THE CALL OF DUTY.

Rhodes Scholar at the Pole.

Why Madigan Stayed Behind.

The Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Right Hon. Sir S. J. Way, Bart.) has received the following letter from Mr. C. T. Madigan, a member of the Massey expedition, which is now in the Southern Hemisphere. Mr. Madigan was chosen as Rhodes Scholar for 1911, but was granted two years' suspension to enable him to join the expedition. The letter is dated March 25, 1917, and reads as follows:

"Leader of the Relief:" "Owing to the non-return of Dr. Mawson and his party from the summer southerly journey, the safety is felt for their safety, and it has become necessary to leave a party down there at the main base to search for them. Capt. Davis has made the voyage twice and second in command of the expedition, has assumed command. He has to drive his ship 1,500 miles out of the coast, near Gansberg, and they are in a difficult place, hemmed in by pack ice and bergs, and there are several ice channels. Dr. Mawson is 16 days overdue on January 31, and has instructions to Capt. Davis that in the event of his arrival the ship will leave here on February 1, which is later than Capt. Davis would have liked. The captain and all concerned are, of course, anxious that the very best should be done for the attempts to reach Dr. Mawson, and every consideration is to be that I remain here as leader of the relief. Six men are necessary for the work, no one else can do it, and they are kept here until the ice breaks up, and before they can go south, winter, especially in this fearful place of continual blizzard. I feel that I am doing much by staying here another year, but I must do it at all costs. I am a member of the expedition, and cannot desert it if it needs me. Please excuse so long an explanation. Perhaps this will mean that I will lose my scholarship, but I make it clear that it is no light matter to me. No one who has not spent a winter in the polar regions can understand the anxiety to return, and, in my case, the anxiety is very great.

"It is unavoidable."

"It is most unfortunate that after the Rhodes trustees have been good enough to give me two years' extension I should not be able to reach you this year. I will think I do not value the scholarship. It is unavoidable. I am sure you will respect the situation. I was in when requested by Capt. Davis to remain here in charge. No one wished to stay, even though of leaving, and was keen to leave. Why is this? I am very sorry that it has become necessary to ask for further postponement of the date of my going to Oxford, but I must write by the mail per Aurora to-night, so that it may reach you in time. Knowing, as I do, that you are interested in this expedition, and will understand the necessity of giving you time to write for me to the Rhodes trustees, perhaps through the selection committee. I fear very much my trouble will be increased. I am asking Capt. Davis to write you further explaining my position. The ship will be down early for us again next summer, probably with Government support, and we will be back in Australia early in 1918. I hope you will go into residence at the beginning of the summer term, if allowed, and stay up during the long vacation, and thus not lose much time."

"Work of the Summer."

"You will hear of my experiences down here. We have discovered the windiest place on earth—continuous hurricane, reaching 60 to 100 miles per hour for hours and days on end. We experienced three fine days in as many months during the winter, but our 10 weeks of sledding was in moderate weather. The year's average wind velocity runs out at 49 miles per hour. We got through a good deal of scientific work during the winter—biological, bacteriological, physical, meteorological, and magnetic. I was meteorologist. There were four parties for the summer sledding—Dr. Mawson over the plateau to attempt to reach the land farthest west sighted by the Terra Nova on her first return voyage in 1913, 500 miles away; he took all the dogs and 10 weeks' provisions; Bayes' party inland; Bickerton's western coastal party, starting with the aeroplane motor sledges, which was unsuccessful; and my eastern coastal party. The southern party got 250 miles inland over a monotonous plateau; Bickerton got 150 miles west over the Barrier, made a journey of 250 miles along the coast main, mainly over sea ice, discovering many rocky bluffs and several mountaintops and a glacier 4 miles wide, and taking observations of magnetic dip and declination, meteorological observations, geological, and other notes. Dr. Mawson took much the same general direction as myself, but he travelled in a straight line up on the plateau, while we followed the outline of the coast on the sea ice. My knowing this is a strong argument for remaining behind, and I must say I took some convincing that I was the man to stay when mine were returning. Except for the delay of Dr. Mawson's return, everything has been very successful here at the main base. All may yet be well with them. They may have gone too far with the dogs and sagging heavy weather, be delayed on the man-handling return, or one of them may be ill or injured, which would greatly impede us. We still have hopes for them. I could write volumes on our experiences here. It is hard to know where to stop. I have been tremendously busy the last week getting provisions and food from the ship and showing them, repairing the hot-water, preparing for sledding and the winter. I will leave winter quarters for a moon's sledding or at least as weather permits, as soon as the ship leaves."