

—Commonwealth Tribute.—

The Minister of Customs (Mr. Groom) said it was to have been the privilege of the Minister for External Affairs (Mr. Glynn) to have welcomed, in behalf of the Commonwealth, Dr. Mawson and his associates. Work of a most pressing character had precluded his attendance, and he had asked him on his behalf to express his sincere regret that he could not have been present to add his tribute of praise and recognition to those heroic men whom they were so worthily honouring. (Hear, hear.) But the gathering was something more than a local tribute of esteem, the feelings of relief, of satisfaction, joy, congratulation, and pride thrilling their hearts, was but an echo of the common sentiment felt throughout the whole continent. The expedition was an Australian expedition essentially, and Australia to-day was justly proud that its record was worthy of the best traditions of exploration, not only of the great Empire from which they had sprung, but of the great nations of the world. (Applause.) The field of work, the choice of leader, the selection of associates, the material contributions, all had tended to mark the Australian character of the expedition. It indicated an intention on the part of the Commonwealth to take its share in scientific research, and to add their contributions to the riches of the knowledge of the universe. The party had shown that under the inspiration of the noblest motives they can suffer, dare, do, and sacrifice themselves. (Applause.) It was but fitting that Australia, which owed its existence as a part of the British Empire to the fact of its discovery was the result of a scientific enterprise of an Imperial character, should promote such an expedition as the one which had just returned. (Applause.) Dr. Mawson and his associates and Capt. Davis and his men were nobly repaying Australia's debt in this regard. They congratulate them upon a plan finely conceived, and nobly executed. Their part it had been to devise, to dare, to do, a mighty enterprise, worthy of the best traditions of the Empire. Their aim was purely scientific, yet in accomplishing their purpose they have put up a record of heroic achievement, added to that wealth of tradi-

tion which was the driving force of the Empire, and had given to it its higher aims and aspirations. Though two of his companions lay in the southern snows, yet they had not died in vain. Their spirit of noble courage, endurance, and self-sacrifice would remain a national heritage of noble inspiration. (Applause.) That day they could fully enter into the joys of those who saw their nearest and dearest return. There would be nothing but profound admiration for those who in silent suffering and patience saw those whom they loved go out to unknown perils. The spirit that was willing to part with those who were dearest to enable them to take risks for their country's cause was essential to national greatness. To-day Australia most heartily congratulated Dr. Mawson and his associates and his men, and Capt. Davis upon their safe return, and expressed its deepest gratitude to them for the noble work in their nation's cause. (Applause.)

—Greeting to Dr. Masson.—

The Chancellor said it had been intended to confer the degree of LL.D. upon Sir George Reid (the High Commissioner for Australia), but he was unable to be present that afternoon. They did not forget the extremely valuable services he had rendered in behalf of the expedition. They had also hoped that Professor David would have returned from England in time to receive a degree. He was Chairman of the committee of the expedition. They did not intend to grant a degree in absentia because they desired to hear him address a special congregation. They had present Dr. Orme Masson, of the University of Melbourne. (Applause.) He inherited a name illustrious in literature, and he was equally distinguished in his own domain of science. He was President of the Australian Society for the Advancement of Science, which out of its small funds granted £1,000—almost its entire capital—towards the expedition. (Applause.) Professor Masson had been Deputy President of the committee of the expedition, and its wise administrator, and ever ready helper. They would be glad that he had honoured them by allowing them to present him with the degree of D.Sc. (ad eundem). He inherited a name illustrious in literature, and was equally distinguished himself in his own domain of science. (Hear, hear.) Professor Masson was the President of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, which granted out of its small funds £1,000—almost its entire capital—towards the cost of this expedition. In addition, Professor Masson had been Deputy President of the Antarctic committee, and its wise adviser and ever-ready helper. He had accepted their invitation to honour the University by allowing him to bestow upon that eminent scholar ad eundem gradum the degree of Doctor of Science.

The lecturer on geology, Mr. Walter Howchin, then presented Professor Masson to the Chancellor, who, amid applause, conferred upon him the degree.

—Like the Proverbial Insect.—

Professor Masson said an address was rather an ambitious description of the few words he intended to say. He thanked them from the bottom of his heart for the kindness which they had allowed him, if he might put it so, to be embalmed, like the proverbial insect, in the golden transparency of the amber of Dr. Mawson's fame. (Laughter and applause.) He desired to reinforce what Sir Samuel had said about Professor David. There was one thing wanting on that occasion, and that was Professor David. (Applause.) The Professor was Dr. Mawson's old teacher. He was, in fact, Dr. Mawson's father in science. He ought to have been there. Further, Professor David was Dr. Mawson's companion, and was himself a very famous antarctic explorer. At that moment he was on his way to Australia, and he would dearly have loved to have been present. In his absence, in behalf of the Australasian Association, he added congratulations, grateful acknowledgment, admiration, and a hearty welcome to Dr. Mawson, Capt. Davis, and all their gallant companions. Dr. Mawson had informed him that day that he would be able to contribute to the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which would gather in Australia in August, to contribute what would probably be the greatest and most interesting feature—an account of the scientific results of the expedition. For the British Association, of which he and others in Australia were members, he welcomed their Australian heroes back with

them. From the Victorian University he offered their sister institution in Adelaide very warm congratulations upon that which they could not grudge, but which they most certainly envied—Dr. Mawson on the staff of lecturers. Further, he congratulated the University authorities on their wisdom in having granted Dr. Mawson extended leave of absence, thus enabling him to do all that had been done when he followed the call of the seductive south. The Victorian University would gladly have contributed a leader, but it was not to be. Failing that, they had done their best in having given three members of the expedition. One of them was Lieut. Page, of the Royal Australian Engineers and a member of the gallant little band that had been spoken about that was left behind to search for Mawson. (Applause.)

—Almost Australia.—

With Lieut. Page were Madigan (Adelaide University Rhodes Scholar), McLean (Sydney University), Hodgeman (Adelaide), and Bickerton (who gave that little bit of imperialism, for he was an Englishman, which prevented what would otherwise have been a purely Australian party). His Excellency the Governor-General had summarized exceedingly well the scientific results of the expedition. That was not the occasion to enter into great detail; it was sufficient for them to know that the achievements were splendid. (Hear, hear.) They had met for something else. They had their friends back from the realms of snow and sudden storms, back to the land of the sun, to those who loved them, and to the country where they could wear a collar, and buy things in shops, and if necessary asked the way of a policeman. (Laughter.) They had got the expedition back, and most heartily did they welcome them home. (Applause.)

—The Leader's Tribute.—

Dr. Mawson, who was greeted by prolonged cheering, said he did not wish to say much, but felt that something at least was required of him. Those who had spoken before him so eloquently and well had said things better than he could have done, and perhaps with a little more detail than he could have told of what had been accomplished. (Laughter.) He would very much like to hear members of the expedition, who had done no less than he; they had done their best. Every one of them had supported the expedition nobly without thought of self. (Applause.) He would like them to say things for him, but perhaps some of them would be heard at the reception on Tuesday. (Hear, hear.) It was gratifying for them all to feel that their endeavours were appreciated, and he wished to express heartfelt thanks for that appreciation. Any measure of success which the expedition might have won stood alike to the credit of those who had provided the funds for its equipment as to the men in the field. (Hear, hear.) He did not wish to have undue credit attributed to himself; they had all done their best. His comrades there had met with fortitude and resource every circumstance in which they had been placed, and it was that unanimity of endeavour that had won the day. (Applause.) He could not claim the work accomplished to be solely that of members of the party. He was most anxious to acknowledge the great assistance rendered by the special

committee of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, and above all by Professors Masson, David, and Henderson, the last named of Adelaide. (Hear, hear.) Professors Masson and David had most to do with the arrangements in Australia. In this State they had to thank the President of the Royal Geographical Society and many others, but it was the Chancellor of the University who had chiefly spoken at the deputation to obtain the first Government assistance (that from South Australia). He could not speak too highly of the help given by Professors Masson and David to the expedition, which was partly theirs. (Applause.)

—Plans and Achievements.—

He must refer to the plans of the party and what had become of them. He expected everybody there had followed the doings of the expedition closely enough to be conversant with its objects, and had read in the papers details of a superficial nature of its achievements.

—Distinctive Character.—

The expedition differed from others of recent years, inasmuch as it did not focus on the south pole. It took up a new sphere of action, nearer to Australia, and one more likely to be useful to Australia.

That was practically the most valuable of all the spheres, but the expedition secured much scientific knowledge. He did not put forward any claim to polar expeditions, except in regard to the scientific side. People might ask what was the use of it all, but his answer was that every advance made by science in ascertaining conditions in other parts of the world led to greater comforts at home; and the expedition was sure to lead to something of the kind. What was going on in another part of the world always had a bearing on the elucidation of problems of the homeland, and surely it was incumbent upon Australia, rather than on any other nation of the world, to undertake the exploration and scientific work in the antarctic regions. There had been reason to believe that land existed. They had no reason to believe it was true, but now they knew that there was a huge land to the south of Australia that must play a part in Australian history in the future. If there was anything of any value to Australia in the antarctic regions, then that knowledge could be turned to good use. There was a huge land there, and with the scientific facts at their disposal, they must realize that the future of the land from an economical point of view, although it was not certain it was sure to play its part in the future history of the world. The first discoverers of Australia were the Dutch, but they landed in a desolate part of Western Australia, travelled over 3,000 miles almost into South Australia, and then went back and established the colony at Java. English explorers came 100 years later, and landed at a fertile spot, and Australia became a prosperous British State. If in the little more than 100 years since Australia had been settled it had become so prosperous, he was sure they would find the antarctic useful in the future. (Hear, hear.)

—Proclaim Antarctica Australian.—

He hoped the Australian Government would make some claim upon the antarctic regions just as Canada issued an edict that all lands north of Canada to the pole belonged to Canada. So Australia might say that all lands south of the Commonwealth belonged to it. It would be a grand thing to have one country stretching from the equator to the pole. (Applause.)

—Macquarie Island.—

The party's intentions when it left Australia was to do something. The members had some plans. It was a good thing to have ideals. It was better to fail big than have a small success, but the party went with the desire to do something. (Applause.) It went with a mobile equipment, so the game was played with pawns. The expedition was one of units. A party was landed at Macquarie Island, about halfway to the antarctic regions. It was the possession of the Commonwealth, but he did not think the Commonwealth knew it owned it until lately. It looked up the records, and found that about 100 years ago Great Britain passed it over to Tasmania, and then it fell into the hands of the Commonwealth. It was the rendezvous in the early days of a lot of sealers, mostly from Nova Scotia and New Zealand, and there were no customs duties collected there. He believed that his party also escaped payment of custom duties, but it had a special dispensation. He landed a number of his crew, who prepared a splendid map of the island. A wireless station was erected, and messages had since been sent to the mainland, giving particulars of the weather, and this information had been used in preparing the forecasts.

—In South Regions.—

It was hoped to strike the ice patch at the 155th meridian, but the Aurora did not reach it until the 145th meridian, somewhat east of where land had been seen by the French expedition in 1840.