

The Daily Herald
26-2-14.

AURORA, AHOY!

RETURN OF MAWSON'S BOAT

EXPECTED AT PORT ADELAIDE TO-DAY

"ALL WELL ON BOARD."

February 25, 8.45 p.m.

Cape Borda reports Dr. Mawson's exploring ship Aurora from Antarctic to Adelaide. All well on board.

The above unexpected intimation of the Aurora's homecoming arrived shortly after 9 o'clock last night. The announcement in the city came as a great surprise, as the vessel was not expected for some days yet. The time of passing Borda indicates that she will arrive at the Semaphore about daybreak, and consequently she may be expected to cast anchor at Port Adelaide shortly after.

SIGHTED AT SEA.

The Semaphore Signal Station has received a report from the barque Archibald Russell that she passed the expeditionary vessel Aurora 93 days out from the Antarctic bound for Adelaide. She wished to be reported all well. Her position was latitude 40 degrees 3 minutes south, longitude 125 degrees 51 minutes east, on February 21.

DEPUTY-GOVERNOR SURPRISED.

Immediately upon receipt of the message from Cape Borda a representative of "The Daily Herald" got into communication with the Deputy-Governor (Sir Samuel Way). The Chief Justice was astonished to receive the news, and expressed his regret at the fact that so little time was left to make arrangements for the reception of the homecoming Antarctic explorers. He had received no previous information of the

fact that the Aurora had left the land of snows far behind and was at that moment proceeding up the gulf.

"I shall do all that is possible in the short space of time at my disposal," he remarked, and turned away to convey his astonishing tidings to his friends.

THE EXPEDITION.

The Australian expedition under Dr. Mawson for the examination of the Antarctic Continent south of Australia and the Indian Ocean was safely conveyed in two detachments to the chosen winter quarters early in 1912, its vessel, the Aurora afterwards carrying out a cruise for scientific research in Australasian waters under the command of Captain Davis.

THE TOLL OF THE ANTARCTIC.

The Mawson expedition, it will be recalled, has not escaped paying the human toll exacted from those who seek to enter the white portals of the Polar regions. In the Antarctic summer season of 1912-13 Dr. Mawson, Dr. Mertz (a Swiss man of science), and Lieutenant Ninnis engaged in a sledge journey, in the course of which Dr. Mertz and Lieutenant Ninnis fell down a crevasse. A sledge load of provisions was lost with them, and Dr. Mawson's return march alone to his base camp was a remarkable performance. He arrived back too late to be taken on board his ship, the Aurora, which had left on a voyage north, and consequently spent the Antarctic winter with a party of six who waited for him. Another section of the expedition which had been working from a base much further west under Mr. Ernest Wild, was taken back to Australia by the Aurora. The expedition has surveyed long stretches of previously unknown coast and secured valuable scientific records.

Later in the evening Sir Samuel Way, in the dual capacity of Lieutenant-Governor and Chancellor of the Adelaide University, expressed his gratification at receiving the first intimation of the important news from "The Daily Herald" in the following terms:—

"The Lieutenant-Governor presents his compliments to the editor of "The Daily Herald" and begs to thank him most heartily for the great pains he took to give him the news of the Aurora having arrived off Cape Borda. It was the first news which reached the Lieutenant-Governor, and he would not otherwise have received any intimation until tomorrow morning. This courtesy has enabled him to send a telegram to Dr. Mawson congratulating him on the safe arrival of the Aurora, himself, and his gallant companions from their perilous expedition, and informing him that arrangements will be made for a suitable welcome."

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 27, 1914.

DR. MAWSON'S RETURN.

The safe return to South Australia yesterday of Dr. Douglas Mawson and his party from their long sojourn in the Antarctic will be a source of much rejoicing throughout the Commonwealth. Although the discovery of the South Pole by Amundsen has closed what may be called the dramatic side, it has not exhausted the interest of Antarctic research. The unsolved problems connected with the great snow continent to the south of us are far too numerous and important for that. And the interest felt in the Commonwealth in Dr. Mawson's expedition has been all the greater because it is the first real contribution we have made to the elucidation of the mysteries lying behind the great ice barrier which for so many decades baffled explorers—in fact, till Borchgrevink landed in Cape Adare at the close of the nineties. Except for a small subsidy furnished by the Home Government, the Commonwealth and New Zealand may claim to have supplied Dr. Mawson with the entire means of prosecuting his labors. That they had done so little towards unravelling the secrets of what, for all its whiteness, is a truly Dark Continent used to be a matter of reproach to Australians with those who forget their great feats in the way of exploration nearer home. With an enormous continent to reclaim from barrenness and render habitable by a new nation it was not to be expected that we should be over-curious about the phenomena of a region 2,500 miles away, unique and fascinating as they might be.

With our growth in population and wealth, however, it was rightly felt as a mere matter of honor that we should not hang back while other communities were exerting themselves to make the Antarctic something other than the terra incognita it has been till quite recently. Private munificence, reinforced by public grants, proved equal to the call Dr. Mawson made for the pecuniary aid requisite to enable him, not, indeed, to hang his hat on the South Pole, but to achieve the valuable work of subjecting to thorough scientific investigation the unknown coastline running through a quarter of the Antarctic circle. As everyone knows the enterprise has been attended with difficulties and perils, though it is left, of course, for Dr. Mawson and his colleagues to reveal their full extent. At the very outset the expedition was unfortunate enough to lose two of its members, Dr. Merz, a Swiss, and Lieutenant Ninnis, during or about the same period which witnessed the disaster to Captain Scott's party. As Amundsen's story has since shown, the South Polar continent everywhere is honeycombed with hidden crevasses of unfathomable depth, and it needs almost the possession of a special instinct, possessed by some human beings, including himself, and to a greater degree by dogs, to avoid these dangers. It seems not to have been present in Lieutenant Ninnis, or if it was it failed him on the dreadful January 14 when he fell into a crevasse while sleighing. Dr. Mawson himself had a narrow escape from a fate which is as likely to befall a man on the outskirts of the Polar basin as at the Pole itself. As it was, he and his returning colleagues had troubles enough of their own; for as everyone will remember their stay in the icy desolation of the Antarctic was involuntarily prolonged for a twelve-month through the sheer impossibility of the Aurora effecting their deliverance in