

ADDRESS BY MR. C. T. MADIGAN, B.Sc.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1924.

THE ANTARCTIC.

LECTURE BY MR. C. T. MADIGAN.

A fascinating lecture, entitled, "To the south pole," was delivered before the South Australian branch of the League of the Empire by Mr. C. T. Madigan, B.Sc., in the Institute lecture hall on Thursday evening. The lecture was profusely illustrated by beautiful photographs, and was followed with interest throughout.

Mr. Madigan first compared the arctic with the antarctic, remarking that the north polar area was simply a frozen sea, and a comparatively calm region, whereas the antarctic was a large continent, probably larger than Australia, and composed of one great plateau. A great deal of the land, he said, was about 10,000 ft. above sea level—much higher than any point in Australia. Continental climates were always colder than the sea, and the altitude at the antarctic assisted in making the climate there still colder. High winds prevailed, as compared with the arctic. Stefansson in his lecture, when referring to the vegetation seen in the arctic, had dealt more particularly with the Canadian arctic regions, which did not, of course, extend right to the pole. Another interesting point about the arctic was that the frozen sea was surrounded by water, and consequently the ice was drifting the whole time. A ship entering the ice at the right point would drift right across the north pole and out of the ice on the other side. That was what Nansen tried to do with the Fram, but he did not succeed, because he did not enter the ice at the right point. Nansen's experience, however, had shown that it could be done, and it was Amundsen's idea to fit out a ship, and make the experiment if he could raise sufficient funds. The antarctic, being a land continent, was covered by an immense field of ice thousands of feet thick, and it was not known how much of the 10,000 ft. altitude was ice, and how much land. The ice around the arctic was always moving, and spreading radially, like an immense mass of treacle, and the snow, always falling, kept up the supply, so that the quantity of ice never diminished. The ever-moving glaciers had resulted in there being no soil in which vegetation could live. The antarctic, therefore, could not support land animals of any kind.

Interesting descriptions were given of the bird life of Macquarie Island, half-way between Hobart and the antarctic. It was the only nesting place, said Mr. Madigan, of the sea birds and other creatures within hundreds of miles of open sea. The island resembled a menagerie, and an inspection afforded one of the most interesting aspects of the voyage. Gulls, albatrosses, penguins, and sea lions, knowing no fear of man, bred there. They were so tame that birds could be lifted from their nests by hand. A wireless and meteorological station linked the island with Australia. The plant was later taken over by the Commonwealth Government, but it had since been abandoned. That was to be regretted, since its use should prove of great scientific and economic value in predicting storms from the antarctic, and solving other problems. The lecturer then conducted his audience on an imaginary voyage to the antarctic, in which he described the passing of the first icebergs and the tremendous storms in "the roaring forties" and "the howling fifties." He explained how the Australian antarctic expedition of 1911-1914, of which he was a member, had coasted along the ice barrier for weeks in the attempt to make a landing which was rendered almost impossible by the great vertical ice faces left by the breaking bergs. As an example of the difficulty encountered, he mentioned that the two parties had to be landed 1,800 miles apart. The speaker described the privations experienced during the antarctic winter, and told of the operations of sledging.

Mr. Madigan was warmly thanked for his address.

Before the South Australian branch of the League of Empire last evening, Mr. C. T. Madigan delivered an illustrated lantern lecture in the Institute Rooms, North-terrace, on "The Antarctic."

In comparing the Arctic with the Antarctic, Mr. Madigan said the former was a frozen drifting sea, whereas the latter was a great land continent about twice the size of Australia and much of it was a plateau 10,000 feet high. Being a land continent, the Antarctic was much colder and windier than the Arctic. It was a land covered with ice thousands of feet deep, which was moving out radially to the sea and breaking off in bergs. The result was that there was an absence of any soil, and thus any bird or animal life. Many places in the Arctic Circle, such as Northern Alaska, Siberia, and Norway were in higher latitudes than much of the Antarctic, but the climatic and other conditions were very different. It was the speculation that the Antarctic would contain habitable land like the Arctic that led to South Polar exploration.

The lecturer, with some excellent slides, described the Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, which was led by Sir Douglas Mawson. This expedition set out to explore the sector line immediately south of Australia, which was a terra incognita, and mapped out about 1,800 miles of coast. The stay at Macquarie Island, half-way between Tasmania and the Antarctic and the nesting ground of the bird life of thousands of miles of sea, was pictorially described. Here the expedition established a wireless station, which was afterwards taken over by the Commonwealth Government for a couple of years, and then abandoned owing to the lack of funds. Mr. Madigan passed on to a description of Commonwealth Bay, the base of the expedition in the far south. After the men landed they were almost completely confined to their hut for nine months. In that time they did not push farther than five and a half miles inland. Fierce blizzards blew most of the time, and it was unsafe to venture out. Fortunately, shortly after they landed, a lucky fall of snow converted their hut into something resembling a dug-out, and it was thus able to withstand the terrific force of the winds.

There was still much exploration work to be done in the Antarctic, but the general nature of the continent was now known. It was a vast ice-covered solitude, with no living thing inside its borders and nothing to support life. The rare exposures of rock had shown no mineral wealth. At present its only value appeared to lie in its whales and hair seals, which abounded in its waters, and its indirect effect as a great factor in the determination of the atmosphere circulation and climate of the Southern Hemisphere.

Mr. Clive Carey, B.A., Mus. Bac., who is expected to arrive by the Osterley to-day, will reach Adelaide at the commencement of the Grand Opera season. Mr. Carey is deeply interested in operatic music, and as an exponent and teacher of the art of singing is a recognised authority. He possesses a light baritone voice, which he uses with exquisite artistry. His appointment to the teaching staff of the Elder Conservatorium has given great satisfaction to music-lovers. For a number of years he was associated with the famous Jean de Reszke, first as a pupil and later as an assistant. Mr. Carey had just concluded an exceptionally successful concert tour through Europe when he accepted the post at the Adelaide Conservatorium. In addition to his ability as a singer and teacher Mr. Carey is a composer of rare attainments, exceptional work, and is a capable organist and pianist as



Mr. Clive Carey.

well as a conductor, both choral and orchestral. He has made a special study of Old English folk songs and dances, and his experience of opera is wide and practical, for he has actually produced a large number of classic operas. He sings and converses fluently in French, Italian, and Russian, as well as English.

Register 20-9-24

BROADCASTING CONSERVATORIUM CONCERTS AND EXTENSION LECTURES.

Mr. Hume to Leave for Melbourne Shortly.

Considerable interest, not only locally, but over the border as well, has been created by the announcement in The Register on Saturday morning last that arrangements were already in hand for the regular broadcasting of the Conservatorium concerts and University extension lectures from the amateur station of 5 Don N. (Mr. E. J. Hume, Park terrace, Parkside). A special committee of University authorities, including Professor Chapman and Dr. Harold Davies (both of whom have been heard over the ether), has been appointed to deal with the matter, and Mr. Hume offered to place his station entirely at their disposal. This offer was gratefully accepted at a recent meeting of the University Council, and I understand that the land line (over which the speech and music is to be carried from the University to Mr. Hume's station) is already being laid. The completion of this work will naturally take some time, but we should hear 'Varsity on the air some time before Christmas.

It was stated in these notes last week that Mr. Hume, who some time ago applied for a B class (or non-revenue earning) broadcasting licence, would leave for Melbourne during the week in order to consult the Federal authorities on the matter. An attack of influenza, however, prevented him from making the trip last week, but he expects to leave shortly.

When the new regulations came out provisions were made for the granting of B class licences to South Australian applicants, and it is hard to say what is delaying the Postmaster-General in granting Don N.'s request. He is admittedly the best all-round amateur transmitter in this State, and for three nights a week regularly has provided listeners-in with good music. General satisfaction will be felt when his licence eventually comes through, and he is permitted to get on to higher power, so that he will be heard even further afield than at present. He has three very capable operators in Messrs. L. C. Jones, H. Kauper, and F. Williamson, and they can be relied upon to make the most of any new developments.

Last Monday evening Mr. Hume transmitted a good programme for the benefit of the Presbyterian Girls' College.

SATIRE.

ADDRESS TO ROTARIANS.

An address was delivered to members of the Rotary Club on Friday by Professor Strong on "Satire in English Literature." He said satire had been used in the past in many ways. Some writers had used it not so much in the offensive, but as a shield. Others seemed to have used it as a weapon, and some as a plaything or a toy. Addison, in the "Spectator," used it for the amusement of others, playfully, and for the purpose of gentle social re-monstrance, as, for instance, in his papers on the wearing of the hooped skirt, and he also used it to an extent in pointing out the shortcomings of the day. His sketches on the suffragettes were delightful pieces of satire. His colleague, Sir Richard Steele, had a different outlook, and his satire was much more sincere than was Addison's. He directed it to social reform, because he was not altogether an exemplary character himself, and he thought it might make other people themselves more sincere. There were men who had used satire with greater force. One was Dryden, and he used it in such a way as to make the name "wife" one of the most beloved in the English language. Dryden was one of the greatest satirists who had ever written in English verse. His greatest piece of satire was on political pomp. Another great satirist was Alexander Pope, a real genius. Pope, when he so desired, could be as playful and light as any man. He could be delicate and thoughtful, as in "The Rape of the Lock," but his more serious works had a different tone, though possessed of great force. He was deformed and sickly, and consequently embittered by his experiences in early life. He allowed these things to penetrate in such a way that his satire was characterised by a certain point and sting. His satire on Halifax, who posed as a patron of English literature and learning, was a brilliant piece of work. The finest piece of satire which he ever wrote, and in which he achieved something of Dryden's power, was the satirical portrait of Addison, who had been his friend, but later became his enemy. Jonathan Swift had a greater mind and a greater soul than Pope. Dryden was a great satirist in poetry, but Swift was best in prose, and he was only little below Shakespeare. His satire was the outcome of a great idealism. He was a man of haughty soul, not conceited, but proud, and he had undergone much suffering, mentally and physically. He used his satire partly as a weapon of defence and partly on account of the great idealism that was within him. The discrepancies between his ideals and the world were his regret. His arguments against the abolition of Christianity were a case in point. Byron's greatest piece of satire—although satire ran beautifully through some of his works—was his "Vision of Judgment," in which he played on his old-time friend and publisher, Southey, who had earned his contempt through passing from the Radical to the Conservative side of politics. In a brilliant effort he pictured Southey as the persistent money-chaser, interviewing Satan in order to obtain the rights of writing his life. Satire might be used in a kinder fashion, as was done by the famous and more modern French writer, Anatole France, who wrote, "The irony whom I invoke is not cruel. She does not scoff at love or beauty. She is kindly and benevolent. Her laughter assuages wrath, and it is she who teaches us to laugh at knaves and fools whom, without her aid, we might have been wicked enough to hate." Anatole France, in his works, had great power and grace.

Professor Strong said he did not think there was likely to be much satire added to the world's store of literature from Australia. Perhaps this was only because satire was not commonly introduced in its best form in young countries, it being more the product of older and more sophisticated countries. He, however, thought there was material for satire in Australia.