal in that. Life was not worth much without experience, and his had been rather acute on the journey. At one time he had come to the pass when he understood that there was no hope at all, and then he realized that he could stand outside of things, and look back upon the world. Keats had written about standing on the outside shores of the outside world until pain and love and everything else were sunk, but the poet had never been on the desolated regions of the antarctic by himself, or he would not have written that. (Hear, hear.) He asked them not to regard the popular work which might appear as giving the scientific results of the expedition. He believed that every one would like to read the results, but the records were so voluminous that he understood 70 gentlemen would be required to prepare them. The Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science was doing almost all the work. (Hear, hear.) He did not need to tell them how much his comrades had helped. (Applause.) Perhaps sufficient credit had not been given to the Macquarie Island party. When it was known that his party was to stay behind, he sent a wireless to the staff there that all those who desired to leave could do so by the Aurora, but he asked if some of them would stay. There was no need for the invitation. He received a reply that all would remain. (Loud applause.)

—The Aurora's Skipper.—

Capt. Davis stood up to speak, to the accompaniment of a rousing cheer. He said he would like to say how much his welcome pleased him. It reminded him of the occasion when Sir Ernest Shackleton returned from the antarctic, and was received in Sydney. Having been a member of it he was able to gauge the deep interest taken throughout Australia in the work in the arctic regions. It struck him at the time that instead of Australia contributing money to English expeditions it was time Australia sent an expedition of its own. (Applause.) He thought then that all Australia wanted was a leader. It was few countries only which could produce leaders, but South Australia had done so. (Applause.) The Commonwealth and all other countries of the world

had reason to be proud of Dr. Mawson, who had led an expedition which scientists would admit was second to none. (Applause.) In the old country people thought that the Australians were too much accustomed to hot weather, but he thought they would reconsider that view when they were told how the Australians could stand the cold because there was no colder or more windy than where they had been. He desired to thank all the people for the assistance they had rendered. Wherever he had been in Australia every one had tried to help, and to take all the trouble upon himself. He appreciated the welcome they had given him. It was a difficult thing to leave behind a party, but when he came back it was a splendid thing to hear the people say he was quite right in his action. Many of those people who had told him so were the mothers, sweethearts, or wives of the men who had been left behind, and it was fine to have their support. It encouraged a man to do what he thought to be right. The memory of their welcome in Adelaide would remain in their hearts so long as they lived. (Applause.)

—"The Joy of Homecoming."—

Mr. Cecil Madigan—the man who stayed for Mawson—when he rose was faced with a great hall filled with people all standing and cheering. He said in the joy of homecoming and in the joy of living once again he found it difficult to properly express his appreciation for the kind welcome extended to the party. His comrades did not feel that it was a Roman triumph for those who were the junior members of the party. They had gone out for an ordinary adventure, and he thought they had faced it in an ordinary way. (Loud applause.) A party could have been selected several times over from Australia, and achieved the same work under the leadership of Dr. Mawson. The members of the party liked to look upon the meeting as a greeting from their friends who were glad to see them back. (Loud applause.) They were proud and happy to have been so received, and he was proud to belong to the State, which had sent forth such a leader. (Loud applause.)

The gathering concluded with cheers for the members of the Mawson expedition.