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Messrs. Bickerton, Madigan, Hodgeman, Dr. McLean, and the rest were approached in turn, but the stereotyped reply was "We are bound by our leader not to give the press information at the present juncture." Mr. Bickerton frankly admitted that he could a tale unfold, but there it was—he absolutely was unable. The same oyster-like attitude was manifest throughout the ship, except that Capt. Davies readily gave some information respecting the voyage of the Aurora from Hobart to the land of ice and back again.

Every member of the expedition said plainly he was glad to be back. The experience had been one which none would have missed. There is a wonderful fascination about the antarctic circle which no one who has not been there can adequately describe. Yet, with all this no one on board the Aurora seemed to regret the return. The temperature—it was 93 in the shade at the Adelaide Observatory, and considerably less at the anchorage—weighed oppressively upon systems so long inured to the freezing cold of the icefields. A week prior to arrival the thermometer had scarcely begun to show an upward tendency, but in the last seven days it had been steadily rising, and sleeping out on deck had become general. Some even complained that they had been unable to rest at night. A group comprising Messrs. Madigan, Hamilton, Bickerton, and Hodgeman were informed of last week's heat wave, and they were thankful that the Aurora's arrival had not coincided with the effort of the mercury to run up fresh records. On Thursday morning the whole of the expedition had been "cooled down," standing in the waist of the ship while the steam pump forced a stream of sea water upon them through a line of hose. Coming up the Port Adelaide River some of the party went into ecstacies over the shapely low-lying mangroves which line the banks of the stream. It was the first green growth some of them had seen for over two years, and it was a relief to the eye after the eternal whiteness of snowdrift, glacier, and icepack. The soft souching of the wind was also noticed in contradistinction to the mighty, rushing storms which were scarcely ever absent from Adelie Land. Right up the river to the wharf it was evident that Dr. Mawson's party were glad of their return to the haunts of men and the bustle of the world. They returned the cheers of passing steamers whole-heartedly, and ever with a note of praise for their safe arrival.

CONGRATULATIONS.

The news that Dr. Mawson and his party were returning to Adelaide from their exploration of Adelie Land was received with the utmost delight by the people of South Australia. Owing to the prominent place which sons of this State held in the leadership and personnel of the party it was regarded largely, and rightly so, as a family of adventurers who had gone from here to win fresh scientific laurels for themselves, their native land, and the Empire. It was fitting, therefore, that the first place to do honour to the antarctic explorers, and to be given that distinction by them, should be Adelaide. When, in December, 1911, Dr. Mawson left on his romantic exploit, he, with his gallant band of assistants and comrades, was accorded a right royal send-off by our citizens, and the hope was expressed that their goal would be reached, and the general success of the undertaking be such that all would be pleased and gratified. The real objective of the expedition was to prosecute scientific investigation in Adelie Land. About two years have been spent by Dr. Mawson in the ice region, and with the loyal help of his compatriots much useful and valuable information and data have been collected. Unfortunately the journeyings down south were not undertaken without a death toll, and while Australia mourns the loss of two such worthy members as Lieut. Ninnis and Dr Mertz, the fact of their tragic demise but adds to the sincerity and warmth of the welcome home to the others. Australians, and particularly the Central State, extend heartiest congratulations to Dr. Mawson and his party on their illustrious achievements in Adelie Land and their safe return to this sunny clime.

PERSONNEL OF THE PARTY.

Apart from the officers and crew of the Aurora, who numbered about 25, there was a land staff of 32 men, including Dr. Mawson. In addition, Mr. C. C. Eitel, a son of the late Dr. Eitel, of Adelaide, was stationed at Hobart as Secretary, in charge of general matters connected with the expedition, and to deal more particularly with wireless messages coming from the party. The men selected by Dr. Mawson were:—From South Australia—Messrs. C. T. Madigan (Rhodes Scholar for 1910, who was granted permission by the Oxford University to accompany the expedition), M. H. Moyes, A. L. Kennedy, P. E. Correll, and A. J. Hodgeman. Victoria—Messrs. H. D. Murphy, F. H. Stillwell, C. A. Hoodley, and G. F. Ainsworth, and Lieut. R. Bage. Tasmania—Mr. Harrison. New South Wales—Messrs. J. Hunter, A. D. Watson, C. F. Laseron, W. H. Hannam, C. F. Hurley, and J. H. Close, and Drs. A. L. McLean and S. E. Jones. New Zealand—Messrs. S. Webb, B. Hamilton, and Sawyer, and Dr. L. H. Whetter. Europe—Messrs. C. A. Sandall and F. Bicerton, Lieut. Ninnis, and Dr. F. Mertz.

THE LEADER.

Dr. Douglas Mawson was born at Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1882. He was educated at Sydney University, and graduated as a Bachelor of Mining Engineering in 1901. He was a demonstrator of chemistry at the Sydney University in 1902, and in the following year undertoook geological exploration in the New Hebrides Islands. In 1904 he gained the degree of Bachelor of Science, and in 1905 became a lecturer on the staff of the University of Adelaide. He made a number of geological researches in the Broken Hill mining area, and investigated the reported discovery of radio-active deposits at Olary, South Australia. He was chosen out of 470 applicants to become a member of the Shackleton Antarctic Expedition. The degree of Doctor of Science was awarded to him in 1909.

ORGANIZING THE EXPEDITION.

Dr. Mawson, who was lecturer on mineralogy and petrology at the Adelaide University, accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on the English explorer's visit to the antarctic in 1908-9. He did magnificent work—he was practically the discoverer of the magnetic pole — and was highly eulogized by his leader. Early in 1910 it was decided that, all going well, an Australian expedition would start for the south during the next year. The leader was, if possible, to be Sir Ernest Shackleton, but if he were unable to go the chief position was to be taken by Dr. Mawson. Sir Ernest had been promised £11,000 by two supporters, who were either Australians or interested in Australia. The total sum required was between £20,000 and £40,000, and a successful appeal for support was made to the Commonwealth Government and several of the State Governments. Dr. Mawson, speaking at that time, said it was believed that the scientific material that would be collected by the expedition would outclass any previous undertaking of the kind. On the question of attempting to reach the south pole, he remarked that he was pretty certain Capt. Scott would do that, and, apart from that great feat of leadership, there were 10,000 times more to be done in the particular part of Antarctica to which his own expedition proposed to proceed. Ever since he had been connected with the antarctic he had recognised that the part which it was scientifically most important to explore was the great unknown coastline directly south of Australia. It covered a length of 2,800 miles between Cape Adare at one end and Gaussberg at the other. Only once in the whole of history had that coast been touched, and then but during one isolated call of a few hours. It was no less than 70 years ago, that Dourmont and D'Urville, sailing south in charge of the famous old French expedition which called at Sydney and Hobart, just touched a point on that long coast. No ship had ever since attempted to do so. No part of the antarctic contained such potentialities for research, as did that shore. It was the nearest part to Australia, and it should be Australia's special duty and her obligation to contribute to the world at large whatever store of secrets that land held. Whatever material of economic value—gold and mineral wealth, whale oil, seal oil, or anything else—it might contain, would, of course, be to the advantage of Australia. The expedition would have a station close to the magnetic pole, and would make more definite the magnetic work which Australia already had the credit of achieving. The meteorological results should be of very special value, because it was from that coast that Australia weather comes. If the Commonwealth Government ever ventured so far as to erect a wireless station for advising changes in the weather conditions it would be on that coast, and not where any of the previous expeditions had wintered.

DR. MAWSON'S PLANS.

In explaining how the plans for the expedition were inaugurated, Dr. Mawson stated:—"I went to Europe at the end of 1909 chiefly in order to further the interests of the Shackleton expedition by helping to complete the publication of its scientific results, especially the magnetic and geological. So soon as I arrived in London I had to decide whether I would join Capt. Scott on his expedition, which was then being formed. He made me a very good offer to go with him, and we came to a tentative arrangement, but in the light of subsequent events I decided to alter my plans and withdrew. Capt. Scott's programme was so extensive that it would not allow of detailed scientific examination of that part of the coastline which I considered so important a part to the south of Australia. I determined to try and get an expedition sent to this coastline."

CHARACTER SKETCHES.

Dr. Mawson, referring to the members of his party just prior to leaving for Adelie Land, said:—

—South Australian Members.—

"Mr. Madigan is a Rhodes Scholar from the Adelaide University, and has received permission from Oxford to join the expedition. Mr. Moyes is a science graduate at the University of Adelaide, and was recently teaching at the Rockhampton Grammar School. These two gentlemen will go as assistant scientists and sledgers. Mr. Kennedy is an Adelaide University man, and a little time ago was on the teaching staff of St. Peter's College. The South Australians I have so far mentioned are all well known in sporting circles, and have occupied positions in interstate athletic teams. Mr. Correll, a mechanical engineer, is a member of the Adelaide University. He recently put up a record in riding from Adelaide to Melbourne on a bicycle. He will assist with the motor sledge. Mr. Hodgeman, of Adelaide, is a capable draftsman, and has been engaged from the Works Department.

—The Victorians.—

"Mr. Murphy, whose people are well-known squatters in Victoria, was for some years at Oxford, and has been four times within the arctic circle. On the last occasion he travelled 1,200 miles with sledges to the mouth of the Lena River, and supported Baron von Toll, the noted Russian scientist, who, with his party, was lost on that occasion. Mr. Murphy will be in charge of one of the bases. Mr. Stillwell graduated at the Melbourne University, and was for some time demonstrator in the geological department, Victoria. He has gained several honours for running. Mr. Hoodley, who is also a Melbourne University student, is a mining engineer. He was recently at the Port Pirie smelters. Lieut. Bage is an engineering graduate of the University of Melbourne. He is specially qualified in stellar observations, and will have the duty of the determination of accurate longitudes at the main wintering base. Mr. Ainsworth is one of the best-known members of the Commonwealth Meteorological Department in Melbourne, and has been specially lent by the Commonwealth to take charge of the Macquarie Island Station, where the highest quality of meteorological observatica will be recorded, and forwarded to the Melbourne bureau by wireless telegraph.

—The New South Welshmen.—

"Mr. McLean, of the Sydney University, was recently engaged at the Coast Hospital. He will conduct investigations in bacteriology and certain physiological aspects of human life under antarctic conditions, such as pressure of blood, and so on. Dr. Jones, who is now at the Prince Alfred Hospital, will perform similar observations at another base. Mr. Hunter was for several years demonstrator in the Geological Department, Sydney, and will act as chief biologist. Mr. Watson will act as geologist at one of the stations. Mr. Laseron, who was a short time ago at the Technicological Museum, Sydney, will do the work of biologist at one of the stations. Mr. Hannam, of Sydney, will be in charge of the wireless station at the main base in the antarctic continent. Mr. Hurley is well known in photographic circles in Sydney, especially for his magnificent animal studies. He will accompany the expedition as photographer. Mr. Close, who directs the British Australian School of Physics Training in Sydney, and who served in the South African war, and has proved himself in connection with marine dredging, will go as assistant biologist and sledger.

—New Zealand's Representatives.—

"Mr. Webb, a civil engineering graduate of Canterbury College, will be chief magnetician. Mr. Webb recently spent four months in Adelaide making magnetic observations in connection with the Carnegie