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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Acting Director Appointed.

The Executive Council on Thursday appointed Mr. M. M. Maughan, B.A. (Chief Inspector of Schools) to the Acting Director of Education. Mr. Maughan was born at Dudley, England, on November 2, 1856. He is a son of the late Rev. James Maughan, who founded the Franklin Street Methodist New Connexion Church, now known as Maughan Church. He arrived in South Australia in 1862, and was educated at Prince Alfred College, where he was afterwards a teacher for three years. He entered the service of the Education Department in 1877, and was employed for a time in the Lefevre's Peninsula and Grate Street Schools. On February 1, 1880, he became assistant master of the Training College under Mr. Madley. In July of the same year Mr. Maughan was appointed head master of the Wallaroo School. On January 1, 1887, he was transferred to Moonta, where for four years he was a successful head master. In 1891, when Mr. W. L. Neale, head master of Sturt Street School, was appointed an inspector, Mr. Maughan was chosen to succeed him as head master of that school. He held this position until December, 1900, when he also was appointed an inspector



MR. M. M. MAUGHAN
(Acting Director of Education).

of schools and an officer of the first class in the public service. For a while prior to that date he was superintendent of the University Training College as locum tenens for the late Mr. Andrew Scott. In 1906, when the late Mr. Price, as Minister of Education, reorganized the department, Mr. Maughan was raised to the office of Chief Inspector of Schools. On several occasions, during the absence of the late Mr. Williams from the State, Mr. Maughan has controlled the department in the position of Acting Director. About two years ago his health was far from satisfactory, but a voyage to England and a good rest in one of the southern counties enabled him to return to South Australia much benefited. He was for many years treasurer of the Public Schools' Floral and Industrial Society and of the Decoration Society. He is an ex-President of the South Australian Teachers' Union. For a time he was President of the Public Service Federal Council. Mr. Maughan has been closely identified with military matters, and holds the officers' decoration for 20 years' commission service in the colonial auxiliary forces. He served in the ranks of the Adelaide Rifles, and on his removal to the country he became captain of the old Yorke's Peninsula Rifle Volunteer Company, the strength of which he raised to 100. On his appointment to the Sturt Street head mastership, in 1891, he was transferred to the first battalion, A.R., and when the forces were reorganized in 1896 Capt. Maughan was one of the officers chosen for further service. He is a prominent Freemason, and has held the highest office in the gift of a Blue Lodge.

MILITARY TRAINING.

UNIVERSITY PROPOSAL.

LONDON, February 24.

Many university authorities welcome with modifications the proposal of 63 members of the Senate of Cambridge University to co-operate with the Oxford University authorities to make the conferment of degrees in future dependent upon the attainment of efficiency in the Territorial service or officers' training corps.

Others object to making degrees dependent on military training. Some suggest that certain privileges should be conferred on those undergoing training.

Commenting on the proposal, The Daily News says if a university unauthorized by the State declared that no man should have knowledge unless he became a soldier, it would be blackmail and treason to science.

Register, Feb. 26/13.

MORE TRAGEDY IN THE ANTARCTIC.

Quite apart from the weirdness of the idea of Australians in the frigid zone of the South Pole talking by "wireless" yesterday to Australians sweltering under the torrid conditions which prevailed in this part of the world, there is something exceedingly impressive in the first definite message received from intrepid Dr. Mawson and his valiant comrades. The mode of the intimation is as nothing when compared with the intrinsic character of it. The first note is the tragical; and, following so closely upon the shocking tidings from the Scott expedition, it raises the question whether the remarkable virtual previous immunity from fatal consequences in the Antarctic may not possibly, however unconsciously, have caused the danger of exploration in that desolate region to have been too lightly esteemed, and excessive risks to have been taken. The death of two members of the party so prominent as Lieut. Ninnis and Dr. Mertz must necessarily seriously weaken the expedition, alike substantially in its personnel, and in its outlook from the standpoint of scientific and other discoveries. The exploits thus far have been in the sledging department, and that was a specialty of the two dead comrades, who were widely noted as experts in the work in which expert knowledge is practically indispensable. The tragic event will also naturally lead to keen apprehension being felt concerning the fate of Dr. Mawson and the other members of his party who have not returned by the relieving steamer Aurora, but—to the bitter disappointment of their friends—will remain another year in "the region of perpetual ice." Why so few will stay in Antarctica, and why so many are returning to civilization, leaving seven of the party behind them, are questions at present apparently involved in some mystery.

Yet the opposite side of the record to the sadly dramatic contains inspiring entries of which Britons may well be proud. Foreigners have been blest with the luck—and perhaps also something more solidly based than the luck—of Antarctic enterprise, in that they have discovered the Pole without sacrifice of lives, and Britons have sacrificed lives without enjoying the solace of being able to set-off the ac-

count with the prestige of pioneer discovery; but "the men of the bulldog breed" have probably added more data to the sum of the world's scientific knowledge regarding South Polar regions than have been supplied by all other explorers. And in some essential aspects, it is a more noteworthy thing that Mawson and his companions should have ventured forth to incur risks as great as those incidental to the race to the Pole, without the sentimental and picturesque glamour which such a quest naturally inspires than the alternative would have been. Although there may be a suggestion of paradox in the statement of the matter, it is true that Mawson was as determined not to find the Pole, but to do prosaic practical work, as some of his predecessors were determined to find the Pole, and take in the rest as a subsidiary consideration. Both aspirations were doubtless justified; and, anyhow, it is more than pleasant to read that Mawson has succeeded in the chief object of his journey—the object of imparting something like definiteness to the outlines of a great waste land which has hitherto been entirely terra incognita, but which now has been reduced to such certainty that the leader of the Austral-British expedition led by the distinguished South Australian is able to request His Majesty to permit the tract to be called King George V. Land. Although, in the nature of things, not much can yet be disclosed concerning the character of this vast area, it seems reasonable to suppose that it will be proved valuable on the economic side as well as on the merely geographical and scientific. It is quite conceivable that, in their zeal, rival explorers may in perfect honesty, and as a consequence of the difficulties inseparable from their tasks, trench somewhat upon each other's borders, and thus render necessary ultimate adjustment; but that is a comparative detail for the future. Enough at present is the knowledge that another party of Britons have acquitted themselves bravely, and won great victories even through Death.

Register, Feb. 25/13.

Mr. T. Gordon Robertson, B.A., of Mansfield College, Oxford, has, with another student, been awarded the Nathan Whitley Scholarship. This is a travelling scholarship, available for Egypt and Palestine. Mr. Robertson, who will probably return to Australia at the end of the year, is the son of the Rev. Joseph Robertson, M.A., Ipswich, President of the Queensland Congregational Union, and formerly minister of Stow Memorial Church.