

SOCIAL EVILS.

**GOD NOT THANKED FOR
MAWSON'S RETURN.**

**REV. C. E. SCHAFER
ANNOYED.**

EXPECTS LOYAL SUPPORT.

An interesting conversation on the work of God was initiated at Tuesday morning's session of the Methodist Conference by the Rev. W. A. Langford, who mentioned that the total increase of members for the year had been 1,118. (Applause.) There had been an increase in Sunday-school teachers of 465, and the total number of teachers now engaged was 4,503. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. H. Rofe asked if all the evils had been eradicated from the human race. There was the liquor traffic, he said. It stood thrice condemned, and they should endeavor to stamp it out. (Applause.) They did not realize how the gambling evil was touching their homes, but it was spreading its insidious roots everywhere. There were sweaters' dens to be cleared away, and an inordinate love of pleasure had to be combated. Who was to save the sanctity of the Sabbath and stem the greed of gain? It could only be done by men who possessed wide sympathies, and an all-embracing compassion, and to whom the value of spiritual content was greater than the value of gold. (Applause.) When such men arose, the breaking down process would begin, and the world would be nearer God. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. R. Stephenson emphasised the value of the conversion of young people, and quoted instances of great men who had been converted in their youth.

The Rev. J. H. Ashton appealed for greater spirituality in every-day life.

The Rev. C. E. Schafer said Mr. Rofe had mentioned the existence of several evils. It would be very much easier for those of them who came out to the front to fight those evils, if they knew they had members of the Conference behind them, instead of against them. (Applause.) Some of the bitterest and most cutting things ever said about him since he had entered the ministry, had been said by his own brethren. Unkind and scandalous things had been said of him by the liquor party, but he had expected that. He expected loyalty every time from brethren of the same persuasion as himself, however, and he had a right to expect it. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. G. Clarke said a drift seemed to have been set up away from the work of God, and it was against that drift that their efforts must be levelled. (Applause.) He had been told that at the welcome to Dr. Mawson the previous day not one word of thanks to God for the safe return of the explorers had been uttered. (Cries of "Shame.") That was indicative of the drift that was going on. It was essential that they should emphasise the spiritual aspect of the Church and the power of conversion. They might also devote more attention to children, for through the children they must eventually reach the masses, and a higher spiritual life must then inevitably rule. (Applause.)

The Rev. R. H. Lee urged that the Church should be imbued with divine energy in order that its full power might be realised. (Applause.)

The following resolution, submitted by Mr. Langford, was carried with enthusiasm:—"That the Conference rejoices on the evidences of continued activity in all our churches during the past year. It renders grateful acknowledgment to Almighty God for the manifestation of His power and goodwill as shown in the increase of 531 church members, 587 junior members, and 583 Sunday-school scholars. It notes with thankfulness the increase in nearly all the districts, both in regard to members and Sunday-school scholars. It realises that there is urgent need for a fuller and more unreserved consecration to the services of God, and the deepening of the spiritual life, and exhorts our members to unite in prayer for a rich baptism of the Holy Spirit upon all our churches and

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THE PEOPLE'S WELCOME.

**Rousing Reception to Antarctic
Explorers.**

Graphic Episodes of the South.

It was the people's turn on Tuesday afternoon to welcome Dr. Mawson and his comrades back from their long and arduous sojourn amid the eternal ice. There was warmth in the atmosphere, but a much greater warmth in the hearts of the citizens. The reception had a rousing and impressive cordiality. If the gathering lacked the prestige of robed figures or the distinguished auspices of vicerealty that had given eminence to the University function, there was no diminution of enthusiasm. The applause, in the more democratic atmosphere of the Adelaide Town Hall, indeed, had greater volume and spontaneity. It had the swiftness and energy of an antarctic blizzard. The cheers which broke from the large crowd when Dr. Mawson and his companions of the snows entered the building will be remembered for their deafening and sustained cordiality. The achievements of these brave voyagers over the white seas of the far-away south had seized the public imagination. What had been accomplished in the garnering of scientific data did not appeal to them. The potentialities of the antarctic continent which is to become Commonwealth property was quite beyond the province of their thought. What did stir the man in the street who had gone into the Town Hall was the salient fact that this tall, serious-looking leader and his colleagues whose faces were radiant with the frozen tan of the polar sun had come safely through great experiences, had offered their lives for the advancement of the world's unique knowledge, had, as the Governor-General had said on the previous day, fought Nature in some of her sternest moods, and had won. There were exterior evidences of the famous occasion. The Albert Bells for some time prior to the gathering rung a merry peal. Flags draping the balcony gave colour to the chimes. Inside the music of the organ, over which the City Organist (Mr. W. R. Pybus) presided, swelled the glad chorus of the homecoming. The Town Hall was packed nearly an hour before the starting time of 3 o'clock, and many found the doors closed against them. Bitter disappointment was written on their faces. They protested and pleaded, but the man who had charge of the padlock was unyielding. There was no room, and that was the end of all argument. The front of the platform was decorated with a purple panel bearing a sprig of wattle blossom. It was the banner of the Wattle Blossom League. Above the canopy was the Union Jack, with the Flag of Australia alongside, and roped together with it. The hall was bright with flags. It was a pity that the colours of the Aurora, a noble ship, which has battered against many stormy seas, were not there. In the front seats of the crowded audience sat the Mayress (Mrs. A. A. Simpson), Lady Butler, Mrs. and Miss Delprat,

—On the Platform.—

The Mayor (Mr. A. A. Simpson), who had made capital arrangements for the reception, presided. He was supported by Dr. Mawson, Capt. Davis, of the Aurora, and Mr. C. Madigan and Mr. A. H. Hodgeman, members of the expedition, the Commissioner of Public Works (Sir Richard Butler), the Minister for Customs (Mr. Groom), the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. F. W. Young), Professor Masson, Dr. J. C. Verso (President of the Royal Society), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Crawford Vaughan), and Mr. A. M. Simpson.

—The Mayor's Greeting.—

The Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. A. A. Simpson) said he regretted that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor was unable to be present that afternoon owing to his judicial duties, and Mr. Douglas Reid had written to him that Sir George was unfortunately too unwell to attend any public meeting. He, however, expressed the opinion that the State should be everlastingly proud of Dr. Douglas Mawson—a sentiment with which all agreed. (Applause.) The President of the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society (Hon. J. Lewis, M.L.C.) had also intimated his inability to be present. As Australians they might now be proud that Australian exploration was no longer confined to the territories of the Commonwealth, of which, indeed, only a few scattered areas in the interior and part of their possession in Papua remained to be explored. It was true that another hero, Sir John Franklin, whom they might regard as almost as much an Australian by adoption as Dr. Mawson, over 60 years ago perished, but succeeded in the futile discovery of the North-west Passage through the Arctic Ocean. And in the antarctic Professor David and other Australians shared honourably the expedition of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the late Capt. Scott. It was with the former of those that Dr. Mawson served his polar apprenticeship. (Applause.) On February 18 they read in the cablegrams that the Bealey expedition had at last returned to New York, and they were gratified and pleased to remember that Capt. James Bosley was a South Australian, born in Port Augusta, and educated in Adelaide. (Applause.) He had led his party through the forests of Peru across the Brazilian boundary, and returned to civilization down a tributary of the Amazon. On his journey he found the remains of the members of the ill-fated Cromer expedition. He encountered risks from previously unknown tribes of cannibals and discovered the ruins of a long-lost city of the Incas, which doubtless had been destroyed and forgotten in the invasion of Pizarro. But though Australians in a measure had been associated with those explorations, they must regard the expedition of Dr. Mawson's as distinctively their own—(applause)—not only the leader, but the party and equipment, which was so very largely Australian—and Adelaide might rejoice to be the first to welcome the intrepid travellers on their return from the solitary places of the south. At the proper time they would look forward to the publication of details of the scientific work of the expedition, but at present the people were content to know that something had been done to add to the glory of human achievement, for which no sacrifice was in vain. (Applause.) Perhaps the mass of meteorological data collected might form a nucleus of information to enable them to make weather forecasts further ahead. Perhaps the geological discoveries might not become valuable until their grandchildren visited the antarctic in their aeroplanes. But enough for them was the privilege of welcoming the illustrious voyagers, Dr. Mawson, Capt. Davis, and gentlemen of the antarctic expedition. In behalf of the corporation and people of Adelaide, he bade them a hearty welcome. (Applause.)

—The State's Welcome.—

The Commissioner of Public Works (Sir Richard Butler) said it was his privilege to extend to Dr. Mawson and his party the warmest welcome back to South Australia. He and his party had come from the land of blizzard and crevasses and perpetual snow. He supposed some of their friends, when in the antarctic regions, might have thought of the words—"The snow, the beautiful snow," but to them it was perpetual snow. Because of that they welcomed the party back to the land which was untroubled for happiness, peace, and contentment. They had only to remember the hardships the party had endured to feel that the explorers were Britishers—(applause)—and that they were among the bravest of the British subjects. There was no fear of the future of the British Empire when they could take from Australia men of the calibre who were before them that afternoon. (Applause.) The people did not grudge one penny of the money spent on the expedition. They knew that there had been scientific results, and they were prepared to wait until the results were published. But the people were there that afternoon to extend a right royal welcome to the party. The members of the expedition had lived up to the highest ideals of citizenship, and their accomplishments would never be forgotten so long as Australia had a history. They could not but feel a sense of deep regret at the deaths of Ninnis and Mertz—men who had not reached the meridian of their lives, and had had singularly useful careers before them—who were lying asleep among the snows of the antarctic. They could only imagine the feelings of Dr. Mawson when he staggered back alone from the terrible ordeals through which he had passed after the deaths of his brave companions. The previous day some of them had had the privilege of hearing the