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GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

In discussing the above question, particularly in relation to Dr. Basedow's claims for consideration, The London Mining Journal on February 3 commented as follows:—"The course of the debate (in the Legislative Council), which supplied the recent developments, appeared to call for a thorough investigation of the whole case. Unfortunately, however, so far as the report in The Adelaide Register is concerned, apparently not a word was said by the Minister of Agriculture in reply to the criticisms and detailed statements put forward in regard to Dr. Basedow, and unless further discussion is forthcoming the department appears content to let the matter go by default. In view of Dr. Basedow's technical qualifications (he is B.Sc. Adelaide, Ph.D. Breslau, and M.D. Göttingen) and his extensive field knowledge of the central portion of the Australian continent, as well as of South Australia, to say nothing of his previous occupancy of his position of Assistant Government Geologist, he would seem to have a prima facie case for consideration, as he was available for the position, and the apparent failure of the Department of Agriculture to reply in any way to the many serious charges made in the course of the debate as to their action cannot fail to have a disturbing effect upon mining opinion generally." It is only fair to add that the above referred to the actions of the late Ministry, and not to those of the present Government.

THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

Professor Henderson (President of the Geographical Section of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science) returned to Adelaide from Sydney on Wednesday. Referring to the published telegram about the Mawson expedition, he said:—"The progress of the expedition is so far satisfactory, although rough weather has caused some trouble. Those interested in Dr. Mawson's movements have been wondering why no wireless messages have been received from him after he had reached Adelie Land, in Antarctica. This is now explained by the return of the Aurora to Hobart, with the report that difficulty was experienced in landing. The presumption is, of course, that Dr. Mawson has not yet been able to set up his wireless station there. Wireless messages have been received from Macquarie Island, which is a repeating telegraphic base. Macquarie Island is situated at a greater distance from Hobart than it is from Adelie Land, and as the wireless plant to be fixed in antarctic is quite as strong as that placed on Macquarie Island, messages should come along all right when once the station is established. I had an interview with Professor David, of Sydney, and he holds the opinion that the reason we have not received any messages by wireless from Dr. Mawson after he left Macquarie Island is that he experienced trouble in finding a suitable landing. In a letter I received from Dr. Mawson from Melville Island he stated that there was great scope for scientific work there. They had had a rough time in landing. Dr. Mawson will not be back until next summer. The wireless is working from Melville Island, but not from Adelie Land."

The late Mr. James Bernard Allen, who died in Western Australia recently, was formerly connected with the staff of the Adelaide University. He was a son of the late Rev. James Allen. In 1889 the deceased secured the Angus engineering scholarship, and subsequently took his B.Sc. degree at the Adelaide University. The Commissioners of the London Exhibition of 1881 awarded him a science research scholarship in 1892. Mr. Allen for a term was assistant lecturer on mathematics at the University, where he secured the honours degree of Bachelor of Arts. His next advance was an appointment as lecturer in mathematics at the Perth Technical School, which position he held at the time of his death. Last year Mr. Allen visited Europe.

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THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

The Government Astronomer (Mr. G. F. Dodwell) has received a message from Mr. E. N. Webb, who is in charge of the magnetic work of the Mawson expedition, dated January 17, long. 142 deg. 20m east; lat. 66 deg. 50m. south. The message reads:—"Practically all stores landed now, only some coal to come off. Instruments in very fair order. Magnetic work should be all right here. Everybody well and enjoying life."

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THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR HENDERSON.

"I have been following with great interest the movements of Dr. Mawson and his party on their Antarctic expedition," remarked Professor Henderson (president of the geographical section of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science), on his return to Adelaide from New South Wales on Wednesday morning. "The progress of the expedition is so far satisfactory, although rough weather has caused some trouble. Those interested in Dr. Mawson's movement have been wondering why no wireless messages have been received from him after he had reached Adelie Land, in Antarctica. This is now explained by the return of the Aurora to Hobart with the report that difficulty was experienced in landing. The presumption is, of course, that Dr. Mawson has not yet been able to set up his wireless station there. Wireless messages have been received from Macquarie Island, which is a repeating telegraphic base. Macquarie Island is situated at a greater distance from Hobart than it is from Adelie Land, and as the wireless plant to be fixed in Antarctica is quite as strong as that placed on Macquarie Island, messages should come along all right when once the station is established. I had an interview with Professor David, of Sydney, and he holds the opinion that the reason we have not received any messages by wireless from Dr. Mawson after he left Macquarie Island is that he experienced trouble in finding a suitable landing."

Register, March 14/12

EDUCATION COMMISSION.

Last Session the Assembly carried a motion enlarging the powers of the Education Commission. Its first duty was to enquire into methods to be adopted to increase the usefulness of the University, but a majority of legislators decided that its scope should be extended to take in the whole system of education in South Australia. At that time the late Government had its Education Bill before the House, but in view of the decision it allowed the measure to stand over. A meeting of the Commission was held at Parliament House on Wednesday afternoon, when all the members except the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. F. W. Young) were present. Consideration was given to the lines upon which future enquiries should proceed in view of the increased powers, and a plan of operations was accepted. The Director of Education (Mr. A. Williams) will be the first witness examined, and he has been summoned for Monday morning at 11 o'clock. He will be questioned with respect to primary, secondary, and technical education. It is likely that at the succeeding meeting the President of the South Australian Teachers' Union (Mr. V. J. Pavia) will give evidence.

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Master Albert Ray Southwood, son of Mr. Southwood, M.P., has resigned the Edward Spicer Scholarship, value £150, which he won as Prince Alfred College top boy at the Higher Public Examination last November. He has done this in order to enable him to take one of the State's new bursaries (medical), which his position at the examination entitled him to. He entered upon his course of studies at the Adelaide University last week.

Register April 1st 1912

Professors Peterson and Ennis have been appointed examiners in theory of music for the examinations to be held in May in connection with the University of Adelaide.

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THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

The Education Commission resumed its work on Wednesday, when a preliminary meeting was held at Parliament House to discuss future plans. It was decided to begin by taking evidence with respect to the primary system of education, and Mr. Williams, the Director, is to be examined first on Monday next. Mr. V. J. Pavia, headmaster of the Norwood State school, and president of the South Australia Teachers' Union, will follow. Evidence regarding the primary system having been taken, the Commission will go into the question of secondary and technical education.

Advertiser, March 15/12

News of the death of Mr. James Bernard Allen has been received in Adelaide from Western Australia. Mr. Allen was some years ago a resident of this State, and was connected with the Adelaide University staff. He was a son of the late Rev. James Allen. In 1889 he won the Angus engineering exhibition, and in 1891 secured his B.Sc. degree at the Adelaide University. In 1892 he was awarded a science research scholarship by the Commissioners of the London Exhibition of 1881. Subsequently he was assistant lecturer on mathematics at the Adelaide University, and last April, at a special congregation, he was admitted to the honours degree of Bachelor of Arts, having passed in mathematics with first-class honours. Some years ago he was appointed lecturer on mathematics at the Perth Technical School, and he retained that position up to the time of his death. Last June he was granted leave of absence and he travelled through England and Germany, and spent most of his time in visiting University laboratories, collecting information which would be of service in connection with the establishment of a University in Perth. He returned last January from this holiday, in which he was accompanied by Mr. C. R. Hodge (registrar of the Adelaide University). Mr. Allen and Mr. Hodge were old friends, and the news of the former's death, which was caused by typhoid fever, came as a shock to Mr. Hodge. The sisters of the deceased gentleman live at Malvern, and his brother is engaged in mission work in India.

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At the first meeting of the senate of the Western Australian University, which will be established during the year, Sir Winthrop Hackett, LL.D., was unanimously elected Chancellor, and Mr. Cecil Andrews, M.A. (Inspector-General of Schools), was chosen Vice-Chancellor.