

Register, March 6/13

# A PROFESSOR ABROAD.

## INTERESTING TRAVELS.

Professor Darnley Naylor, of the Adelaide University, who has returned to South Australia after a year's absence, was interviewed by a reporter on Wednesday. He had interesting items to communicate concerning his travels. "I was accompanied by my wife and daughter," he remarked, "and left Adelaide in the middle of December, 1911. I had intended to visit Greece, but owing to the disturbance between Italy and Turkey in the Aegean Sea I thought it desirable to change my mind. I did not even land at Naples on my way to England, but continued the voyage in beautiful, cool, sunny weather. Immediately upon reaching the old country we were greeted by rain and snow, and we actually did not see the sun for more than 10 minutes at a time from the beginning of January until April. Although I spent 10 days in the Cumberland district, I really never saw the tops of the mountains once owing to the rain and mists.

### —Imperial Universities' Congress.—

"The main object of my trip, apart from the holiday aspect, was to attend the Imperial Universities' Congress at London in June. Together with Professor Bragg, of Leeds, and Professor Lamb, of Manchester—both formerly connected with the University of Adelaide—I represented Adelaide at the congress. All the universities of the Empire were represented, and the congress was the first which has been held. It was decided to hold a similar assembly every five years in London. Meantime a permanent committee has been formed to arrange for the formation of a central bureau of information at London. This bureau will publish a yearbook and give detailed information regarding the work done by the various universities of the Empire. The bureau will also assist in bringing about an exchange of teachers and students. At the congress the hope was expressed by Dr. Parkin (Secretary to the Rhodes Trust) that the assembly might be broadened in its scope so as to include ultimately American and Continental universities. It was felt that universities were essential internationally, and that none of the conventional lines might be drawn so far as they were concerned. It was obvious that Dr. Parkin's hope met with the approval of the majority of the delegates.

### —A Striking Personality.—

"I travelled with other delegates to Oxford and Cambridge, and to newer provincial universities, including those at Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, and Leeds. Professor Bragg is being assisted in his work by his eldest son, who has just completed his course at Cambridge. Greatly to the delight of his father, he has published a paper containing new discoveries in regard to radium, which in some measure upset the theories which Professor Bragg himself has hitherto held. All the Australian visitors were greatly impressed by the personality of Dr. M. E. Sadler (Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University). It is probable that Dr. Sadler will visit Australia next year with the British scientists. He is immensely popular with all classes of the community in Yorkshire, including the workers. He makes it a practice during term time to devote nearly every Sunday evening to discourses on higher education from the steps of the Leeds Town Hall. Higher education, according to Dr. Sadler, includes religion and Christianity. It is said that agnostics, extreme Socialists, and the like are unable to obtain a hearing there on Sunday nights. Dr. Sadler has had a varied career. He has been second in command of the Board of Education, then Professor of Education in the University of Manchester, and finally Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University. The last position occupied by the doctor is equivalent to what the Americans call the 'Principal' of the university. Such a position is of the utmost value to the university concerned when filled as it is by Dr. Sadler, but if badly filled it may become a pernicious influence, as may be seen in the cases of certain American universities."

### —Rome, Ancient and Modern.—

Professor Naylor mentioned that he attended, as the representative of South Australia, the meetings of the Presbyterian Assemblies at Edinburgh during May, and had been able to plead the cause of the South Australian home missions in the United Free Assembly. "Owing to my wife's illness," he continued, "I spent a month in the Southern Tyrol, Austria, then a month at Chamoinx and Geneva, in Switzerland, and lastly a month in Italy. Most of my time in Italy was spent in Rome, where I attended the International Archeological Conference. I regret to say that out of the 50 papers read only

two were by Englishmen. I spent a most interesting day in the new excavations at Ostia, upon which the Italian Government has spent more than £500,000 in the last two and a half years. Ostia, in Roman times a port, is now three miles from the sea owing to the delta formed by the River Tiber. The excavators have recently disclosed a considerable part of the ancient seawall. The iron rings to which the Romans tied up their boats are still visible. In the market place mosaics have been discovered, upon which are inscribed the names of various shipping agencies of the Roman Empire, including the agency of Libya, the modern Tripoli. Although in works of art Ostia is not comparable with Pompeii, its buildings for solidity and massiveness are greatly superior. In modern Rome I was greatly struck by the magnificence of the marble monument to Victor Emmanuel, which stands on part of the ancient Capitol. The Government has already spent £5,000,000 upon it, and intends to lay out another £1,000,000. Another modern structure of equal magnificence is the Palace of Justice, upon which has been lavished £4,500,000. The Forum excavations have been carried on to a still greater depth, under Professor Boni, and a cemetery has been reached dating back to the period before the kingship was founded—about 700 B.C. I was invited to read a paper before the British Classical Association in January, but owing to my wife's illness I was unable to fulfil the engagement."

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# ANTARCTIC TRAGEDIES

## MESSAGE FROM DR. MAWSON.

### STORY OF DISASTER.

#### A LONELY JOURNEY.

Sydney, March 6.

A wireless message was received by Professor David yesterday from Dr. Mawson from Adelaide Land, via Macquarie Island. The message runs as follows:—

#### Death of Lieutenant Ninnes.

"The Aurora arrived on January 13. All the sledge parties returned to the hut by January 17, except my party. Whilst Lieutenant Ninnes, Dr. Mertz, and myself, on December 4, were exploring the new coastline 300 miles south-east of my winter quarters, Lieutenant Ninnes, with one dog team, and almost all the food disappeared in an unfathomable crevasse. Dr. Mertz and I, with inadequate provisions and only six starving dogs, struck out over the plateau for the hut. We encountered unexpectedly bad weather, which retarded our progress.

#### Dr. Mertz also Dies.

"We subsisted chiefly on the dogs. On January 17 Dr. Mertz died from causes arising from malnutrition. On February 7 I alone arrived at the hut, having travelled through the snow and fogs miraculously guided by Providence through heavily crevassed areas. Captain Davis, of the Aurora, had waited until it was no longer safe to remain, and is now proceeding to our western base. He left a few hours before my arrival at the hut.

#### Six Men at the Hut.

"Six men are here with me at the hut. They were left to prosecute a search for us, namely, Messrs. Madigan, Bage, McLean, Dickerton, and Jeffries. The Aurora intended to return from the west, and she is expected in a few days, when an attempt will be made to get off, but on account of heavy winds we are unlikely to get off. Regular wireless communication may be expected in future." This message is signed, Douglas Mawson.

# THE TREACHEROUS CREVASSES.

## WHERE THE DISASTER OCCURRED.

### STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR DAVID.

Sydney, March 6.

Though the message states that six members of the Mawson expedition are at the winter quarters with Dr. Mawson, only five names are given. However, the name of Mr. Hodgman was included in the number.

"It is clear from this message," said Professor David this evening, "that the scene of the sad disaster was situated at a point 300 miles south-east of Dr. Mawson's headquarters, and therefore about 180 miles north-east of the south magnetic pole. It seems little short of miraculous that, in spite of so many expeditions having of late years gone to Antarctica and wintered there, and travelled in the aggregate so many thousands of miles of more or less heavily crevassed ice, there has never been, as far as I am aware, until this case on Dr. Mawson's expedition a single fatal accident through the precipitation of any members of these expeditions down a crevasse. These crevasses are of the nature of enormous cracks, more or less vertical, traversing glacier ice. Moving in some places more rapidly than in others, it becomes so stretched that it gives way eventually under the tension with a roar like that of distant artillery or heavy thunder. On account of the heavy drifting of the snow under the influence of blizzard winds these crevasses become rapidly roofed over with what is technically known as a snow lid. The tendency is for the lid to be very thin and treacherous on the side of the crevasse nearest to the prevalent winds. On the farther side the snow lid is usually much thicker, and therefore safer. One of the great perils is that often the carpet of snow left by blizzard winds effaces all traces of these hidden dangers, and even prevents parties from ascertaining the direction in which the crevasses trend. If one always knew their trend the danger of crossing them would be much lessened, as one would naturally so direct one's sledges that they crossed the crevasses at right angles.

"Sledges with the load upon them may weigh from 800 to about 800 lb., fully a quarter of a ton. If a sledge is being man-hauled with men strapped into their harness, and the lid collapses under the whole length of the sledge simultaneously nothing could prevent the whole party from being instantly engulfed with the sledge."