

Mail 29-7-33

# DEVELOPING WEALTH OF ANTARCTICA — Commonwealth 'Should Act'

"It is important that Australia should keep closely in touch with the economic development and possibilities of that great region of Antarctica which is so close to our coast. Whaling, sealing, fishing, and the possibilities of big mineral fields are all matters that are likely to assist in the future prosperity of Australia if we safeguard our interests."

So spoke Sir Douglas Mawson, South Australia's noted explorer, on his return from London by the Oransay today.

While in Britain Sir Douglas made arrangements for the screening throughout the world of the motion picture film taken by his last expedition to the Antarctic. The money derived from this will be devoted to the publication of the scientific reports of the expedition.

"A scientific expedition such as ours is of little use unless the data obtained is adequately recorded for the use of posterity," said Sir Douglas. "For this reason I concentrated on arrangements to finance the printing of the reports while abroad."

"I hope we will be able to go ahead with publication of them without any further delay. The work will be done in Australia. Quotations have been received from three States, but I do not yet know where the printing will be done."

## ANTARCTIC WHALING

Sir Douglas said that Australia had been rather behind-hand in the matter of Antarctic whaling. Millions of pounds' worth of whale oil had been secured by companies comprised largely of British capital and Norwegian personnel. Some of the most prolific fields were only a couple of days' sail from Australia, and five weeks from Norway.

"As the Commonwealth Government now controls a section of the Antarctic larger than half of Europe, it is very definitely concerned in its development," said Sir Douglas. "I have collected information on various aspects, and will communicate it to the Commonwealth Antarctic Committee."

"There is one matter in the Antarctic that calls for immediate action. I hope that if I cannot go, another Australian will take up the work. That is, to complete the investigation of areas of MacRobertson and Enderby Lands, which were discovered by our recent expedition."

"From what I saw of the land, it should prove an extremely interesting field for investigation. There are large areas of rugged mountains with mineral outcrops. It would need a year on land to make a proper study of its formation and characteristics, but it should be a fruitful expedition."

## TIDE TURNED

The impression Sir Douglas got of affairs in Britain was that the tide had definitely turned for the better. There was a more optimistic spirit about, and less unemployment. Until the United States became stabilised, however, it would be difficult to forecast a permanent improvement anywhere.

He found people in Britain very friendly disposed toward Australia. They realised that Australia had faced up to great difficulties and come through splendidly.

In Government circles in England he found everyone most anxious to help in anything pertaining to Australia.

As far as Germany was concerned, Sir Douglas found a fairly strong feeling of sympathy for the action taken by the Nazis in their attitude toward the Jews of that country.

"As far as I could learn, a particularly illiterate type of Jew had been migrating to Germany from Russia in hundreds of thousands, bringing with them the gospel of Communism," he said. "Unless the Nazis had taken the action they did the impression was that Germany by this time would have been given over to Communism."

"Of course, the mark has been overstepped on occasions, but that is a fault that occurs in any big movement."

Adv. 31-7-33

Dr. R. C. Bald, lecturer in English at the Adelaide University, who left some months ago to continue his studies in England, is expected to return about the end of the year.

Adv. 31-7-33

# ANTARCTIC AS SOURCE OF WEALTH

## Sir Douglas Mawson's Enquiries Abroad URGES EXPEDITION

Sir Douglas Mawson, who returned to Adelaide from London by the Oransay on Saturday, said that he was convinced that Australia should keep closely in touch with economic developments concerning the whaling, sealing, fishing, and mineral possibilities of the Antarctic—a large section of which Australia now controls.

All of these industries, he said, were likely to assist in the future prosperity of Australia if she safeguarded her interests in the south. He had collected information on various aspects of the matter, and would communicate it to the Commonwealth Antarctic Committee. He particularly sought information which might help the Commonwealth to exploit the lucrative fields offered by whaling in the great region south of her shores, and which, so far, had been left almost entirely in the hands of the Norwegians.

## Market in Europe

It was an anomaly, he said, that Norway, which was several weeks' voyage from the Antarctic whaling grounds, should have enjoyed the lion's share of the industry in the past. Australia had been rather behind-hand in the matter, and millions of pounds' worth of whale oil, which could have been Australia's had been obtained by companies comprising largely British capital and Norwegian personnel. Many of the most prolific fields were only a couple of days' sail from Australia.

Sir Douglas said that the main market for whale oil was in Europe. This fact compensated the Norwegian whaling companies, to a certain extent, for the length of the voyage to the Antarctic. There were certain by-products of whales, however, such as meal from refuse, and manure from the bones, which were not valuable enough to warrant carriage on a long sea trip but which could be disposed of to advantage near at hand.

"At present," said Sir Douglas Mawson, "the demand for whale-oil has fallen off, because of bad times, and the present position calls for a system of pooling among existing companies. However, when times improve, Australia should step into the industry straight away, because it will be easier then to participate."

## Expedition Urged

A matter that called for immediate action, Sir Douglas Mawson said, was a complete investigation of the areas of MacRobertson and Enderby Lands, which were discovered by the last expedition.

"I hope that, if I cannot go, another Australian will take up the work," he said. "From what I saw of the land, it should prove an extremely interesting field for investigation. There are large areas of rugged mountains, with mineral outcrops. It would need a year on land to make a proper study of its formation and characteristics, but it should be a fruitful journey."

While in England, Sir Douglas made arrangements for the screening throughout the world of the motion picture film taken by his last expedition to the Antarctic, and the proceeds will be applied towards the cost of publishing the scientific record of the trip. Sir Douglas Mawson said that he hoped to be able to go on with the publication of this work without any further delay. The printing would be done in Australia.

Adv. 1-8-33

## Funeral Of The Late Sir Joseph Verco

The University of Adelaide and the medical profession were represented at the funeral of the late Sir Joseph Verco, which took place yesterday afternoon at West terrace Cemetery. Among those present were the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray), Sir Henry Newland, and members of the University Council, Senate and staff. The service was conducted by Pastor Hugh Gray, of the Church of Christ.

Adv. 31-7-33

# DEATH OF SIR JOSEPH VERCO

## Physician And Scientist NOTABLE CAREER

Sir Joseph Cooke Verco, who was regarded for many years before his retirement in 1919 as the most eminent physician in South Australia, and among the most accomplished in Australia, died on Saturday night at his residence on North terrace. He had been in ill-health for several years.

His funeral today will be attended by the members of the University Senate. He had been associated with the University since 1887. As a scientist he was honored in 1929 by the Royal Society, which struck the Verco Medal to commemorate his services. In conchology he had no equal in this State.

In paying a tribute to his work, the president of the Federal committee



SIR JOSEPH VERCO

of the British Medical Association (Sir Henry Newlands) said last night that Australia had lost a great physician; a man fitted to take an eminent place anywhere in the world.

Sir Joseph Verco was born at Fullarton in 1851, and began his education at the late J. L. Young's school. After leaving the school he decided to become a civil engineer, but after a year in an office in the railways, he became dissatisfied and turned to medicine. It was the beginning of a brilliant career. He spent a year at St. Peter's College preparing for his London matriculation, and did remarkably well, winning the Young Exhibition and other prizes. He went to London in 1870.

In 1873 he won the Wix prize for an essay, became M.R.C.S. Eng., in 1874, and in 1875 M.B., Lond., taking a scholarship, the gold medal in forensic medicine, and the gold medal in medicine. In the same year he became L.R.C.P., London, and in 1876 M.D., London, winning a gold medal for the greatest proficiency in all subjects. He secured the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons and also took the B.S. London, gaining a scholarship and gold medal in surgery.

## Beginning Of Adelaide Career

In 1878 Sir Joseph Verco returned to Adelaide and began a career which added lustre to the high reputation attained by the medical profession of Australia. He was a man of charming personality and befitting dignity, and had hosts of friends. He went into his rooms on North terrace about 1890, and consulted there until 1919. For some years before retiring he restricted his attention to consultative work as a physician, doing medical, rather than surgical work.

As might have been expected from a man who had obtained such high honors, Sir Joseph stepped into the front rank of his profession immediately he began his work in this State. He led a particularly active life. He was lecturer in medicine at the University from 1887 until 1915. Twice he was a member of the Council for extended terms. He was Dean of the Medical Faculty in 1919-21, and was for many years Dean of the Dental Faculty. In 1926 he made the University a gift of £5,000 for the publication of the results of

Adv. 31-7-33 Cont

research into medical science.

## Hospital Work

He was an honorary physician to the Adelaide Hospital for 30 years, and honorary consulting physician for a long period. He was also honorary physician to the Children's Hospital. In 1879, when the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association was formed, he became a foundation member. At the jubilee celebrations in 1929 he was the principal figure. His interest in the scientific work of the association was an active one, for he contributed papers throughout his career.

He was a pillar of the Royal Society, which he joined in 1878. He began in 1895 reading a series of papers on South Australian shells, collected on dredging expeditions, which formed his principal recreation. There was no one else in this State who had so many shells or knew so much about conchology. He was president of the society from 1903 until 1921.

Philanthropic and religious work held great interest for him, and he was closely associated with the Church of Christ.

Lady Verco, who was Miss Mary Mills, a daughter of the late Sir Samuel Mills, pastoralist, survives him. They were married in 1911. There are no children.

## Premier's Tribute

The Premier (Mr. Butler) said last night that he had learned with regret of the death of Sir Joseph Verco, who was one of the outstanding figures in the medical profession of Australia. He had rendered signal service to that profession, and his place would be difficult to fill.

Adv. 5-8-33

## D.Sc. AWARD FOR BOTANIST

### Dr. Wood's Scientific Work Recognised

Dr. J. G. Wood, lecturer in botany at the University of Adelaide, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Science for his published and unpublished original scientific work, concerned chiefly with the ecology and physiology of arid Australian plants.

The report of the examiners was adopted by the Council at its last meeting, and the degree will be conferred at the commemoration in December.

Dr. Wood already holds the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Cambridge, a research degree for which he qualified by presenting a thesis on time factors in photosynthesis.

With Professor Osborn, and independently, Dr. Wood has published several papers on the physiology and ecology of plants, particularly saltbush. His work in that field was part of a scheme of research into native fodder plants of the arid and semi-arid regions initiated by the Department of Botany. Since March Dr. Wood has contributed several educational and interesting articles to "The Advertiser."

In 1925 he was awarded a scientific research scholarship by the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851. The scholarship was one of two offered annually for competition among persons nominated by the various Australian universities, the final selection being made in Britain. He was commissioned in 1927 by the Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to investigate British research into pastoral problems. He graduated B.Sc. in 1922 with honors in chemistry, and was appointed to the University of Adelaide in 1923.

Adv. 8-8-33

Mr. F. E. Williams, the 1915 South Australian Rhodes Scholar, who has been Government anthropologist in Papua for 10 years, disembarked yesterday from the Balranald on its arrival from the eastern States. He will spend a fortnight in Adelaide, and then leave for London by the Largs Bay to study. He has a Rockefeller travelling scholarship.