

19-11-13

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RELIEF OF MAWSON.

Aurora Sails To-day.

HOBART, November 18.

The Aurora will leave Hobart for the antarctic to-morrow morning to bring back Dr. Mawson and his companions. Capt. Davis has received many telegrams expressing good wishes. The Governor (Sir W. Ellison-Macartney) visited the Aurora to-day, and wished the master a good voyage. Capt. Davis said to a reporter:—"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the many kind messages we have received. I am sure everybody on board the vessel will strive to merit the confidence which has been placed in us. We hope to bring Dr. Mawson and his companions back to Australia safe and sound by the latter part of February. It is impossible to reply to all the messages we have received, but we trust that the fact that we are working at high pressure to get away in time will be taken as the reason for any lapse on our part in this respect." The Governor of New South Wales telegraphed to-day:—"All good wishes for a successful voyage and safe return." Professor David telegraphed:—"Best wishes to you, your officers, and crew, and the scientific staff, for profitable voyage. May you come through all your great hardships and perils safely, and be permitted to add still further to the several great gains to human knowledge which have accrued from this expedition. May you return with Dr. Mawson and his comrades on board all safe and sound. Godspeed." Professor Orme Masson, of the Melbourne University, and Vice-President of the committee, telegraphed:—"The best of luck and weather and a happy return in February."

The Aurora will sail at 10 a.m. to-morrow. She will go first to Macquarie Island to pick up the members of the expedition who are there, and then will proceed south to Commonwealth Bay to take up Dr. Mawson and his comrades.

DR. MAWSON'S LATEST MESSAGE.

SYDNEY, November 18.

To-day Mr. C. C. Eitel (Secretary of the Mawson expedition) received the following wireless message from Dr. Mawson, who is at the headquarters of the expedition at Commonwealth Bay, Adelie Land:—"The first penguins this season arrived on October 17, and we were able to kill a large sea leopard at the end of September. This animal landed immediately in front of the house, and its presence was made known to us by the barking of the dogs. A heavy southerly swell on October 10 indicated that the pack outside the bay and along the coast to the eastward had broken up. At times icebergs of unusual size appeared in Commonwealth Bay, but they are now gone, having been blown out by a strong wind. During no time last winter was Commonwealth Bay frozen over. In the spring we experienced unusually heavy snowfalls. On September 27 south-easterly weather packed the snow so high that only the tip of the hut emerged, while the sledges and stores were completely buried under huge masses of snow. It is only now that we are beginning to recover the stores. The fact that they have been buried and were thus unavailable has caused us a certain amount of inconvenience. We have been able to send time signals to Mr. Baracchi in Melbourne, and these have enabled him to obtain the longitude very exactly. We have also been making auroral observations, and when we return we shall possess valuable information in regard to the aurora. Considerable advance will be made in scientific knowledge on this subject. All the members of the expedition are well, but we are anxious to get back to Australia again."

"ALL WELL."

A MESSAGE FROM DR. MAWSON.

SNOWFALLS IN SPRING.

"ALL ANXIOUS TO GET BACK."

Sydney, November 18.

To-day Mr. C. C. Eitel, secretary of the Mawson expedition, received the following wireless message from Dr. Mawson, who is at the headquarters of the expedition at Commonwealth Bay, Adelie Land:—"First penguins this season arrived on October 17, and we were able to kill a large sea leopard at the end of September. This animal landed immediately in front of the house, and its presence was made known to us by the barking of the dogs. A heavy southerly swell on October 10 indicated that the pack outside the bay and along the coast to the eastward had broken up. At times icebergs of unusual size appeared in Commonwealth Bay, but they are now gone, having been blown out by the strong wind. During no time last winter was Commonwealth Bay frozen over. During the spring we experienced unusually heavy snowfalls. On September 27 the south-easterly weather packed the snow so high that only a tip of the hut emerged, while the sledges and stores were completely buried under huge masses of snow. It is only now that we are beginning to recover the stores. The fact that they have been buried, and were thus unavailable, has caused us a certain amount of inconvenience. We have been able to send time signals to Mr. Baracchi, in Melbourne, and these have enabled us to obtain the longitude very exactly. We have also been making auroral observations, and when we return we shall possess valuable information in regard to the aurora. A considerable advance will be made in scientific knowledge on this subject. All the members of the expedition are well, but we are all anxious to get back to Australia again."

To-day a wireless message from Dr. Mawson was received by Professor David, in which the leader of the expedition sent his warmest thanks to Sir Lucas Tooth for his generous donation of £1,000 to the expedition just at its greatest need. This morning a wireless message was received by Professor Pollock, of Sydney, in which Dr. Mawson stated that the transmission of his wireless message was being much impeded by the Antarctic aurora. By this it would seem that Dr. Mawson has established the interesting fact that there is a very direct connection between the aurora and the transmission of the Hertzian waves, which carry the wireless messages. This is a fact quite new to science.

OFF TO THE SOUTH.

THE AURORA LEAVES TO-DAY.

IMPORTANT WORK TO BE DONE.

Sydney, November 18.

Wireless messages were sent to Dr. Mawson to-day announcing that the steamer Aurora, in command of Captain J. K. Davis, was due to leave Hobart to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock on her voyage to Adelie Land, via Macquarie Island. Thanks to the liberality of Sir George King-Hall and Sir George Paley, the Aurora has been recently well equipped with up-to-date sounding apparatus, and Captain Davis hopes to secure a series of soundings between Tasmania and Adelie Land. On the occasion of his last voyage he made the interesting discovery of the sunken fragment of a lost continent about 200 miles south of Tasmania. It is of about the same area as Tasmania, and rises to within 500 fathoms of the surface, whereas the surrounding ocean is about 2,000 fathoms in depth. This is one of the first practical proofs of the theory advanced by Mr. Hedley, of the Australian Museum, and other scientists of a former land connection between Antarctica and Australasia. Captain Davis intends to embark the scientific staff now at Macquarie Island, consisting of Messrs. Sandell (the wireless operator), Blake (the geologist), and Hamilton (the biologist), as the Federal Government, in view of the great value of the daily meteorological data that have been wirelessed to Mr. H. A. Hunt, the Federal meteorologist, have decided to maintain the wireless station at Macquarie Island for another year for meteorological purposes. The Government are sending down a staff of three—a meteorologist and two wireless operators—to relieve the staff which will be embarked on the Aurora. It is intended that the Aurora on her return from Antarctica shall make Adelaide her first port of call, in view of the fact that Adelaide has not yet been visited by her, and that Dr. Mawson, formerly of Sydney, now belongs to the teaching staff of the University of Adelaide. It is hoped that the Aurora will arrive some time next March. It may be added that the Aurora is taking down Mr. J. F. Hurley as photographer and cinematographer, whose pictures taken when he was at the base of Adelie Land last year have certainly never been surpassed; also Mr. P. E. Correll, who was with Dr. Mawson last year. He goes this time in order to take photographs in color, and also by means of a method that largely eliminates the difficulties that arise from fog. Mr. J. Hunter, of Sydney University, goes as biologist to see to the proper preservation of specimens from deep parts of the ocean, which it is hoped will be secured by means of trawling. Captain Davis is on this trip well equipped for trawling purposes. The party awaiting the Aurora in addition to Dr. Mawson, consists of Lieutenant R. Bage, Messrs. C. T. Madigan and F. H. Bickerton, Dr. A. L. McLean, Mr. A. J. Hodgeman, and Mr. S. Jeffries.

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Herald

20-11-13

AURORA LEAVES HOBART

FOR THE ANTARCTIC

CAPTAIN RECEIVES MESSAGES.

HOBART, November 19.

Dr. Mawson's ship the Aurora, left port for the Antarctic this morning. Captain Davis, prior to the departure, received a large number of messages wishing him a successful voyage and a safe return.