

side, ship's flags dipping to salute as she passed. Despite his two years' absence Dr. Mawson's form was quite familiar as he stepped upon the landing. As vigorous and alert as ever, he looked in his cream trousers, brown felt hat and Norfolk coat—that coat, by-the-way, in which he had appeared in the streets in Adelaide just before his departure. The crowd which had been waiting upon the pier all the day gathered upon the T head to witness the arrival of the explorer. The welcome was surprising—no cheers or demonstrations. "There's Mawson. Look!" was whispered from one to another, but it was remarkable that no marked appreciation of the doctor's splendid work was given. Of course, the return of the antarctic traveller was unexpected, but he surely deserved some better, finer reception—something more spectacular, and with a touch of colour. Several gentlemen from the Royal Geographical Society were present, however, and they gave the wanderer a fitting welcome. The President (Hon. J. Lewis, M.L.C.) was there, the Vice-President (Mr. H. J. Moore), and Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., who was President when the expedition set out. In a few well-chosen words Mr. Lewis offered congratulations upon the splendid work accomplished, and Dr. Mawson thanked him quietly, and then hurried away. At the railway station a motor car was waiting to convey the hero to the city. As the doctor strode towards

it, one noticed the long rolling swing, gained from the work in sledge harness over broken ice. It was a relic of man's long and weary tramp through rain and sleet.

OFFICIAL RECEPTION.

A meeting of the University Council was held on Thursday afternoon. It was decided to hold a public reception to Dr. Mawson in the Elder Hall. Among those invited to be present are His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Denman), the Prime Minister (Mr. Cook), the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Glynn), the Premiers of South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales (States which contributed to the cost of the expedition), Professor Masson (Acting Chairman of the committee of the expedition), members of Parliament and municipal corporations, and representatives of scientific bodies. Any surplus seats will be available for the general public. The gathering will be in the nature of a special congregation of the University. The ad eundem gradum degree will be conferred upon Professor Masson. Addresses of welcome will be delivered by the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) in behalf of the University, the Governor-General, and others. The date of the congregation has yet to be fixed. It will probably be Monday or Tuesday afternoon next. An advertisement concerning it appears in another column. As Dr. Mawson is on the staff of the University the gathering is regarded as one of the most important in its history. The Mayor of Adelaide intends to convene a public meeting in the Town Hall to tender a reception to Dr. Mawson subsequently.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD'S TRIBUTE

Dr. Mawson is an honorary curator of the Museum, under the direction of the Public Library Board, which granted him extended leave of absence from his duties in the Mineralogical Department. Prior to his departure for the antarctic he was specially requested to meet the board, which passed a resolution of congratulation upon his appointment and of hearty good wishes for the success of his enterprise. Dr. Mawson, who was present, modestly acknowledged the compliment paid to him. On news being received of his return to South Australia the board hoisted the Commonwealth flag on the administrative portion of the Public Library Building in honour of the distinguished traveller, and forwarded to him a letter of welcome signed by the President and the General Secretary.

A Commonwealth flag was also hoisted over the chief offices of the Australian Natives' Association, in Grenfell street.

DR. MAWSON'S FIANCEE.

The most interesting girl in South Australia at the present moment (writes a special reporter) is Miss Paquita Delprat, in view of her engagement to Dr. Mawson. It was suggested to me that a call on Miss Delprat would be productive of a real feature, and at the South Australian Hotel on Thursday I met her for a short chat. She laughingly disclaimed having anything to say that could interest any one, but as all the world, and especially the women thereof, loves a lover I persisted. She said she had had no letters. Fancy that, ye damsels, who grieve if your young man misses the post. She had received only wireless messages. Quite modern, but I should think, rather cold comfort. She has spent the whole time in Europe with her family and friends, except for a short visit recently to Sydney, where she stayed

with Dr. Mawson, the brother of her fiance. She arrived in Adelaide on Thursday morning, and heard that the Aurora was in sight. She was feeling rather triumphant, for she said that she was quite sure Dr. Mawson would get to Adelaide before February was out. Her commanding personality was attired in a blue coat and skirt, and she looked extremely well; but when I was rude enough to make a personal remark to that effect she shrugged her shoulders, and said in the fascinating, slightly foreign, accent, to which her Dutch birth entitles her, "Well, one cannot show one's feelings!" The sympathy of all Australian women will be with her in her happiness.

THE AURORA'S PARTY.

Those who came back in the Aurora besides Dr. Mawson are Dr. McLean, and Messrs. C. T. Madigan, R. Eage, A. N. H. Bickerton, A. J. Hodgeman, and S. Jeffreys. These had been left behind at Adelie Land when the Aurora went to relieve the expedition at the end of 1912. In addition she had on board Messrs. F. Hurley, J. Tunter, and P. Correll, who made a second trip to Antarctica, and Messrs. G. F. Ainsworth (meteorologist), H. Hamilton (biologist), L. R. Blake (geologist), and C. Sandell (wireless operator), from Macquarie Island. The latter were picked up by the Aurora on her way from Hobart to Dr. Mawson's base.

FROM MACQUARIE ISLAND.

Mr. H. Hamilton, the biologist of the Macquarie Island party, said:—"We left the island in the Aurora on November 25, and reached Adelie Land on December 16, and left again on February 7. We found Dr. Mawson and his party all well, but intensely glad to see us. They had had, of course, a much harder time than we at Macquarie Island. There we heard all that was going on in the outside world, because we were almost nightly in wireless communication with either Wellington or Hobart. Heavy winds blew away our aerials more than once, but we managed to shackle them up."

ELEVEN DOGS BROUGHT BACK.

Eleven dogs used by the expedition were brought back from the antarctic. They were lying along the scuppers chained to the bulwarks, and were evidently feeling the heat. Two of the animals are pure-bred Samoyedes, and the remainder Greenland dogs. Among them are some pups, born down south.

ARRIVAL AT PORT ADELAIDE.

So soon as Dr. Gething had awarded pratique, Capt. T. B. Richardson steered the Aurora towards the Outer Harbour. As she passed the P. & O. Company's Marmora, which was berthed at the Outer Harbour Wharf, several passengers on the mail steamer and a large number of persons on the wharf lustily cheered her. The compliment was acknowledged in an appropriate way. The trip up the river proved an object of interest to several members of the party. The Quarantine Station, North Arm, Torpedo Station, and the buildings along the Birkenhead side of the river were viewed with curiosity. Messrs. McIlwraith, McEacharn, & Co.'s fine steamer Katoomba, outward bound, passed the Aurora just below the North Arm. Her passengers gave the returned party from the antarctic a vigorous cheer, and the Katoomba's flag was dipped as a compliment to their pluck. Those on the Aurora replied with cheers and a dipping of the flag. Passengers on the Adelaide Steamship Company's Morialta, and the Coast Steamship Company's Wandana, also outward bound, provided similar greetings, which the ship's company acknowledged. The steamers Telamon (at Ocean Steamers' Wharf), Kooringa (at the Birkenhead Company's Wharf), and Nardoo (at the Adelaide Steamship Company's Wharf) had their flags dipped. When the Aurora had reached abreast of Messrs. J. Darling and Son's mill the tug Advance took her head, and assisted her through the fairway of Robinson Bridge. A large number of interested spectators watched the vessel pass through, and one or two who had friends on board hurled on to the vessel parcels of fruit, which proved most acceptable. By 5.45 p.m. the Aurora was made fast at the T-head in the S.A. Company's Basin. She will remain there for a while.

CAPT. DAVIS INTERVIEWED.

Capt. J. K. Davis, the commander of the Aurora, is a tall, ruddy complexioned, genial man, and a person from whom an interviewer might expect good copy. He shook hands cordially with the pressman, who found him in his cabin. We want something from you concerning the party you have taken in the expedition. "Do you," he replied. "Well, I really cannot say anything. You see we have just had our orders from Dr. Mawson not to speak. I am sorry we cannot tell you anything." "So I am, captain," one of the pressmen remarked.

"Can you say what sort of a voyage you had?"—"We had a good trip back."

"When did you leave Adelie Land?" Capt. Davis hesitated about supplying the information. "It is a matter of history. You will save us looking it up," a journalist ventured. "Well, look," he replied, "you ought to see Dr. Mawson. Something has to be sent home. It would be unfair to give information until it has been sent home." He hesitated a moment, and then remarked—"I don't know what Dr. Mawson will say to me, but we sailed from Hobart on November 19, having on board the following members of Dr. Mawson's staff:—J. Hunter, biologist; F. Hurley, photographer; and P. C. Correll, assistant to the official photographer; together with the meteorological party, who were to take over expeditions stationed on Macquarie Island, consisting of Mr. Power, meteorologist in charge; Mr. Henderson, wireless operator; and Mr. Ferguson, assistant. We experienced very fine weather on our passage to Macquarie Island, and some further oceanographical work was carried out prior to our arrival there on November 28, at 8.20 p.m. The Aurora remained at Macquarie Island for a week, landing stores for the remaining party, and taking on board collections secured by the party, under Mr. Ainsworth, who after a residence of two years on the island were to embark with us. We left the island on December 5. The weather favoured us, and we made good progress to the southward. The first ice was sighted on December 9, in lat. 62 deg. S., long. 151 deg. 42 min. E. The following day we encountered a good deal of loose pack ice, but pushed on with difficulty, and at 7 a.m. on December 13 anchored in Commonwealth Bay, where we found Dr. Mawson and his party of six, all well. We left Adelie Land on Christmas Eve. We were blown out in a gale. We continued to carry out the original plans of Dr. Mawson in following the coastline as far west as possible and completing the work of the two previous cruises as far as possible. We left the ice on February 7, and have had a very fine run up. Personally, I am extremely glad to have got back and to have brought back safely Dr. Mawson and his party."

Your future plans, Capt. Davis?—"I cannot say what they are. You must see Dr. Mawson."

Have you brought back a hold full of blubber?—"No, but we've brought back a tremendous collection of specimens."

What are you going to do with the specimens?—"The collection will be landed with dispatch, and, I presume, sent to various museums."

Capt. Davis has with him the following staff:—J. Blair, first officer; P. Gray, second officer; C. Delamotte, 3rd officer; and F. Gillies, chief engineer. The crew consists of 20 all told.

Mr. C. T. Madigan, Rhodes scholar for 1910, who was granted permission by the Oxford University to accompany the expedition, was pleased to meet the pressmen, but would say nothing. "I am sorry I cannot tell you anything. Just had orders from Dr. Mawson," he tersely remarked.

—Features of the Aurora.—

The Aurora looked surprisingly trim after her trip to the south and back. Her sides were smooth and polished as the result of contact with the ice pack, and all about the deck was as shipshape as a man-o'-war. Her three tapering masts with the crow'snest at the summit of the mainmast overshadowed the slight funnel, while stretched between were the aerials of the wireless installation. Wireless communication had not, as was generally supposed from an absence of any public intimation of the Aurora's whereabouts, broken down, for as a matter of fact Mr. S. Jeffreys, the operator, was receiving and dispatching messages on arrival at the anchorage. Very interesting was a visit to the saloon and the berths off it. A gramophone packed ready for sending ashore and a piano spoke of many pleasant social evenings spent on the return voyage, and a well-thumbed library indicated how the monotony of the passage had been assisted. The thickness of the Aurora's hull could be seen by the space between the tiny northoles and the inside of the frames. "We did not want portholes down there," remarked Mr. Hodgeman. "The trouble was to keep out the cold."

"NOTHING TO COMMUNICATE."

SILENCE UNDER DIRECTIONS.

When Dr. Mawson left the Aurora at the anchorage pressmen remained on board with the object of interviewing members of the party. Each and every one, however, courteously but firmly declined to make a statement. They were willing enough to talk generalities about the weather, of the warm temperatures into which they had been gradually sailing in their voyage from southern latitudes, but on the question of the stay of the balance of the expedition at Adelie Land they were absolutely dumb.