

The Register.
August 25th 1913

RELIEF OF MAWSON.

Aurora Getting Ready.

The Commander in Adelaide.

A visitor to Adelaide on Saturday was Capt. J. K. Davis, of the Aurora, the vessel which has figured so much in antarctic exploration. Capt. Davis reached Fremantle from England a few days ago after having been on a mission to collect funds in connection with the Mawson Expedition. Early in November the Aurora, in his charge, will leave Australia to bring back Dr. Mawson to civilization after his long sojourn in the frozen south. "I was very much relieved to hear upon my arrival at Fremantle on the Orontes that a wireless message had come from Dr. Mawson to the effect that all were well," remarked the captain to a reporter, who interviewed him at the Grand Central Hotel on Saturday afternoon. "The antarctic winter is now over, and the sun is returning. I am looking forward to bringing the expedition back safe and sound."

—Tribute to Mawson's Work.—

Toucing upon his stay in England, Capt. Davis said those in Australia who were interested in the expedition would be extremely gratified that a chorus of praise had come from scientific men in the old country with regard to Mawson's researches. Dr. R. H. Mill, editor of *The International Geography* and probably the greatest living authority on world geography, writing of Mawson's scientific investigations in the *June Meteorological Magazine*, had stated:—"Australian enterprise has never previously, we believe, been extended to scientific exploration beyond the limits of the Commonwealth. It must be gratifying to the whole Australian people to know that scientific men at home recognise that better work has never been done or higher courage shown by any British expedition." Sir John Murray, the veteran scientist, who accompanied H.M.S. *Challenger* on her memorable cruise in 1874, had also emphasized the importance of the deep-sea work performed by Dr. Mawson's party in filling up the wide gap in our knowledge of the topography of the ocean beyond Australia and the antarctic continent.

—Funds for Relief Expedition.—

"With such tributes paid to the work of the expedition one would have thought that the raising of funds in England would be an easy matter," continued Capt. Davis. "Unfortunately for us, however, when I was in the old land *The London Times* was appealing to the British public for £90,000 to purchase the Crystal Palace for the nation. Nevertheless a number of people generously contributed to our fund. Sir Robert Lucas Toth, an Australian, headed the list with £1,000, and Lady Scott and Commander Evans were among the individual contributors. The Imperial Government provided £1,000, and the Royal Geographical Society £100; and our total collected in England amounts to nearly £3,000." Capt. Davis added that his chief interest at present was in regard to the docking of the Aurora. "A voyage such as we experienced last trip," he exclaimed, "provides convincing proof of the need for everything being in perfect order before we leave."

DR. MAWSON'S LATEST MESSAGE.

MELBOURNE, August 24.

The Governor-General yesterday received the following message from Dr. Mawson:—"One year in Adelle Land. Climate satisfactory. All well, and great expectations for the summer. Many thanks for your kind enquiry.—Mawson."

The Daily Herald
August 25th 1913.

FOR DR. MAWSON'S RELIEF.

When Captain Davis, commander of the Aurora—the vessel employed by Dr. Mawson, the leader of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition—left Australia several months ago he did so to visit England for the purpose of placing preliminary reports before scientific men in the old country and inviting subscriptions to the supplementary fund which it has been found necessary to raise owing to the prolongation of the work of the expedition for another year. After a successful mission he is returning to Melbourne by the Orontes, which called at the Outer Harbor on Saturday. Interviewed Captain Davis mentioned that the Aurora will leave Hobart about the end of November for Commonwealth Bay, King George V. Land, where she will embark Dr. Mawson and his six comrades who have been wintering with him in the far south. The scientists will return at a very appropriate time, for next year the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be holding its series of meetings in Australia, and Dr. Mawson hopes to have preliminary reports ready for presentation to this body. "Thanks to the kindly interest of those before whom I placed the record of the expedition," remarked Captain Davis, "I am pleased to say that I collected £2000 out of the £10,000 required for relief. I was particularly glad to hear on all sides expressions of approbation and approval of the work done. From far and wide I received messages of sympathy and support."

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THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

Captain J. Davis, the commander of the Aurora, which took the Mawson expedition to the Antarctic, is a passenger to Melbourne en route to Hobart by the R.M.S. Orontes. When shown the report of the interview telegraphed from Fremantle concerning his mission to England to collect funds on behalf of the expedition, he said the personal pronoun "I" had been introduced too much, and that any success which he had achieved on behalf of the expedition was entirely due to the sympathy and support shown by its many friends in England. Among those who had so generously given both time and money were Sir George Reid, Sir Robert Lucas Toth, Sir John Murray, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Dr. H. R. Mill. The last mentioned gentleman, who was probably the leading authority on world geography, referring to the Mawson expedition, in the *"Meteorological Magazine,"* said:—"It must be gratifying to the whole of the Australian people to know that scientific men at home recognise that better work has never been done nor higher courage shown by any British expedition." He (Captain Davis) did not think any higher tribute could be paid to Dr. Mawson and his comrades, who had successfully tackled the portion of the Antarctic which the older countries had left unexplored so long on account of its evil reputation. He was glad to hear on his arrival at Fremantle that the New Zealand Government, with characteristic sympathy with Antarctic exploration had, when the Rachel Cohen failed to reach Macquarie Island with relief stores, promptly dispatched a cable steamer to Tutaneikai to carry out the work. His chief anxiety now was the docking of the Aurora, which was still at Hobart. He hoped it might be possible to commence work on the vessel promptly. Whilst there was not a great deal to be done, he felt the responsibility rested in great measure with the ship in order that Dr. Mawson and his comrades might safely be brought back to Australia. During the steamer's short stay in the Outer Harbor Captain Davis took a trip to Adelaide to see friends.

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August 26th 1913

PRIMARY EXAMINATION.

The primary examination in connection with the Public Examinations Board of the Adelaide University will begin to-day at the Exhibition Building. There are about 1,030 students entered for the exam. on this occasion, or about 300 fewer than last year. The subjects are spread over the sessions as follow:—To-day, algebra, Latin, and history; to-morrow, arithmetic and English; Thursday, geometry, geography, and French; Friday, German, Greek, and drawing.

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MAWSON PARTY.

"A HAPPY FAMILY."

WELLINGTON, August 27.

The Government steamer *Tutaneikai*, which conveyed the Rachel Cohen's stores to the Mawson party on Macquarie Island, has reached the Bluff on her return journey. She reported that the appearance of the party discounted the statement that the men on the island were nearing the starvation stage. Mr. Ainsworth, one of the Government staff of meteorologists, stated distinctly that the party was in no danger of starvation, although pretty well out of stores. Otherwise they were living on sea elephants. The meat was not the best of fare, but was quite palatable. A man could live there the rest of his natural life without worrying much. A press representative, who visited the Mawson party, describes them as being a happy family, despite the conditions in which they lived. He was told that the temperature at Macquarie Island seldom went above 51 deg. The finest day for 12 months was Christmas Day, when the thermometer recorded 53 deg. The wind occasionally blew 74 miles an hour.

THE AURORA.

MELBOURNE, August 27.

Capt. J. K. Davis, who will be in command of the Aurora on her return to Adelle Land in the antarctic, where Dr. Mawson and the members of his expedition are spending the winter, to-day had an interview with the Premier (Mr. Watt) in regard to the work of overhauling and fitting up the vessel for the journey. Mr. Watt stated subsequently that the Aurora required a certain amount of work done to fit her for the return voyage, but until the vessel was in dock no estimate regarding the cost of the work could be made. He had told Capt. Davis to bring the Aurora around from Hobart, and he would arrange for space accommodation for her in the dock. Mr. Watt added that he had examined the statement of the finances of the expedition, which were not too bright. A reasonable amount of assistance was, however, expected, and that would pull them through.