

THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

News from Adelie Land.

The following is an extract from a letter from Dr. Douglas Mawson to a friend dated from Adelie Land, January 19, last:—"We are just about to step ashore at our new home on Commonwealth Bay, and I write to let you know that everything has gone satisfactorily, and we anticipate achieving a great scientific triumph for Australia. Thanks to our benefactors, we shall be able to conduct our researches under circumstances as comfortable as the climate allows."

—Gales and Blizzards.—

Writing on board the Aurora on January 28, Mr. Frank Wild gives an interesting account of the expedition:—"We left Hobart on December 2," he says, "and with our usual luck, or lack of it, ran into a gale as soon as we got outside, and were 10 days getting to Macquarie Island, where we had nearly a fortnight's solid hard work landing a party of five with their stores for two years, hut, and a wireless station. We got all the gear ashore and the masts rigged, and left Macquarie Island early on Christmas Day, and were favoured with very fine weather until we met the first ice on the 29th in 63 deg. 49 S. 150 deg. E., when it became foggy, and more snow fell. The next day we encountered heavy pack ice in 65 deg. 10 min. S., and had to alter course along the edge of it. We skirted the edge of this pack, varying our course from south-west to north-west, until January 3, and early that morning saw an ice barrier to the south. In the afternoon we were able to make down to it, and found it to be very similar to the Ross Barrier. We had to remain under the lee of the barrier to shelter from a blizzard until the evening of the 5th, and then followed the ice wall along to the west. On the 7th we were running west along what was certainly a coastline, but the land was very heavily iceclad, and in my opinion the northern extremity of the southern icecap plateau. There were several small outcrops of rock, and close inshore were numbers of tiny rocky islands all ice-covered. We counted over 40 of them. Scores of large icebergs were all about. The next day, just after noon, we were crossing a deep bay, and close inshore I saw a group of islands and what looked like a portion of exposed mainland, and called Mawson's and Davis's attention to it. As we were already further west than Mawson had intended to make his main base, we stood in to see if it would do for winter quarters. At 3 p.m. we were close in to the islands, a boat was lowered, and Mawson and I with a boat's crew of scientists went in to reconnoitre. We found, as is usual in this atmosphere, we had underestimated the distance, and had a two-mile pull. The bit of exposed mainland proved to be nearly a mile long and about half that width, and there was an excellent boat harbour with landing place. As there seemed little probability of finding a more suitable place, Mawson decided to land. The Aurora was brought to an anchor about a mile from the landing place, and fortunately found good holding ground; and immediately after letting go a very heavy gale sprang up and continued for 48 hours. I have seldom seen it blow harder, and all the time the sky was quite clear and the sun shining brightly. We had intended to land three parties along this coast, but through delay at Macquarie and here our coal supply has run so short that we cannot do so. So Mawson is landing with 18 all told at the first base, and I am going on with the remaining eight to the westward, probably about Knox Land.

—Goodby to Mawson.—

"In the afternoon of the 19th there was a little speechmaking, and after tea we weighed anchor. At 8 p.m. Mawson and party went off in one of the whale boats, amid hearty cheers and good wishes, and we steamed away west, feeling more than a little melancholy. I for one could not help thinking that our goodbyes were to some of them for ever. It is a fearful country where they are landed. Except for less than a mile around the winter quarters, the coastline is a perpendicular ice wall from 100 to 300 ft. high, and it rises back rapidly to about 2000 ft.—we cannot see beyond that. From the base there is a fairly clear track leading up the slope about 200 yards wide. Even that is not free from crevasses, and on either side of this track the ice is so horribly broken up that nothing but a bird could cross it; and, except Mawson himself,

none of the party has had the least experience. During the day we passed hundreds of large bergs, many of them from 200 to 300 ft. high, and several over two miles in length. At 8.30 p.m. we were stopped by heavy pack, and a little farther on could see unbroken ice. We were then 18 to 20 miles from the land; and, as the weather was beautifully clear, we could see that it was of the same nature as Adelie Land. On the 24th we had the land in sight all day, but we had to make a lot of northing to clear packice, and about midnight snow fell, blotting everything out. The next day we had heavy snow and a fresh south-east wind all day, increasing at 10 p.m. to a gale. About that time we got into a very light corner among bergs and pack, and our engines had as much as they could do to get us out. The gale continued all through the 26th and 27th, with snow, and we were very fortunate to keep clear of ice. To-day the wind has moderated, but snow is still falling, and we cannot see far. . . . P.S. (February 20)—We have landed on a glacier 63 deg. 21 S., 95 deg. 9 E., and have had five days' awful work getting our 30 tons of stores up the 100-ft. face of it; but have succeeded at last, and the ship is just about to leave us. Our home is in a pretty nest of crevasses, but we shall get through all right."

Advertiser
✓ 23:3-12

UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS.

Among the business on the agenda paper for the University of Adelaide Senate meeting on Wednesday next is a proposal for the repeal of chapter I. of the Statutes allowed on December 18, 1886, and the substitution of words to ensure that the Chancellor shall hold office for five years from the date of his election. At present the language employed is considered to be ambiguous, and to cover a term of only four years; whereas five are intended. The present Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) was elected for the seventh time on January 26, 1912. An alterations of the regulations is proposed, which will rearrange the work in connection with the B.A. honours degree. In the amendment to regulation 4 candidates for the honours degree in classics will in future be required to take one other subject in addition. Candidates in mathematics must also pass in English language and literature, or any one foreign language, ancient or modern. Alterations foreshadowed in the work for the B.A. degree will by the insertion of a new clause under regulation 4 provide for a special course in forestry. Another change will provide in clause 2 of the B.Sc. regulations that candidates may do a portion of their work at institutions affiliated with the University.

UNIVERSITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Adelaide University Sports Association was held at the union rooms on Friday evening, when Dr. W. R. Cavenagh-Maldouaring presided over a large attendance. The secretary (Mr. J. C. Mayo) submitted a report on the doings of the various University clubs during the year, which was one of the best yet experienced. The membership was 165, which represented a slight increase on the previous year's figures. The income was £445, and although the expenses had been unusually heavy in some directions there was a credit balance of £12. The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said it disclosed a satisfactory state of affairs, but the members of several of the branches of sport should strive to do better. Professor Henderson seconded the motion, and said the association was making for the solidarity of University life. That had been splendidly evidenced by a number of University footballers leaving league clubs and playing for their own team in the amateur league, when some of them might have been representing the State in the carnival matches in Adelaide last winter. The balance-sheet was presented by Mr. A. S. Ferguson and adopted. Dr. Cavenagh-Maldouaring was re-elected president for the fourth term in succession, and the other officers appointed were:—Treasurer, Mr. A. S. Ferguson; assistant treasurers, Messrs H. H. Swift (science), L. A. Hayward (medicine), and P. C. A. Fornachon (arts); auditors, Messrs L. W. Jeffries and G. L. Abbott; delegates to sports ground committee, Messrs H. C. Nott and F. N. LeMessurier; secretary, Mr. J. C. Mayo. Complimentary references were made to the action of the footballers who withdrew from the league clubs last season and threw in their lot with the University Club in the Amateur League. It was agreed that appreciation of that course be minutely and that a group photograph of Messrs H. W. D. Stoddart, F. N. LeMessurier, E. B. Jones, K. N. Steele, G. F. Drew, J. Londrigan, S. Smith, H. B. Wildsmore, and O. J. Murphy be obtained and hung in the union room in recognition of their loyalty to the University Football Club.