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POLAR EXPLORATION.

In paying a tribute to Dr. Douglas Mawson, the intrepid Australian explorer now wintering with his comrades in Adelle Land, Earl Curzon, the President of the Royal Geographical Society in London, said the society looked forward to the opening of its 1914 session with Dr. Mawson's story of his Antarctic Expedition. Lord Curzon hoped that other explorers would be induced to follow Dr. Mawson's example in the great work of mapping the contour of the Antarctic Continent. When the Adelaide University scientist returns from the South Polar regions his story will certainly be of deep interest, not only to scientists, but to the whole world. We know already, from the reports furnished by Dr. Mawson and members of the expedition who returned a few months ago, that valuable contributions have been made to geological records and to the science of magnetism, and Dr. Mawson's complete reports will probably throw more light on the geography of this portion of the Antarctic than was ever before obtained. Polar exploration and map making were the principal themes at the recent International Geographical Congress held in Rome. Of the 10 British representatives at the gathering eight were Scotsmen. There was a good representation of Polar explorers. Of Arctic men Admiral Peary, Admiral Cagni, Mr. Bridgeman, and Mr. Stefansson were representative, and Dr. W. S. Bruce, Dr. Nordenskjold, and Lieut. Lecomte represented Antarctic travellers. A Polar Commission, comprising 30 delegates, met in Rome simultaneously with the Geographical Congress.

Antarctica continues to offer a vast field for discovery, particularly on the scientific side. The German Expedition under Lieut. Filchner is still in or near this inhospitable continent. It is splendidly equipped with a scientific staff, and its object is to penetrate as far as possible into the land towards the South Pole from the Weddell Sea. At the Rome Congress Professor Penck, of Berlin, referred to the work of Lieut. Filchner and his important discovery of an extension of Coats Land to the south-west. A few months ago Sir Ernest Shackleton expressed his belief that this expedition would bring back scientific information of value, for the whole organization of the expedition and method of working were typical of German thoroughness and scientific training. This part of the Antarctic is the region in which Bruce, the Scottish explorer, has worked. "It is to Bruce," observes Sir Ernest Shackleton, "that we owe the hydrographical knowledge of this quarter of the Antarctic—knowledge that is as important to obtain as that gained on sledge journeys. Quietly, and without fuss or ostentation, for years Bruce has carried out, with his devoted staff, the most arduous and most difficult sort of Polar exploration—that is, by working in these icy seas." Dr. Bruce is contemplating another Scottish Expedition to the Antarctic. His plans are to conduct extensive oceanographical research in the region of the Weddell Sea, to explore the Antarctic Continent in the neighbourhood of Coats Land, and to complete a sectional survey of

Antarctica by means of a journey across from the Atlantic to the Pacific side of the Continent. At the Rome meeting Admiral Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, agreed that there was plenty of room for explorers of many nations to work together in the Antarctic, and he hoped that the United States would participate in the South Polar campaign. Dr. Bruce's plans were cordially supported by Admiral Peary, the Secretary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, and Professor Penck, of Berlin.

So far as the North Polar areas are concerned, great interest is being shown in the Canadian Expedition, which intends to set out under the leadership of Mr. V. Stefansson, who has already won renown for his six years' exploration along the Arctic shores of Canada and its islands to the north. During practically the whole of this period Stefansson lived as an Esquimaux among Esquimaux. The objects of his projected travels are to explore the Beaufort Sea, to seek new lands to the north-west of the islands north of the Canadian mainland, and to undertake further research relatively to his discovery of a blonde type of Esquimaux living to the north-west of Victoria Land. The most important expedition to the Arctic seas next year will be in command of Capt. Amundsen, who contemplates setting out from the Pacific coast, and being away five years. Towards the expenses of this enterprise the Norwegian Geographic Society will contribute £8,000 and the National Geographic Society of America £4,000. Amundsen in the Fram expects to penetrate fully the North Polar Ocean, and to allow his vessel to drift across the Pole. According to Shackleton there is one fascinating journey to be made. Peary on his last march thought he saw from a lofty cape, land to the north-west of the mainland. He named this Crocker Land. An American party had arranged to explore that region last year, but its leader, Borup, who accompanied Peary, was drowned near to New York, and the consequent preparation of new plans has delayed the expedition for a year.

UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF COMMERCE.

—Annual Meeting.—

At the annual meeting of the University Society of Commerce on Friday evening the Secretary (Mr. G. O. Robertson) stated—"I have to congratulate the society on the fact of steady progress. The most gratifying feature is that all those who have gained the diploma have identified themselves with the society, and many of our members, with appetites whetted by the course of study under Professor Atkinson, are maintaining an active interest in the science by attending and taking part in the proceedings of the Economic Society, which meets under the presidency of that gentleman, and are thus qualifying themselves to take an intelligent view of the many knotty economic problems with which that society deals. A special meeting of our society was held on July 24, for the purpose of considering the report of the delegates appointed for the purpose of drafting a bill for the appointment of an Accountants and Auditors' Board. The Bill was read and explained by the Secretary, and was adopted without amendment. It is pleasing to note that a similar course was followed by all the other societies interested. I am informed that the draft has since been submitted to a member of the Government, with a request for legislative enactment on the lines agreed upon, but the request has not met so far with favourable consideration. I feel that for the purposes of safeguarding the business community some such action will eventually be forced upon the Government, and consequently the labour that has been expended on the draft bill will not be without some tangible result. In behalf of our society I should especially like to pay a tribute of gratitude to Mr. Stephens, of the South Australian Society of Accountants, for his indefatigable zeal and energy in assisting in the preparation of the draft. The number of students in the commerce course is well maintained, but it is to be regretted that some standard is not set, or some preliminary examination required of those particularly taking the subject of accountancy. It is certainly not in the interest of the course that students, with scarcely a rudimentary knowledge of bookkeeping, should in large numbers be permitted to attend classes arranged for the purpose of giving instruction in the higher branches of accountancy. This society is now entering upon the fifth year of its existence, and I think that as it may now be regarded as firmly established, the time has come for it to be more militant than hitherto. I am sorry that pressing business duties prevent my giving sufficient time for this purpose, and I therefore reluctantly feel compelled to relinquish the secretarial duties, and will ask you to accept my resignation. I am pleased to report that one of our members, Mr. Menkins, has entered into partnership with a Fellow of Commonwealth practising accountants. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him every prosperity in his new undertaking. You will be asked tonight to ballot for two new members—Mr. Russell Harris, A.C.U.A., and Mr. Herman Nuenkerchen, A.C.U.A."

Officers elected:—Patron, Dr. William Barlow; President, Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A.; Vice-Presidents, Professor Jethro Brown, Mr. B. D. Colvin, M.A., Mr. R. J. M. Lucas, B.A., Mr. H. Fisher, Mr. S. J. Jacobs, Mr. P. E. Johnston, B.A., J.J.B., Professor Mitchell, Mr. W. Neill, F.C.P.A., Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., and Mr. John Shields; Secretary, Mr. J. G. N. Wauchob, A.C.U.A.; Treasurer, Mr. R. H. Cotton, A.C.U.A.; Auditors, Messrs. W. F. Harrison, A.C.U.A., and D. Kirkman, A.C.U.A.; Council, the Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and the following members:—Messrs. Annells, Bray, Coffey, Cotton, Kirkman, Kleeman, Menkins, Smith, and Robertson.

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GIFTS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

At a meeting of the University council on Thursday a letter from Professor Henderson and a report from the library committee in regard to gifts to the University library and geological school were read. The gifts consist of 250 volumes of medical works from Dr. J. C. Verco, 500 volumes of Parliamentary papers and other publications, and a large collection of specimens of copper ore from the Burra Mine, presented by Mr. Ernest Ayers from the estate of the late Sir Henry Ayers. The council directed that their thanks be conveyed to the donors.

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Mr. Harry Thomson, who has just completed his course as a South Australian Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford University, will leave England to-day upon his return to this State. Mr. Thomson expects to arrive in Adelaide by the R.M.S. Orama on July 14. Shortly afterwards he will apply for admission to the South Australian Bar, with a view to practice in the legal profession.