

WELCOME HOME.

OFFICIAL RECEPTION TO
DR. MAWSON.GREAT GATHERING AT
THE UNIVERSITY.FINE SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL.TRIBUTE FROM THE LIEUTENANT-
GOVERNOR.

There was a huge attendance at the Elder Hall on Monday afternoon, when, at a special congregation of the Adelaide University, an official reception was accorded Dr. Mawson. It was a representative and fashionable gathering, and the keynote of the proceedings was an en-



Lord Denman.

thusiastic cordiality. Those in the body of the hall were all in their seats a few minutes after 2 o'clock, and at quarter-past 2 his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way), Dr. Mawson, the professorial staff, the Senate, and graduates of the University entered the hall. The organ pealed forth the National Anthem, and the vast audience remained standing while the Lieutenant-Governor took his seat on the platform under a special

canopy hung with flags. Dr. Mawson took a seat on his right, and the officers of the University and other prominent men occupied seats on either side, and at the rear. Five minutes later the organ again crashed out the National Anthem, and his Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Denman), accompanied by the Minister of Customs (the Hon. L. E. Groom), and attended by Lord Richard Nevill, entered the hall. The audience remained standing whilst the Governor-General and the Federal Minister were conducted to the platform by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Dr. Barlow) and Mr. Justice Murray. Lord Denman occupied a chair at the right hand of the Lieutenant-Governor and next to Dr. Mawson. The members of the expedition occupied seats near the platform. The audience included members of the State Ministry, members of Parliament, members of the senate and council of the University, the Mayor of Adelaide and members of the City Council, representatives of various religious bodies, the heads of Government departments, and many other leading citizens.

"A Great Australian Hero."

In opening the proceedings the Lieutenant-Governor said, technically, that was a congregation of the University to welcome back their lecturer on petrology and mineralogy after a long absence, occupied in original research of great permanent and scientific value. (Cheers.) Actually, their welcome as a University had been enlarged into Australia's first welcome home to Dr. Douglas Mawson—(cheers)—after two whole years' dangerous explorations in Antarctica and in Antarctic seas, from which he narrowly escaped with his life. Dr. Mawson had written his name high on the scroll of imperishable renown—(cheers)—as a great Australian hero, with courage, fortitude, and endurance unsurpassed in the whole history of exploration in any age or in any part of the world. (Cheers.) That welcome had a national character stamped upon it by the distinguished representative men from all parts of Australia, by whom he was surrounded,

but chiefly by the presence and participation in their proceedings of his Excellency the Governor-General—(cheers)—for with respect to great deeds like Dr. Mawson's his Excellency could speak authoritatively for the whole Commonwealth. During his too short residence amongst them, Lord Denman had gradually, but surely, won his way into the hearts and high esteem of the subjects of the King all over Australia. (Cheers.) They all deeply regretted that the state of his Excellency's health obliged him to return to England before completing his full term of office. They knew that although he would change his clime, distance would not obliterate his love for Australia—(cheers)—and they hoped that his return to England would have the effect of thoroughly recruiting his health. (Hear, hear.) Lord Denman's was no new-born enthusiasm for that great enterprise.

Lord Denman's Help.

Before he left England, and whilst the practicableness of an exploring expedition to Antarctica under Dr. Mawson's leadership was still under discussion, his lordship was a keen supporter of the project. His influence helped to secure the first subsidy of £2,000 from the British Government, as well as some of the munificent contributions from private donors, and his lordship was a generous subscriber himself. (Cheers.) After his arrival in Australia the first great public meeting he attended was in Melbourne, at a lecture by Dr. Mawson, and his Excellency's advocacy from the chair greatly helped to obtain the grants by the Commonwealth and Victorian Parliaments, without which the expedition would have been impossible. (Cheers.) The message inviting his Excellency's presence on that occasion caught Lord Denman at Albury in the early hours of last Friday morning, as he was returning from a tour in New South Wales. Although suffering from a painful attack of hay fever, which had happily disappeared in the bracing air of Mount Lofty, his Excellency accepted the invitation at once, and named that as the only day on which he could attend. When his Excellency got back to Melbourne he would have made long railway journeys on five successive days in order to be present that afternoon. (Cheers.) He (Sir Samuel) was sure they would all agree that apart from his great office, no one could so appropriately as Lord Denman give Australia's first welcome home to Dr. Mawson and his brave comrades, whom they were proud and glad to have with them that afternoon. (Cheers.)

Governor-General's Speech.

Lord Denman, who was heartily applauded on rising to speak, thanked the gathering for the kindly welcome extended to him. As Sir Samuel Way had said, he happened to be in New South Wales when he received the courteous invitation of the Chancellor to attend that ceremony. On Saturday afternoon he happened to be on the Flemington Racecourse in time to see the Newmarket Handicap won by a South Australian horse, rejoicing in the name of "Iownit." (Laughter.) He wished he did. (Renewed laughter.) He could assure his hearers there was no function he had attended during his term of office in Australia at which it had given him greater pleasure to be present than at that welcome to so distinguished a member of the Adelaide University as Dr. Douglas Mawson, —(cheers)—and his gallant comrades of the first Australian Antarctic expedition. (Cheers.) From the way they had received mention of the name of Dr. Mawson he could see that they in Adelaide were proud of him, and well they might be. (Cheers.) Australia was proud of him, too. Far away in the old country people had read of Dr. Mawson's exploits and achievements with just the same interest and just the same pride as was being shown in Adelaide that day. (Cheers.) He had two or three hours ago received a cable message from his Majesty the King—(cheers)—addressed to the Governor-General, Adelaide—"Please express my hearty congratulations to Mawson and the members of his expedition on their safe return after their arduous experiences and upon their successful achievements. At the same time I deeply regret the loss of their brave companions.—Signed, George, R.I." (Cheers.) He was very glad that message had arrived in time to permit him to read it at that great gathering. (Cheers.) He was well aware that they had come there principally to listen to Dr. Mawson and to the gallant commander of the Aurora, Captain Davis, but having himself taken some interest in the expedition, he asked them to allow him to offer one or two brief observations.

The Value of Polar Exploration.

In the first place—and he hoped no member of the expedition would think him discourteous for saying it—some people asked what was the value of Polar exploration at all. There were people, of course, who looked at the question in terms of pounds, shillings, and pence—people who lived themselves in terms of pounds, shillings, and pence—and who could see nothing good where they could not obtain so much interest and sinking fund upon the capital invested. To people of that kind he would have very little to say. He had not very much use for them at all. (Cheers.) There were other people, however, who did not take that sordid view, but who were still somewhat hazy as to the value of Arctic or Antarctic exploration. The instinct of exploration was, after all, innate in men, and particularly in men of the British race. (Cheers.) It was an inevitable instinct, and it was certainly a higher instinct. (Cheers.) There was nothing mean or sordid about it. Exploration of this kind was not undertaken in any hope of gain or for any petty personal ambition, but chiefly with the purpose of finding out something hitherto unknown and of adding to the sum of human knowledge. (Cheers.) Exploration of that kind always appealed to the bravest, most intrepid, and bravest members of their race. (Cheers.) Sometimes it had been undertaken in vain with no tangible results, but that certainly could not be said of the Mawson Expedition.

The Results of the Expedition.

If he might be allowed he would like to touch very briefly upon one or two of the immediate results of the expedition. First of all, there was the geographical work. Some 2,000 miles of coastline had been explored and would shortly be charted. A great inland plateau, whose existence was practically unknown, had also been explored. In meteorology a record had been taken of the weather—and, from all accounts, very disagreeable weather—in the Antarctic for a period of something like two years. That, he thought, should be a matter of particular interest to the people of Australia, because Australia, and particularly the southern portion of the continent, was, as it were, the battle-ground between the weather from the Antarctic and the weather from the tropical zones, and he was bound to say that lately the weather from the tropical zones appeared to have had all the best of it. (Laughter.) It must be of interest to the people of Australia to know how the weather, so to speak, was manufactured, the weather which reached them from the Antarctic



Dr. Mawson.