

ANTARCTIC PERILS.

Sad and stern lessons are conveyed by the narrative of the Mawson expedition brought to Hobart by the explorers who have returned in the Aurora. Climatic conditions in Australia are usually so genial and pleasant that some people, in their ignorance, imagined that the "trip south" would partake of the nature of a picnic. Since then five members of the British Antarctic Expedition, including its gallant leader, Capt. R. F. Scott, perished in a blizzard while returning from the South Pole, and two members of the Australian Expedition lost their lives, one by falling down a crevasse and the other from malnutrition. These mournful tragedies show that, in spite of being provided with the best modern equipment and having the benefit of the experiences of earlier navigators and explorers, Dr. Mawson has undertaken exceedingly hazardous tasks. The pleasure of welcoming home the majority of his party after their year's sojourn in the land of perpetual ice, is, therefore, attended with anxiety regarding the welfare of Dr. Mawson and his six companions, who are doomed to stay 12 months longer in

Commonwealth Bay, Adelle Land. Capt. Davis has explained why the Aurora failed to pick up the little party at the main base. He adopted the only course which appeared to him prudent, and, having taken on board Wild's party, returned to Hobart. He was in a most trying situation, and his conduct apparently meets with the approval of all the brave men who came back with him. In the circumstances, however—despite an extraordinary criticism passed upon the leader by the Secretary of the expedition—it is disquieting to know that the climate of Adelle Land is "probably the most severe of any place on earth;" that "the average wind velocity for the complete year has been 50 miles an hour;" and that Dr. Mawson has lost two of his most trusty companions, and himself narrowly escaped death. Severe trials must be undergone during the long Antarctic night, and the explorers will need a large stock of provisions and home comforts, as well as a strong and well-built hut, to enable them to keep in good health. The latest wireless news from Dr. Mawson is cheering, and indicates that he and his companions are resigned to the idea of spending another year at the base. If the wireless apparatus shall remain in working order, the public will have the satisfaction of learning at intervals how the party is faring. At present there is no reason why we should not hope for the best.

EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

Interest in the political aspects of the education question in England has greatly increased during the past few months. This may be explained partly by the fact that a powerful body of Nonconformist opinion considers the time ripe for another legislative attempt to settle the religious difficulty, now that the House of Lords is unable to impose more than a temporary veto on Liberal Bills; and partly by the reported rivalry of education and land reform in their claims on the Cabinet as proper subjects for immediate consideration. A few days ago it was announced in the King's speech at the opening of Parliament that a measure to establish a national system of education would be introduced this session, but in the Second Chamber Lord Crewe stated that the Bill would be presented merely to acquaint the public with the Ministerial intentions, as it would not be practicable at present to carry the large scheme proposed through all its legislative stages. Today a cable message briefly reporting a speech delivered at Sheffield by Mr. Pease, President of the Board of Education, gives a general idea of the scope of the measure, which will be brought in a few weeks hence. England is promised "a national system, graded from the cradle to the University," but any idea that the repeated use of the word "national" implies a revolutionary departure from the existing system of local administration and rating is set aside by an explicit declaration that the Government do not propose to "centralise." The principle of making the local authorities mainly responsible for the schools is accepted by the Government, but there will be an extension of powers, presumably with the object, inter alia, of establishing a system of continuation schools and industrial training.

Secularist democrats will be as pleased as the advocates of Scriptural instruction will certainly be disappointed at Mr. Pease's intimation that no attempt will be made in the Bill to solve the religious difficulty, which, for his own part, he regards as insoluble. At present the Conservative solution or compromise is embodied in the law. If the Government cannot produce an equitable substitute for a system which is charged with using public revenue to support the religious teaching of a single church, there will be no alternative to a purely secular plan when the law is altered, as sooner or later it surely will be. But Mr. Pease has come to a lame and impotent conclusion in dismissing the religious question as insoluble. It may be admitted that it is no more a solution to instal a so-called "undenominational" system on which Nonconformists may agree, but which the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches object to as colorless and ineffective, than it is to use the rates for the maintenance of distinctively Church schools. In Australia, however, success has been gained under the New South Wales plan of providing for simple Bible lessons in the ordinary curriculum and for visits by authorised ministers of the various churches to give religious instruction to the children of persons belonging to their denominations. This, with a conscience clause for objectors, has worked so satisfactorily that all the Australian States except Victoria and South Australia have adopted it, and these exceptions would probably cease if politicians could be prevailed upon to submit the question to popular referenda. English and Australian conditions differ, no doubt, in many respects. We have here neither a State Church nor public schools controlled by local bodies. But, with some adjustments in matters of detail, the principle of the New South Wales system would probably be found as applicable to English as to Australian circumstances; and this solution—real, effective, and generally acceptable—would enable the motherland to preserve in its scheme of national education the invaluable element of religious instruction.

UNIVERSITY PASS LIST.

SPECIAL SENIOR EXAMINATION. (March, 1913).—Pass List.—This list does not include candidate from Perth.
1. English literature; 2a, modern history; 3, Greek; 4, Latin; 5, French; 6, German; 7, Arithmetic and Algebra; 8, geometry; 9, trigonometry; 10, physics; 11, inorganic chemistry; 15b, theory of music.
Bogner, Ernest Wilhelms Georg, 3, 4 (private tuition).
Campbell, Thomas Draper, 4 (private tuition); Christie, William, 7, 8 (private tuition); Cole, Louie Chapman, 1, 2a, 15b (private study); Craig, James Alexander, 1, 2a (Mr. G. G. Newman); Cruickshank, Errol, 9 (St. Peter's Collegiate School).
Denton, Edmond Knill, 7, 8 (private study).
Eustace, John Leonard, 8 (private study).
Good, Frances Helena, 3 (Miss Langman).
Hawker, George Stanley, 5 (Mr. H. L. Rose); Heyne, Laura Olga Hedwig, 3 (Mrs. Doroch); Keley, Arthur Harold, 8 (private study).
Linn, Leslie Wadmore, 3 (private tuition).
Martin, Hugh Wallis, 7 (Mr. A. B. Ellis); Muddle, George Dempster, 1; (Kyre College).
Reid, John Tennison, 4 (private tuition); Rensch, Berthold Wilhelm, 1, 6* (Mr. G. G. Newman).
Stevens, Norman Betting, 2a, 9, 10, 11 (private tuition); Swift, Harry Houghton, 7 (private study).
Wallmann, Dong's Robson, 5, 6, 9, 11 (St. Peter's Collegiate School); Webb, John Barton, 5* (private study).

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MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

LARGER REPRESENTATION PROPOSED.

Melbourne, March 17. At a meeting of the Melbourne University Council to-day the question of the government of the affairs of the institution was considered, and it was indicated that there was a general desire for a larger representation of interests other than the purely academical on the council of the University.

Professor Masson submitted the following report:—"At the last meeting of the professorial board it was resolved that in view of the expiration in June, 1914, of the financial provisions of the Act the board recommends that immediate steps be taken by the council to consider the future constitution and relations of the University, and to prepare a scheme for the advice of the Government and Parliament as to the best methods of dealing with—(a) the constitution and government of the University; (b) finance; (c) buildings, equipments, and maintenance; (d) the problem of free university education; (e) University staff; (f) the affiliation with the university of other Victorian teaching bodies; (g) University extension work; (h) any other University problems, and that the board intimate to the councils its readiness to appoint members of a joint committee."

The report of the board was accorded ready approval, and it was resolved that a committee, consisting of five members of the board and ten of the council should be appointed to enquire and report to the council. The members of the council appointed were Mr. Justice Cussen, Dr. J. H. Macfarland, Dr. A. Leeper, Dr. J. P. Wilson, Dr. J. W. Barrett, and Messrs. G. Swinburne, E. H. Sugden, F. Tate, J. Monash, and T. Fink.

Advertiser, March 15/13

Messrs. M. H. Moyes and A. L. Kennedy, two of the South Australian members of the Mawson exploring party, who returned from the Antarctic by the steamer Aurora, will arrive from Melbourne by the express on Thursday.

Advertiser, March 14/13

Mr. Frederick Balfour Schultz has been appointed third associate of the Supreme Court in place of Mr. H. M. Muirhead. Mr. Schultz is a son of Mr. C. A. Schultz, resident secretary in Adelaide of the A.M.P. Society. He was born in 1892, and was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and later at St. Peter's College. He took the LL.B. degree at the Adelaide University. He passed the junior examination in 1905 with honors, the senior in 1908, and the higher public in 1907 and in 1908 with honors, and at the University he tied for the Andrew Scott Latin prize in 1909.