

## DR. MAWSON INTERVIEWED

## RESULT OF THE EXPEDITION

## WONDERFUL BENEFIT TO SCIENTIFIC WORLD

## BLIZZARDS IN ADELE LAND.

were much hampered by the terrible wind. My own opinion is that one year in Adele Land is quite enough for anybody."

Would you go back to Antarctica again?

"Well, I think that for the present I would sooner remain where I am. But one does not always feel the same. Sir Ernest Shackleton, you know, said he would never go back to the ice again, yet here we find him organising another expedition."

What about the other members of the party?

"I think some of them have had enough, but there were others who would willingly go back. I must say there is a certain sort of fascination about Antarctic exploration. Certainly their stay down south has made men of some of the younger members of the party who started out with me."

That was a fearful disaster in which you lost Lieutenant Ninnis and Dr. Mertz?

"It was indeed, but I cannot give you details of it just now. I will do so later."

You had a bad time yourself?

"Yes; it was pretty bad for awhile. I consider I had a miraculous escape. I was in the last stages of starvation when by good fortune I came across a food cache which had been left by a search party which went out from the main base to look for Ninnis, Mertz, and myself. It was only luck that I found the cache. It was covered over with snow, and if I had not walked right on it I should have missed it altogether. How long could I have lasted? Well, I had about 2 lb. of food, was 30 miles from the hut, and in my weak state and over the rough country could make only about two miles per day. It was unfortunate that that portion of the expedition should have ended as it did, but it is all in the game, I suppose. I can hardly tell you how much I felt the loss of my companions. They were brave fellows."

I think the site of your main base holds the record for wind velocity, does it not?

"You can say it does. The velocity for one month, taking every hour of the day, into our calculations was 63 miles per hour.

But this does not count the 'gust' velocity, which on numbers of occasions was over 200 miles per hour. Just fancy getting that in Adelaide. Why, it would sweep the whole town away."

Dr. Mawson spoke with obvious pride of the good health which the members of his party enjoyed throughout. He also had a lot of interesting information regarding wireless in the Antarctic, and says that no future expedition will be without it. It is quite possible that he may have to proceed to England in connection with the working up of the scientific results of his expedition, but nothing definite has yet been decided upon. Much depends on the university authorities.

It has not yet been decided what is to be done with the Aurora. She will be dismantled of all her present fittings while in Adelaide, and may be sold back into the sealing trade. The Aurora was one of the vessels which went to the relief of the ill-fated Greely expedition in 1884.

It is hard luck for South Australia that Dr. Mawson has sold his story to the London newspapers. This means that the local newspapers will not get the best portion of the "copy" of which the doctor is a veritable gold mine until to-night. However, in a comfortable lounge room at the South Australian Hotel, an environment that must have seemed strangely unfamiliar to him at first, last evening he chatted to a bunch of reporters and told them sufficient to interest a number of people, at any rate.

"The members of the party who came back with me," said Dr. Mawson, "are as follow:—Messrs. Ainsworth, Hamilton, Blake, and Sandell, who had charge of the wireless station at Macquarie Island, and Messrs. Bage, Madigan, McLean, Bickerton, Hodgman, and Jeffreys, from the main base at Adele Land. Of the party who went to Australia in the previous trip of the Aurora Messrs. Hurley, Hunter, and Correll returned, and were employed on the vessel in various capacities, Mr. Hurley being the photographer, Mr. Hunter the biologist, and Mr. Correll the assistant physicist.

What will be the value of your work to the scientific world, doctor?

"That I cannot tell you just yet. However, you may say that after the ship left the main base last year we entered upon an extended cruise to the west, pushing into the pack ice with a view to undertaking deepsea sounding and dredging. That work has been very successful. I am sure we have got together the best collection of biological specimens in Australia. We worked at a depth of two miles, and it was good to see the tremendous interest which every member of the party took in the operations. Most of the specimens recovered from the ocean floor were entirely new to science, and will be most valuable.

Might not this offer further opportunities for scientific investigation?

"Undoubtedly it will. You see, most of the places in the world which have offered opportunities to explorers are becoming well known now. But when you come to think that there is five times more water than there is land you will recognise the chance that exists for the investigation of the scientific treasures of the ocean. In our hauls of the dredge, we obtained tons of specimens, which often took the biologists a day or two days to sort out. Everything was new and strange. Altogether the scientific result of the expedition loses nothing in comparison with any other of the same sort that has ever gone out. The British Scientific Association will be holding its congress in August next, and we will have prepared by then a preliminary outline of the result of our work for presentation to the members of the association. Yes; we have collected a mass of very valuable data, and apart from this our Zoological collection is unique. The greater portion of our collections will be distributed among the various Australian museums. The authorities of the Sydney Museum are undertaking the preparation of many of the specimens and their distribution."

What of your stay in Adele Land?

"I can only say that Adele Land is not a pleasant place to live in. In fact, it has the worst climate in the world. Still, even from that point of view the scientific results of our work have been interesting. Of course, we