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# THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

## INTERCESSION SERVICE IN SYDNEY.

Sydney, December 3.

A special intercession service in connection with the departure of the Mawson expedition was held at St. Andrew's Anglican Cathedral yesterday morning. A smart shower of rain interfered considerably with the attendance. The Archbishop (Dr. Wright) delivered an inspiring address.

## DEPARTURE OF THE AURORA.

### MESSAGE FROM DR. MAWSON.

Hobart, December 3.

The Aurora sailed on Saturday afternoon, with Dr. Mawson's expedition for the Antarctic. Long before her departure the approach to the vessel had become impassable, all the wharfs in the vicinity being crowded with people. Before leaving, Dr. Mawson desired to make the following statement to the people of Australia:—"We have received the best Australia can give us, and we are now setting forth with the intention of upholding the prestige of our race in the far south. As this is the first Australian polar expedition, we feel that a special duty is laid upon us as Australians, and we realize to the full the great responsibility of what we have to perform. We have received numerous messages from all parts of Australia. We cannot acknowledge our thanks for these separately, and hope that the senders will accept our feelings of gratitude through the press."

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### —University v. School of Mines.—

The Hon. J. G. Bice criticised the Adelaide University Bill at length. In regard to the novel method suggested for the appointment of additional members to the council, he said he did not understand the necessity for the recommendation, seeing that the business of the University had been conducted in such an exemplary way. The Ministers should appoint the members. He did not think any Parliament in the world prior to this had been asked to elect members of a board by ballot. He did not oppose the legitimate demands of the University. He had most carefully studied the evidence of the commission, and had arrived at the conclusion that the intention of the University was to wipe out the School of Mines. He would endeavour to amend the Bill so that the University would have power to grant degrees of bachelor and master of engineering, but no right to control teaching in connection with those degrees. It was a disgrace to the State that professors of such a great institution as the University should be paid such paltry salaries as they had been. The Hon. J. Cowan, a member of the Education Commission, replied to Mr. Bice in a sound and logical speech, and lucidly reviewed the work and desires of the commission. The Hon. J. J. Duncan paid a tribute to the work of the School of Mines, and said that the two institutions should work harmoniously together. The Hon. A. W. Styles, another member of the Education Commission, supported Mr. Cowan.

## UNIVERSITY BILL.

Adjourned debate on second reading. The Hon. J. G. BICE said the University was of sufficient importance to warrant Parliament in giving it careful and generous consideration. With regard to the proposal that the University should be allowed to grant the degree of bachelor of engineering, he thought it might be agreed to; but a teaching in connection with the degree should be in the hands of the School of Mines. (Mr. Lucas—"Do you regard it as an interference with the rights of the School of Mines?") Absolutely. (Mr. Cowan—"No such thing is intended in the Bill.") So far as members of the Commission were concerned that statement was probably correct. He did not believe for a moment that any one of them, or the Government, would intentionally do anything that would detrimentally affect the interests of the School of Mines. But he had been through all the evidence carefully, and he had arrived at the conclusion that in the minds of those connected with the University it was intended absolutely to wipe out the School of Mines. (Mr. Howe—"Oh, no.") In an appendix to the Commission's report the council of the University had included among their requests the provision of a professorship of engineering in connection with the faculty of science, "contingently on all higher engineering work being done at the University." That meant that it would all be taken from the School of Mines. When the agreement between the University and School of Mines was arrived at in regard to the fellowship course, it was decided that certain parts of the course should be taught in each institution, and until this enquiry was set on foot there had never been any suggestion that the School of Mines subjects were not of equal standard to the subjects taught at the University. (Mr. Duncan—"Neither is there any suggestion now.") The School of Mines was managed by a council that had given the greatest satisfaction to the general public. (Hear, hear.) There could be no higher commendation of the work of the Council than was given by the Chancellor of the University, when, in answer to the chairman of the Education Commission, he said no one recognised more cheerfully than he the splendid work done by the School of Mines and by Sir Langdon Bonython. Sir Langdon had all through been the leading spirit, and had supplied the motive power. Courses in mining and metallurgy were established by the School of Mines years before the University thought of doing anything of the sort. Professor Chapman's statement that the University had provided the backbone of the teaching of the School of Mines was not borne out by facts. The University was represented on the School of Mines, but the council of the latter institution had no representation on the University council, and many times he had cause to believe that some of their intentions were told to the University, and opportunities taken to defeat what they were endeavoring to do. He had even moved that the Government should not appoint a professor of the University on the council of the School of Mines until reciprocal representation was granted on the University council. (Mr. Lucas—"A very fair proposition.") Professor Chapman, as a University man, and representing the University, had been quite definite in saying that the desire of the University was to take away the bread from the School of Mines. "What would you leave for the council of the School of Mines?" Mr. Peake had asked him, and Professor Chapman had replied, "Nothing at all." If hon. members would give the attention to the report it deserved they would compare the honorable way Sir Langdon had dealt with the agreement between the two institutions and Professor Chapman's allusion to "clashing of interests." He said deliberately that since the time when the School of Mines became a success, and the University was a stagnating institution, the clashing of interests had only come from the University. There could be no doubt as to Professor Chapman's view of the present Bill. (Mr. Cowan—"It is only his view.") He spoke for the University. (Mr. Cowan—"Not necessarily.") He thought he did. In other countries institutions similar to the School of Mines gave degrees, and he could see no reason why the School of Mines' teaching should not be held to be of sufficient quality to give a degree. (Hear, hear. Mr. Howe—"It is a very popular institution.") The University had been established 16 years before the School of Mines was founded without doing a single thing to provide technical education, or to provide advanced culture for people outside the professions. (Mr. Cowan—"They had no means or opportunity.") Nor had they the will or the desire. The argument put forward by Professor Chapman, that the value of the diploma of mining engineering was lowered

because the School of Mines also had elementary industrial classes was simply absurd. One might as well depreciate the value of the law and medicine degrees because the Conservatorium taught elementary music. After 21 years of existence the University had only 288 students. It was then that the first encroachments on the School of Mines, which had proved an immediate and tremendous success, were made. And now in part, because of those encroachments, the University had something over 1,000 students. Professor Chapman had said that the electrical engineering class had been started by the University. As a matter of fact, it was first proposed by the president of the School of Mines at a meeting of the council, when one of the University professors had said, "We have a man who can take this class for you and a room that would suit." That was how the classes were taken into the University buildings. As a member of the council of the School of Mines for 15 years, he knew the struggle that institution had had to maintain its existence in the face of the encroachments of the University, and if this Bill were passed it would mean that the higher-class education carried on for many years by the School of Mines would have to be handed over to the University. The result then would be that as the University went up the School of Mines must go down. He appealed to the Government not to rush this matter through in a way that might be regretted later on, and to the members to take into consideration the interests of the people's college and preserve the rights of the School of Mines. (Hear, hear.) He agreed with the Commission that it was a disgrace to South Australia that their professors should be paid the present paltry salaries, and he hoped the increased grant asked for would be given. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. J. COWAN said he and every other member of the Education Commission entertained the highest possible view of the good the School of Mines was doing in the State. They considered it one of the most useful and most popular educational institutions they could have, and it was not their intention to diminish, one iota, its usefulness, but rather to increase it. So far the Commission's work had been mainly devoted to the needs of the University, and the interests of the School of Mines and secondary schools would be more fully considered later. The annual grant to the University now asked for was £11,000, and he hoped that would be agreed to. Mr. Bice had attached altogether too much importance to the evidence of Professor Chapman. He could assure the hon. member that Professor Chapman's evidence would not influence the Commission into recommending anything that would impair the usefulness of the School of Mines. (Hear, hear.) The proposal for the bachelor of engineering degree would not in any way interfere with the work of either institution. The conferring of diplomas by the School of Mines would not in the least be interfered with. (Mr. Bice—"But a diploma is no good when a degree is issued.") Students felt they were suffering because there was no possibility of their getting degrees in South Australia. Under the new proposal students who had the diploma of the School of Mines could obtain the B.E. degree after a very few months at the University; but without the B.E. degree much of the value of the School of Mines work would be lost. In Sydney, where the School of Mines was much better equipped than the local institution, the proposed system was in force, and there was not the slightest overlapping. The present B.Sc. degree was not sufficiently distinctive, as it might be secured for botany or physiology, as well as for engineering. He hoped the Bill would be passed as it stood. (Hear, hear.)

The Hon. J. J. DUNCAN thought the Bill had nothing to do with the relative positions of the University and the School of Mines. All round the Chamber they had a great admiration for the School of Mines. (Hear, hear.) They all recognised the splendid work done by the men who had devoted time and pains in the interests of that institution, especially the gentleman who had stood at the head of affairs all through and devoted so many years to its interests. He referred to Sir Langdon Bonython, to whom the greatest possible credit was due. (Hear, hear.) It came to him as something of a surprise that there should be anything approaching even an imaginary friction between the two institutions. (Mr. Howe—"There should not be any jealousy.") He did not see why they should not act in complete harmony, and when it was proposed to advance one of the institutions it seemed to him passing strange that members of the other institution should regard the movement with hesitation and doubt, and a most suspicious. (Hear, hear.) He thought the two institutions should dovetail into one another, and