

MAWSON EXPEDITION.

Personnel of the Party.

Dr. Douglas Mawson returned from Tasmania, where he has established a base for his antarctic expedition, by the Melbourne express on Wednesday. The party will leave Hobart early in December. Asked by a representative of The Register who would compose the personnel of the expedition, Dr. Mawson said:—"Apart from the ship's officers and crew, numbering about 25, there will be a land board staff of 32 men, including myself. In addition, Mr. C. C. Eitel, a son of the late Dr. Eitel, well known in Adelaide, who has had a varied reporting experience, will be stationed at Hobart in charge of general matters connected with the expedition, and will deal more particularly with wireless messages coming from the party. Of the 32 men referred to all but three have been finally chosen. For the three remaining positions there are many applicants, and a decision will be come to in a few days. The men already selected are:—From South Australia.—Messrs. C. T. Madigan, M. H. Moyes, A. L. Kennedy, P. E. Correll, A. J. Hodgeman. Victoria.—Messrs. H. D. Murphy, F. H. Stillwell, C. A. Hoadley, and G. F. Ainsworth, and Lieut. R. Bage. Tasmania.—Mr. Harrison. New South Wales.—Messrs. J. Hunter, A. D. Watson, C. F. Laseron, W. H. Hannam, C. F. Hurley, and J. H. Close, Dr. A. L. McLean, and Dr. S. E. Jones. New Zealand.—Messrs. S. Webb, H. Hamilton and Sawyer, and Dr. L. H. Whetter. Europe.—Messrs. C. A. Sandell and F. H. Bickerton, Lieut. Ninnis, and Mr. F. Mertz.

—South Australian Members.—

"Mr. Madigan is a Rhodes Scholar from the Adelaide University, and has just received permission from Oxford to join the expedition. Mr. Moyes is a science graduate at the University of Adelaide, and was recently teaching at the Rockhampton Grammar School. These two gentlemen will go as assistant scientists and sledgers. Mr. Kennedy is an Adelaide University man, and a little time ago was on the teaching staff of St. Peter's College. The South Australians I have so far mentioned are all well known in sporting circles, and have occupied positions in interstate athletic teams. Mr. Correll, a mechanical engineer, is a member of the Adelaide University. He recently put up a record in riding from Adelaide to Melbourne on a bicycle. He will assist with the motor sledge. Mr. Hodgeman, of Adelaide, is a capable draftsman, and has been engaged from the Works Department.

—The Victorians.—

"Mr. Murphy, whose people are well-known squatters in Victoria, was for some years at Oxford, and has been four times within the arctic circle. On the last occasion he travelled 1,200 miles with sledges to the mouth of the Lena River, and supported Baron von Toll, the noted Russian scientist, who, with his party, was lost on that occasion. Mr. Murphy will be in charge of one of the bases. Mr. Stillwell graduated at the Melbourne University, and was for some time demonstrator in the geological department, Victoria. He has gained several honours for running. Mr. Hoadley, who is also a Melbourne University student, is a mining engineer. He was recently at the Port Pirie smelters. Lieut. Bage is an engineering graduate of the University of Melbourne. He is specially qualified in stellation observations, and will have the duty of the determination of accurate longitudes at the main wintering base. Mr. Ainsworth is one of the best-known members of the Commonwealth Meteorological Department in Melbourne, and has been specially loaned by the Commonwealth to take charge of the Macquarie Island station, where the highest quality of meteorological observations will be recorded, and forwarded to the Melbourne bureau by wireless telegraph."

—The New South Welshmen.—

Mr. McLean, of the Sydney University, was recently engaged at the Coast Hospital. He will conduct investigations in bacteriology and certain physiological aspects of human life under Antarctic conditions, such as pressure of blood and so on. Dr. Jones, who is now at the Prince Alfred Hospital, will perform similar observations at another base. Mr. Hunter was for several years demonstrator in the Geological Department, Sydney, and will act as chief biologist. Mr. Watson will act as geologist at one of the stations. Mr. Laseron, who was a short time ago at the technological museum, Sydney, will do the work of biologist at one of the stations. Mr. Hannam, of Sydney, will be in charge of the wireless station at the main base in the Antarctic continent. Mr. Hurley is well

known in photographic circles in Sydney, especially for his magnificent animal studies. He will accompany the expedition as photographer. Mr. Close, who directs the British Australian School of Physical Training in Sydney, and who served in the South African war, and has proved himself in connection with marine dredging, will go as assistant biologist and sledger.

—New Zealand's Representatives.—

"Mr. Webb, a civil engineering graduate of Canterbury College, will be chief magnetician. Mr. Webb recently spent four months in Adelaide making magnetic observations in connection with the Carnegie Institute. Mr. Hamilton, a son of the Director of the London Museum, will be chief naturalist, with the Macquarie Island party. Dr. Whetter will act as medical officer at one of the antarctic bases. Mr. Sawyer, who for some time has been in charge of the Australasian Wireless Telegraph Station at the Hotel Australia, Sydney, will be one of the wireless officers at Macquarie Island. He is a native of New Zealand.

—Tasmania and Europe.—

"Mr. Harrison has been connected for some time with the Museum at Hobart, and is well known as an enthusiast in marine dredging. He is an expert artist. Mr. Sandell, who for some time resided in New South Wales, and who has a private wireless station in Sydney, will assist Mr. Sawyer at Macquarie Island. Mr. Bickerton is a member of the Geographical Society of London, and as an expert motor engineer, will be in charge of the aeroplane sledge. Mr. Wild, who is well known in connection with Capt. Scott's and Sir Ernest Shackleton's expeditions, will be in charge of one of the Antarctic bases. Lieut. Ninnis, of the Royal Fusiliers, who has made a special study of surveying, will accompany the party as sledger. Dr. Mertz is a Swiss by birth, and is an expert in ice matters. He held the ski jump championship recently established in Switzerland."

—Foodstuffs.—

In conclusion, Dr. Mawson said:—"A large amount of material bought and given in Adelaide has gone forward this week to Hobart. A considerable quantity of foodstuffs was secured through the Government Produce Depot here, under the direction of Mr. Nash. We are taking from here such things as a ton of honey, and a ton of canned rabbit, presented by Messrs. G. Wilcox & Co., and many smaller gifts from other donors."

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"DOWN SOUTH."

Dr. Mawson's Quest.

History of the Expedition.

Far down south below Australia is a vast continent—the cold country—and it will be noticed that in the atlas its coastline is only partly filled in by the cartographer. And yet a large portion of this coastline is within three days' steam from Melbourne by one of our modern high-speed vessels, such as the *Mauretania*. It is these blanks in the coastline that the Australasian Antarctic Expedition will set forth from Hobart early next month to fill in. Its leader, Dr. Douglas Mawson, who was a member of the Shackleton Expedition, expects to bring back with him an accurate chart of the 2,500 miles of the coast extending from Cape Adare to Gaussberg, as a result of the expedition's work. Some names already occur on the coastline, but so inexact are the chartings hitherto made in the greater part of this region that islands such as the *Dougherty*, *Nimrod*, and *Emerald*, whose names loom large in the isolation of the map on the further side of the Antarctic continent, have actually been sailed over by Capt. Davis in the *Nimrod*. The region to be explored by Dr. Mawson—from Cape Adare to Gaussberg—has not been visited so far as records show, by any party with the exception of Dermont D'Urville's expedition in 1840. That French explorer landed on an island close to the mainland, and then sailed away without making any investigations. Since then that long coastline has not been visited by any human being, although it is within three days' steam from Melbourne by fast steamer. But charting the coastline is not the most important feature of the expedition's work. No previous party had been so admirably fitted out to conduct scientific investigations in Antarctica. And no expedition has had such ambitious projects as the Mawson expedition, with its four landing

parties—each being practically a separate expedition—while arrangements have been made also for the expedition's steamer to carry out important marine investigations as well as to compile an oceanographic survey chart of the Southern Ocean. The determination of harbours and off-lying islands must be of economic value, especially to Australians, in the near future. This will especially be the case if a whaling industry is inaugurated, or if minerals are discovered in Antarctica. Coal is known to exist there, and can be more economically transported from Antarctica to Perth than from Sydney to Perth. Besides geographical exploration, observations in all departments of science will be conjointly undertaken. But to Australians Antarctica has a special call. Its geographical position determines it as the birthright of Australians, and from an ethical point of view there is an obligation upon Australian scientists to take up the burden of scientific enquiry within the bounds of their jurisdiction. Thus it is pleasing to note that the Mawson expedition consists almost entirely of Australian natives and that the enterprise is made possible by Australian subscriptions.

—How the Project was Born.—

"In March, 1910," said Dr. Mawson recently, "I was in London, and when talking with Sir Ernest Shackleton, we decided that the most important piece of work remaining to be done in the Antarctic regions would be effected in a field southward of Australia and westward of the areas opened up by Scott and by Shackleton. At that time Sir Ernest Shackleton hoped to have the opportunity of taking an expedition to that area himself, but private matters subsequently prevented his entertaining the idea. He very generously assisted me in accomplishing the promotion of such an expedition. The idea was first made public in the London press of March 18, 1910, but as Capt. Scott was then busily engaged in organizing his great effort to reach the south geographical pole, I decided to wait before further advancing the new expedition. In the earliest stages, however, Mr. Robert Murchison, of Melbourne, cabled £1,000 to London, and this constituted the nucleus of the fund. On returning to Australia, although the project was mentioned in the press, I made no effort to push it forward until after Capt. Scott's party had sailed for the southern regions. Then the matter was brought forward at the conference of the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science, who voted £1,000 towards the funds of the expedition. Several

other generous and patriotic Australians now intimated their willingness to contribute sums of £1,000 towards the expedition, among these being Mr. R. Barr Smith, Mr. Samuel Hordern, Mr. Hugh Dixon, and Mr. Hugh Denison. The association formed a large committee to further the objects of the expedition and to raise funds. Although it was to be Australasian, it was necessary for me to hurry away immediately for Europe to purchase certain necessary stores not available in Australia, and to obtain an arctic whaling vessel and Greenland dogs, and in England I received the generous assistance of most of the leading Antarctic explorers, including Sir Ernest Shackleton, Dr. Bruce, Dr. Charcot, and Capt. Gerlach. Mr. S. Y. Buchanan, of Challenger fame, was also there, ready to give his best information on the deep-sea scientific equipment; while the Prince of Monaco, who makes a special study of oceanograph work, came forward handsomely with valuable assistance in gifts and loan of materials for that branch of the work. The services of Capt. J. K. Davis, who was captain of the *Nimrod* in the latter part of Shackleton's expedition, were secured at an early stage. On his advice and that of others it was finally decided to purchase the *Aurora*, then actively engaged in whaling on the Labrador coast. The *Aurora* is a sister ship of the *Terra Nova*, now engaged with Capt. Scott. She was built at Dundee, and is a strong vessel."

—Financial.—

Continuing, Dr. Mawson said that the stores and equipment list was drawn up in conjunction with Mr. Alfred Reid, who had acted as secretary for the Shackleton expedition. With the considerable expense entailed in this arrangement the financial aspect of the expedition required special attention. It was hoped that the Australian Commonwealth would have handsomely supported the undertaking, which was of a national character. Undoubtedly and naturally this was a time of great tension for the enthusiastic leader. "The month slipped by," he says, "without a response from the Commonwealth Government, although the committee of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science was working hard to secure that