

PLANS OF DISCOVERY IN ANTARCTIC

Preparing For Weather Expedition In 1932

VISIT TO MACQUARIE ISLAND

(Written specially by Sir Douglas Mawson, leader of the British, Australian, and New Zealand Antarctic Expedition. All rights reserved.)

ON the voyage to the Antarctic the Discovery's party will inspect a former expedition's huts, abandoned in 1915, at Macquarie Island, the most southern outpost of the Commonwealth. If these huts are sufficiently preserved, it is expected that they will form a meteorological expedition in 1932, in connection with the International Polar Year scheme already launched.

Since her return from last year's Antarctic cruise the Discovery has been thoroughly overhauled, and additional improvements have been made in the scientific fittings and equipment. Facilities for oceanographic work are now more comprehensive than ever.

Our tiny aeroplane, the eye of the Discovery, has been overhauled and again made as good as new. With it we shall be able to see beyond the pack ice and to investigate many places inaccessible to the ship. Profiting by last year's experience, small modifications have been made to the aeroplane and to its wireless and camera equipment.

We plan to complete as far as possible a survey of the broader features of the region more directly south of Australia, thus completing the work begun by our 1911-1914 expedition. Provisioned and adequately equipped with scientific instruments, the ship will be occupied throughout all the summer working from east to west through the ice-infested southern seas.

Macquarie Island, for some years, has been maintained as a sanctuary for sub-Antarctic life, licences for the killing of seals and penguins having been withdrawn in 1916. It is an extraordinarily interesting metropolis of feathered life. Several days will be spent ashore, completing studies of these creatures.

COAL FROM WHALER
From Macquarie Island we will go to the pack ice in the vicinity of Balleny Islands, there to transship from a whaling vessel 100 tons of New Zealand coal, kindly transported south by them for our use. Though fulfilling most of the requirements for the class of work upon which we are engaged, the Discovery's coal capacity is far too limited, which defect will be partly remedied by the present arrangement of obtaining coal from a whaler.

To permit of the fullest use being made of the season, this coaling should take place in the vicinity of Queen Mary Land, but all our efforts failed to induce any whaler to undertake operations in that neighbourhood.

After bunkering in the vicinity of the Balleny Islands, about 700 miles south of Macquarie Island, the Discovery will go westwards, conducting a full programme of investigations. Incidentally, the old expedition winter quarters in Adelie Land will be visited, allowing an opportunity of re-

LEADER'S FAREWELL TO AUSTRALIA



On the first stage of his journey to the Antarctic, Sir Douglas Mawson was accompanied by Lady Mawson on the Nairana, when he left Melbourne for Tasmania to join the exploration ship Discovery.

FOR THE ANTARCTIC

DISCOVERY LEAVES MELBOURNE

Leaves Hobart on November 22

Melbourne, November 2.

Outward bound for the Antarctic, the exploration ship Discovery left Williamstown at noon yesterday. Her departure on the second voyage of the British-Australian and New Zealand expedition was marked by an impressive solemnity, not altogether hidden by the cheers of several hundred people gathered on the wharf or the jets of the crew and their friends. Other shipping in the port acknowledged the event with the blasts of sirens and the dipping of ensigns.

The tug James Paterson took the Discovery in tow, and at mid-day she passed through the Heads under sail and steam on her way to Hobart, where she will be joined later by the leader of the expedition (Sir Douglas Mawson) and members of the scientific staff.

Among those who were present to bid farewell to the officers and men were the vice-chairman of the expedition committee (Sir David Orme Masson), Mr. MacPherson Robertson, whose generous subscriptions have largely contributed to the success of the expedition, and the former commander of the Discovery (Captain J. K. Davis), who was second in command of the last expedition, and who is succeeded by Captain K. N. Mackenzie, formerly chief officer.

Sir David Orme Masson said the committee looked forward with very great hope and interest to the results of the second phase of the expedition. It would, he said, cover a new section of the Antarctic coast, and it was hoped would make it possible to fill in the unsurveyed portions.

The Discovery will leave Hobart on November 22.

copying the magnetic station and of taking observations on movements of the land since 1914, when they were last noted.

LITTLE KNOWN REGION

The 500-mile run between Adelie Land and Queen Mary Land will be of great interest. This is a little known region geographically, although land was first reported in this Antarctic waste by the Balleny, a British sealer, in 1839, followed the next year by other reports of land by Admiral Wilkes, of the United States Exploring Squadron.

Years ago the Aurora, of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, made three voyages through that area and laid a firm foundation for our present undertaking, during which we hope to complete the work begun there so long ago.

Queen Mary Land will be revisited, but by that time our coal will be seriously depleted and the season may be too far advanced to continue further in the ice zone.

Drawn out upon this lone trail by a mysterious force, the lure of the unknown, all are looking forward with eager resolution to grappling with the problems scheduled in the interesting programme which opens as we head south. None can tell what is before us. What may be accomplished is in the hands of the gods; yet withal we hope to have a good story to tell.

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REGISTER NEWS-PICTOR

SECOND TRIP TO ANTARCTIC

Committee Discusses Ways And Means Of Cost

ANNOUNCEMENT SOON

MELBOURNE, Sunday. — A definite statement of the Government's intentions with regard to employing the Discovery for a second season's work in the Antarctic will, it is expected, be made by Mr. Scullin before April 30.

This statement was made after a meeting of the Antarctic committee by the chairman, Senator Daly.

Senator Daly said he was not in a position to make any announcement in regard to the future financial support of the Mawson expedition. Speaking generally, however, he was convinced that Australian people would not allow the proposed second expedition to be abandoned for lack of funds.

The committee meeting was attended by Senator Daly, Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir David Orme Masson, Professor Sir Edgeworth David, and Dr. W. Henderson. Captain J. K. Davis and Mr. MacPherson Robertson were also present. The meeting was called to discuss various matters arising out of the return of the Discovery.

The main question considered was that of carrying out a second year's programme of exploration and the means of meeting the cost involved.

Sir Douglas Mawson placed before the committee a statement of what had been accomplished by the expedition, and set out his proposals for the second season's work. It was decided that Sir Douglas should confer in the matter with a sub-committee of the Federal Cabinet at an early date.

MR. ROBERTSON'S PLANS

At the meeting, Mr. MacPherson Robertson told the committee that he would consider what assistance he could give to carrying out the second season's work. He promised to communicate his decision to the committee, which will meet in Melbourne again on April 28. It will then discuss matters relating to the proposed second voyage.

FIRST MESSAGE FROM MAWSON

Nigger, The Ship's Cat, And Her Kittens

MYSTERY ISLETS

(By wireless from Sir Douglas Mawson on board the Discovery.)
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SO many had expressed intentions of stowing away aboard the Discovery that Capt. Mackenzie ordered that a thorough search be made for stowaways as soon as the mooring lines were cast off, after leaving Hobart. All hands and the cook ransacked the vessel from crew's nest to stockhold, but even the most ambitious stowaway would have been baffled to find a cubic foot of hiding space amid the tightly wedged cargo of stores, coal, and equipment. None was discovered, but during the evening a surprise developed. One of the sailors, after coming off watch, was turning into his bunk when his feet touched something. He leapt to the deck crying "Stowaways."

An investigation disclosed that there were no less than five tucked away warmly in the depths of Seaman Ayre's blankets. Nigger, the Expedition's famous cat, which was pluckily rescued by Seaman Martin from the icy seas during the last voyage, is now the proud and potted mother of five plibald piccaninnies.

ROUGH GOING

Clearing the lee of the Tasmanian coast on the morning of November 23 a heavy swell was encountered and the heave and flounder of the deeply laden vessel evoked mixed emotions in most members of the expedition. These were swallowed with splendid stoicism when it was announced that a marine station would be worked during the afternoon.

The transcribing of such marine stations comprises one of the more important branches of the Expedition's research activities. By means of an extensive equipment of winding engines and instruments not only is the temperature and chemical character of sea water determined at frequent intervals from the surface to the bottom, no matter how deep the sea may be, but examples of marine life existing at successive depths are also secured and preserved for examination.

COLD BATHS

Several members of the expedition operating on small platforms extending from the ship's side were submerged to the neck when the ship rolled deeply in the beam swells. Laughter set defiance at the difficulties and the first station was successfully accomplished with a reward of interesting hauls.

It is intended to conduct a line of marine stations from the Australian continent's shelf to the Antarctic coastal waters. All are now feeling more at home.

RIDDLE OF THE SEAS

We are now passing the reputed vicinity of that elusive group known as the Royal Company's Islets.

Constant soundings indicate a shallowing of the ocean's bed and a keen lookout is being maintained.

Although frequent efforts have been made from time to time to solve this riddle of the seas, the islets, if they exist, have evaded detection since their reported discovery.

This evening we are in latitude 47, longitude 156. There is a southerly wind with good visibility and a marked drop in temperature.

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SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON REACHES MACQUARIE ISLAND ICEBERGS FAR NORTH

Canberra, December 14. The following wireless message has been received from Sir Douglas Mawson on board the Discovery:—

"On November 29 in lat. 52.12, long. 152.26, our third marine station was successfully conducted in 2,100 fathoms. From thence to Macquarie Island the sea floor maintains a general uniformity of depth, but on the evening of November 29 the vessel passed over what appears to be a volcanic ridge, only 14 miles wide, rising more than 6,000 ft. above the surrounding ocean floor.

First Icebergs

"On the following day the wind blew strongly from the south-west. During the afternoon the sea water temperature dropped suddenly, and in the evening in lat. 52.23 we sighted the first iceberg. There was a gale from the south-west, with thick weather on December 1. During clearances a number of bergs were sighted, one of which, though far off, was thought to reach a height of 200 ft. Icebergs have rarely been reported in these seas as far north as Macquarie Island, but this year they are abundant, indicating abnormal conditions in the northerly movement of Antarctic cold waters.

Arrival at Macquarie Island

"During a partial clearance in the fog during the afternoon, Macquarie Island was sighted close at hand, partly enveloped in mist. An iceberg was seen stranded on the west coast. Two very interesting dredgings, containing some fine examples of marine life, were obtained in coastal waters whilst making an anchorage. Captain Mackenzie brought the ship safely to anchor in Buckles Bay in the early evening, and the scientific staff are landing to-day for investigation."

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NEW ANTARCTIC LAND

FOUND BY DISCOVERY

SEARCH FOR FLOATING ICE BARRIER

Canberra, January 14.

In a radiogram from the Discovery, dated January 9, Sir Douglas Mawson says—

"Yesterday evening, after crossing Durville Sea, the Discovery arrived off Cape Robert, which was the extreme western point of the lands seen by Admiral Durville, in 1840. The passage farther west is effectively blocked by a shoal area, upon which are innumerable large grounded bergs, holding the pack.

Extending to the north-west from this locality, both Wilkes and Durville, some ninety years ago, reported the existence of a sheer, walled ice barrier extending for about 180 miles. With a view to further investigation of this blockage to east and west traffic, and to delineate the coast line in the blocked area, Messrs. Campbell and Douglas ascended in the aeroplane. They observed new land extending westward from Cape Bickerton towards the eastern extremity of the land sighted by the captain in the Aurora in 1912, and then named by us Wilkes Land.

"No floating barrier ice tongue was within their range of vision in the blocked area, which was apparently entirely occupied by grounded bergs, firmly consolidated into pack ice. Thus nothing has yet been seen of the floating barrier of ice which existed in 1840.

"We are now on our way around the north end of this blockage, but owing to the serious invasion of pack ice into Durville Sea we have been pushed back far to the east in an endeavor to break through from the coastal water to the open sea. This evening our progress through the pack ice was satisfactory, and we hope to emerge into the open sea to-morrow. For some days the weather has been ideal."

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