

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON.

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

ADULT EDUCATION.

Returning to England.

Mission of Sir Douglas Mawson to London

Conference in Vancouver.

Antarctic Projects.

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEWS")

LONDON, January 1.



SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON.

Sir Douglas Mawson expects to leave Adelaide for Melbourne in a few days, en route to England. The object of his voyage has not been disclosed, but it is understood to be connected with his desire to lead another expedition to the Antarctic. His purpose is to reach the Antarctic late in the year, and if he is able to obtain the exploring vessel Discovery, as he had hoped, he will leave England soon after the middle of the year.

It is stated that the forthcoming journey to England of Sir Douglas Mawson (Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at Adelaide University) is definitely in connection with an Antarctic expedition. Moreover, there is every possibility that he will secure the Discovery, the ship of Capt. R. F. Scott.

British Government officials have little to say on the subject, but it was admitted today that "certain negotiations have been going on."

It is understood that these negotiations began many months ago, when the desire of Sir Douglas to form an expedition was first indicated.

The position seems to have been carried much further now, although whether or not Mr. S. M. Bruce (Prime Minister of Australia) is backing the mission has not yet been revealed.

It is known that Sir Douglas desires a certain sum which some people a few months ago apparently were not optimistic about raising.

It is now thought, however, that the plans of Sir Douglas have progressed, especially as there have been certain rearrangements in connection with the movements of the Discovery, which would make it available immediately if Sir Douglas approved it.

There have been certain defects which might have rendered the vessel unsuitable

for Antarctic work, but it is understood that these have now been adjusted.

Moreover, it has been learned that it has already been tentatively arranged to replace the Discovery by another vessel in the forthcoming whaling expedition to Falkland Islands, should Sir Douglas wish to use the vessel.

Nothing official has been disclosed here in connection with the purposes of the mission or the details of its completion, equipment, or finance, but there seems to be little doubt that it will be in connection with important exploration work, which probably will be undertaken by arrangement between the British and Australian Governments.

The British Government hinted more than a year ago its willingness to be closely interested in any such work that Australia might undertake in this area.

South Australia's Representatives.

The fourth national conference on education will be held at Vancouver (British Columbia) from April 6 next to April 13. South Australia will, so far as is known at present, be represented by four well-known men.

These are Professor Sir Archibald Strong, of the Adelaide University; Mr. George Jeffrey, of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries; Mr. Alex Melrose, of the Public Library and Museum Board; and Dr. A. A. Lendon, of the Royal Geographical Society.

The conference programme will be designed as an approach to adult education from a new angle, as an integral part of the great educational process. The conference will endeavour to demonstrate that what is generally termed adult education is education rightly conceived; all else is but a prelude; that no scheme of education can serve its time and generation which omits any factor or stage of either life or knowledge. It must concern itself with man at work and at play, and help him shape the environment in which his life is lived. No system of education, concerned only with school and college years, can achieve its purpose in the face of the devastating influences which the forces of modern science and so-called progress have produced for our present day enlightenment and pleasure.

The conference will be divided into five main subjects, addresses and discussions on which will be carried on throughout the week, under the direction of a specially constituted committee, with both a continuing chairman and secretary.

It was hoped that the conference would have the full co-operation of Australia and New Zealand, and that in both dominions committees would be formed to consider and report on the problems of "Education and Leisure," in collaboration with the local committees of the council. Following the conference, it has been proposed that delegates and leading educationists of Canada shall visit Australia and New Zealand, where a hearty welcome has already been assured, both by the Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. S. M. Bruce), and by the Prime Minister of New Zealand (Mr. J. G. Coates).

Suggested Speakers.

In the literature section the suggested speakers are:—Sir Henry Newbolt, vice-president of the Royal Society of Literature and member of the academic committee; a representative from Japan; Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore, author of many works in Bengali and English, and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913; and Mr. John Walter, who for many years was chief proprietor of The London Times. In the art section, the suggested speakers are:—Sir Michael Sadler, master of University College, Oxford, and author of many works on education; Sir Robert Witt, trustee of the National Gallery, and in Australia the first real problem of the founders and chairman of the National Art Collections Fund; and Sir Edwin Lutyens, member of committee to advise the Government of India on the site of the new city and architect for Government House, Imperial Delhi, and one of the principal architects for the Imperial War Graves Commission.

The third section into which the conference will be divided will be organized play and recreation. In this the suggested speakers are:—Lord Eustace Percy, president of the Board of Education of Great Britain; the Bishop of Bathurst (Right Rev. Dr. George M. Long), late Director of Education to the Australian Imperial Force; a representative from New Zealand; and Mr. John L. Paton, late head master of University College School, president of the Teachers' Guild, 1907-1908, examiner in education, Oxford University, 1908, 1922-23, Cambridge University, 1910-11, and president of the Newfoundland Memorial College, Newfoundland.

In the fourth section, music, the suggested speakers are:—Sir Henry Walford Davies, Director of Music, and chairman of the National Council of Music, University of Wales; and a representative of the English Folk Dance Society.

The suggested speakers in the fifth section, the theatre and the cinema are:—Sir Barry V. Jackson, founder and director of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre; Mr. A. A. Milne, author and dramatist, and for many years assistant editor of Punch; representatives from India and Egypt; and the Bishop of Liverpool (Right Rev. Dr. Albert Augustus David), head master of Rugby, 1909-1921.

The problem that will come up for consideration by the conference is summed up in these questions:—How can education be made the accompaniment of life? How can men and women be made to feel the quickening and ever-freshening call to

obtain the exploring vessel Discovery, as he had hoped, he will leave England soon after the middle of the year.

The Discovery.

Sir Douglas returned to Adelaide from England on September 29, 1928, after an absence of about nine months, during which he was engaged in the preliminary arrangements for his proposed expedition. He endeavoured to obtain the use of the auxiliary steamer Discovery, which had been used by the late Capt. Scott in Antarctic expeditions, but was not successful at the time.

The Discovery, a wooden ship of 700 tons register, was built for Capt. Scott in 1901. She was specially designed for work in ice, and is remarkably slow. Owing to a magnetic observatory being built on board the rigging was of hemp, and for 40 feet around the observatory no metal which would affect magnetic instruments was used. Sir Douglas considered the vessel ideal for Antarctic navigation, and it was announced that he had suggested the presentation of the Discovery to the Commonwealth Government as a national gift for exploratory work. The British Government could not see its way to do as suggested, however, so Sir Douglas Mawson endeavoured to raise enough money to charter the ship. For some years the Discovery had been used for research work, and had been stationed at the Falkland Islands, but that work had been completed, and the vessel was idle when Sir Douglas was in England.

Exploratory Polar Work.

When Sir Douglas Mawson returned to Adelaide he said that there was a great deal of exploratory work to be done in the polar regions south of Australia, and he hoped that further negotiations would be possible in the near future. The region concerning which more information was desired was not far from the Commonwealth, and constituted a continent the size of Europe. It had immediate economic possibilities, and it was difficult to determine what the future had in store for it when the indications of extensive mineral wealth were definitely established. For that reason the region would always be of interest to Australia. The Commonwealth Government had decided to take steps to assist in sending an exploratory party, but the arrangements could not be discussed then. Sir Douglas added that expenditure on Antarctic exploration was profitable. Less than £500,000 had been spent on that work by the British Government in 30 years, yet it had yielded £6,000,000 to the whaling industry. In addition, there was the unassessable value of the scientific work accomplished.

STUDY OF AUSTRALIAN TIMBERS.

The trustees of the Science and Industry Endowment Fund, in pursuance of their plan to establish junior studentships of a value of £200 a year, tenable for one year in the laboratories of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research or elsewhere in Australia, are offering a junior studentship in forest products work. The successful applicant will be required to study the micro-structure of Australian timbers, and will work in the Australian Forestry School at Canberra. The identification of Australian timbers is often difficult, particularly among the eucalypts, and a thorough study of micro-structures is likely to give results of extreme value in the development of forest products work. Applications will be received by the acting secretary to the trustees, Science and Industry Endowment Fund, 314 Albert street, East Melbourne, up to January 31.

TRAINING RESEARCH WORKERS.

In pursuance of their plan to encourage young graduates to take up research work, the trustees of the Science and Industry Endowment Fund recently decided to establish junior studentships of a value of £200 per annum, tenable for one year, in the laboratories of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, or elsewhere in Australia. They are now offering a junior studentship in forest products work. The successful applicant will be required to take up the study of the microscopic structure of Australian timbers, and will work in the Australian Forestry School at Canberra. The identification of Australian timbers is often a difficult matter, particularly among the eucalypts and a thorough study of microscopic structures is likely to give results of extreme value in the further development of forest products work.

VOYAGE TO ANTARCTIC

Planned for Next Summer

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON

"If negotiations are favorable I shall begin scientific exploration in the Antarctic next summer," said Sir Douglas Mawson (Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at Adelaide University) when interviewed regarding a cable message in "The News" yesterday dealing with a proposed expedition.

He would not say what line his investigations would follow, except that they would not impinge on anything done by other explorers. He admitted that he would like the polar ship Discovery for his work, but negotiations on this point were still "in the air."

If the cable messages were official it pointed to the favorable conclusion of the negotiations between himself and the British Admiralty. The Discovery would need alterations to its rigging before it was equipped for Antarctic exploration, but apart from that it was entirely suitable. Although built in 1901, it was in his opinion still the best of its kind.

Sir Douglas would not say that Mr. S. M. Bruce (Prime Minister) was backing him, although it is believed that efforts have been made to interest the Prime Minister in the project.

Until negotiations were completed, Sir Douglas could give no further details of the scheme, which, he said, would be harmed by premature publication.

He will leave next week for London.

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ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Art as Community Asset

IMPROVING STATUS

Dr. E. Harold Davies (Director of Elder Conservatorium, Adelaide University) gives some clear-cut thoughts on the future of orchestral music in Australia in the December issue of "The Professional Musician." This magazine is the official organ of the Musicians' Union of Australia.

Dr. Davies states that perhaps some day politicians will realise that art is a tremendous community asset. Then the people of Australia would enjoy inspiring music without additional taxation. While members of the union were rightly occupied in securing for themselves improved rates of pay they would do well at the same time to be as deeply concerned on improved artistic status.

While having nothing but admiration for the right kind of unionism, he asserts that it must be a unionism of strength and efficiency, and not weakness and incompetence seeking to secure the rewards of competency. Therefore, when looking ahead to the future of orchestral music in Australia the first real problem that confronted them was the quality of players and the possibilities of organising first-rate bands that could do their job on a minimum number of rehearsals.

He gives an interesting outline of the founding of the South Australian Orchestra. He draws attention to the fact that no Australian Government or municipal council would subsidise music to the extent of providing a permanent professional orchestra, or would wealthy people take the same attitude that exists in America, where symphony orchestras were privately endowed.

The one hope he expressed was that the Federal Government would see its way clear to adopt a policy of broadcasting as a national service. Broadcasting at present was being exploited for commercial ends. Half the profits made by a single station would suffice to establish three permanent orchestras, three superb string quartets, and a national school of opera thrown in.

Sir Douglas Mawson expects to leave Adelaide towards the end of next week by the East-West express for Perth, en route to England, where he will probably make arrangements for another expedition to the Antarctic regions. When questioned on Wednesday night, Sir Douglas said he could not give any definite information regarding his plans. He was hoping to conduct a scientific expedition next summer, but the whole matter was far from finalized. All he could say was that he was trying to arrange it.

REG 3-1-29