

25 Women Seek To Join Mawson Expedition To Antarctica

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON

RETURN TO ADELAIDE

ANTARCTIC WEATHER INFLUENCES

Sir Douglas Mawson returned to Adelaide by the Maloja on Saturday afternoon, after having been to England to make arrangements for the expedition to the Antarctic regions. Sir Douglas, who is looking remarkably well, was met by Lady Mawson and his daughters.

When questioned with regard to his plans for the expedition and the result of his visit to England, Sir Douglas said he was not in a position to discuss details until he had reported to the committee in Melbourne, which would probably be some time this week. He expected to carry on his duties at the Adelaide University until the preparations for the expedition were complete. Everything so far was proceeding satisfactorily. The Discovery would leave London in August, and he expected to join the vessel at Cape Town.

Sir Douglas said he believed the work conducted on the Discovery would be of great importance in the study of Australian climatic conditions. For some time attention had been drawn to the probable bearing of Antarctic meteorology upon rainfall conditions in Australia. Recently the influence of great outbursts of cold water and flowing ice from the polar regions upon the climate of Europe, had been recognised. The direct effect of the Arctic outflow of the cold waters of the Greenland sea upon the climate of western Europe had been noted. It was believed that there were similar influences at work in the Antarctic regions. Therefore the recording of the positions of ice and cold water, at as many stations as possible in the Southern Ocean, would be of the utmost importance in forecasting Australian weather conditions. It was understood that during the last southern summer there had been a very strong movement of Antarctic ice northwards, far beyond its usual limits, in the regions south of the mean longitude of the Indian Ocean. Icefloes in February had been detected close to the Kerguelen Islands. Since then they had been drifting towards Australia, and should this year have an effect upon the climate of the Commonwealth. Judging by the past, the result should be a year of good rainfall in Australia. The ice recorded near the Kerguelen Islands early this year should by now have reached a position south of Western Australia. He did not mean to say that the ice front was necessarily very close to Australia, but it would be several miles farther north than usual, and might influence the climate of Australia to the extent of a wet winter. In all probability after the meeting of the committee of the expedition in Melbourne steps would be taken to complete the personnel.

THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

ARRANGEMENTS PRACTICALLY COMPLETE.

SIR DOUGLAS RETURNING TO ADELAIDE.

LONDON, April 3. Sir Douglas Mawson states that the reconditioning of the Discovery for his Antarctic expedition is proceeding so satisfactorily at the unstinted cost of Great Britain, on behalf of the Falk-



Sir Douglas Mawson.

land Islands Dependency, that it is anticipated the departure for the Antarctic will take place in August.

In the meanwhile Sir Douglas is arranging for an interchange of control with Captain J. K. Davis, who will arrive from Australia in May, when Sir Douglas will return to Australia and resume his University duties at Adelaide, pending his departure southwards.

The port of departure, originally Hobart, will possibly be changed, subject to the approval of the Commonwealth.

Sir Douglas contemplates important alterations in the Discovery, supplementing the British reconditioning, notably by building an aeroplane deck-house on the Discovery, the installation of scientific apparatus for deep-water dredging, and also the provision of a motor launch, which will be carried on deck, and be capable of towing boats and barges.

Great Britain is lending the expedition some specialists, including a whaling expert, a member of the Imperial Research Department, and also an Admiralty echo-sounding expert, who will be specially qualified to take both shallow and deep water echo-soundings, with the most modern scientific instruments, whereby Sir Douglas hopes to compile a chart of the underwater Antarctic continent.

NONE HAS YET SET FOOT THERE

Lured By Science—And Adventure

STRANGE APPLICATIONS

ABOUT 25 applications to join Sir Douglas Mawson's Antarctic expedition have been received from women.

"Most of them are fired with the novelty of adventure. Some have undoubted qualifications for an expedition with established bases," said Sir Douglas yesterday.

"But conditions would not be suitable on this expedition. Sledging would be too much for them. Under proper conditions some of these women would probably do as well as men. Most of them are capable scientists, although they have applied in all sorts of capacities.

"As a stunt it must appeal to the adventure-seeking girl to be the first woman to set foot in the Antarctic continent. No woman of any race has yet done so."

Sir Douglas has received innumerable applications to join the expedition.

"Most of them are from young people full of ardour and energy who want adventure," he said.

Most applicants of this kind offer their services free. As a rule it is possible to take a few of this type, but on this expedition there is almost no room for them, because land bases are not contemplated.

OFFER MONEY

"Some applicants have offered much money to be allowed to go," said Sir Douglas. "One even offered his services free, and £500, with his own expenses."

"Others, anxious to prove their physical fitness, proposed to walk long distances, and said they would be starting this week to walk to Adelaide from Melbourne and Sydney."

"But it is not only physical fitness that counts. Previous expeditions have shown that mental outlook, special interests, and stamina are the main things to be considered. Many physically strong men, cooped up for the long Antarctic winter, become morose and gloomy, the first symptom of Polar depression.

"Generally, ordinary seamen develop it, and may become insane, and even die. Mentally developed men, however, with scientific or other interests, will not feel the depression."

Many men, earning their living from exhibiting their strength, are anxious to join the expedition, and extraordinary feats of endurance have been cited as an inducement to be taken.

EXPERTS ONLY

Applicants, to be seriously considered, apart from being physically fit, must be accomplished seamen, have good qualifications in some branch of science, or be experts of some kind. A wireless man and two airmen will be taken. The airmen will probably be members of the R.A.A.F.

Preference is being given to Australians, with an eye to future expeditions. "Australia is near the Antarctic," said Sir Douglas, "and those who have experience on this expedition may do much in the future to promote scientific discoveries and knowledge of the South Polar regions. Several distinguished scientists from other parts of the world have been passed over because of this."

The handyman is not wanted. Many applicants said they can do almost everything likely to be of use in emergencies. "It is the expert on particular lines that is wanted—men to fill one job, and do it well," said Sir Douglas.

YOUNG MEN WANTED

Those chosen will be, preferably, young. No one of more than 35 years of age will be taken, unless his scientific qualifications are high. Sledging may be too much of a strain for older men.

"Land parties," Sir Douglas said, "should aim at getting men almost entirely from the United States, probably because of the interest created by the Byrd expedition."

Letters of all kinds, impertinent, pathetic, amusing, and interesting, have been received. Many letters ended with the words: "I trust that you will have the courtesy to reply."

The reply, in some instances, had to take the form of telegrams.

The personnel of the expedition will probably be made public in a week's time. Capt. J. K. Davis, second in command of the expedition, is dealing with all applications for seamen.

AMERICA'S CLAIM TO ANTARCTIC MAKES DELICATE SITUATION

French Right To Adele Land Stronger Than That Of U.S.A., Says Mr. Madigan

VALUE OF WHALE FISHERIES

THE acting Professor of Geology at Adelaide University (Mr. Madigan) was much interested in the cablegram stating that the United States had sent a note to Britain contesting the latter's claims to Antarctic regions, in particular to Wilkes Land, and the area west of Adele Land.

HE said it was a delicate situation, and he had thought it more likely that France would dispute the possession of those areas than the United States.

THERE was no doubt that the desire to send another Australian expedition to the south was largely to reaffirm the British claims to various areas. It had been surprising to him that the United States had not made more statements about its intentions in that region. Its Government had not said anything about territorial desires in connection with the Byrd expedition.

Mr. Madigan said he had wondered whether Commander Byrd's was a purely scientific expedition, or whether it was intended to establish territorial claims. It would be interesting to see the exact position.

French Claim Stronger

In the opinion of Mr. Madigan, the French had more claim to Adele Land than the United States. The American navigator (Commodore Wilkes) had never landed in the Antarctic, although he was alleged to have sighted land there in 1840. His expedition consisted of four warships (sailing vessels), and all the American claims amounted to the fact that Wilkes had seen land.

When assessing the value of that claim it must be noticed that the position assigned to the land was wrong, for the Australian expedition of 1911 sailed right over the latitude and longitude given. There was land farther south, so it might be asserted that Wilkes had merely calculated the position wrongly.

The coastal work of the Mawson expedition, said Mr. Madigan, did not satisfactorily confirm the references of Wilkes to land in a certain region.

Meets French Rival

While Wilkes was in the Antarctic in 1840 he fell in with a French expedition commanded by Admiral d'Urville. It was rather a dramatic meeting, for both squad-

rons were cleared for action, and nearly fired on each other; but peace was preserved, and they parted amicably.

Neither Wilkes nor d'Urville reported land in that locality at all; but d'Urville found and named Adele Land; and the Mawson expedition sighted it in the position reported by the Frenchman. The expedition was doubtful of all Wilkes's reported discoveries, and looked with suspicion on his work, for most of the points he charted were not there.

Adele Land was signed by both French and Americans in 1840. In 1911 an Australian expedition led by Sir Douglas Mawson, landed there and took formal possession of it, hoisting the Commonwealth Flag at two points. France might contest the legality of that action on the ground that the land was first seen by her navigators. It was a nice point of international law, for Mr. Madigan said he did not know whether the expedition had the proper authority to perform an act of annexation. Both France and Britain would have greater claims than the United States.

Ross Sea was recognised internationally as a possession of New Zealand, and no nation would interfere with it.

Whaling Riches Coveted

Mr. Madigan thought the sudden interest in the Antarctic displayed by the United States was proof of the value of the whale fisheries. Nobody had wanted the region when it was considered only a waste of ice, but now that the potential riches of whaling were known, different nations were beginning to wonder to whom various sections belonged.

Sir Douglas Mawson had long ago urged the proclamation of certain areas as British territory, but in spite of his persistence could get no satisfaction.

VOYAGE TO ANTARCTIC

Mr. C. T. Madigan Approached

NO DEFINITE PLANS

It is expected that the expedition to be taken by Sir Douglas Mawson in the Discovery to the Antarctic will leave Cape Town in November, but nothing definite will be known until the arrival of the leader.

Sir Douglas is on his way to Australia in the Maloja, which should arrive at Outer Harbor on Friday, June 7. Little is known in Australia of the composition of the party or its plans.

Mr. C. T. Madigan (lecturer in geology at the University of Adelaide) has been approached by the Australian committee of management appointed by Mr. S. M. Bruce (Prime Minister), and asked if he would be available to take part in the expedition.

Mr. Madigan stated this morning that, from what he understood of the plans of the expedition he thought it likely that the party would be a small one, and it was improbable that he would be required. If an invitation were extended to him to take part he could not say what decision he would make.

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON'S EXPEDITION

Questioned on Monday regarding the expedition of Sir Douglas Mawson, in the Discovery, to the Antarctic, Mr. C. T. Madigan, of the Adelaide University, stated that he thought it likely that the party would be small, and it was improbable that he would be required. If invited to take part in the expedition, he was unable to say what his decision would be. Sir Douglas Mawson is travelling to Australia on board the Maloja, which is due at the Outer Harbor on June 7. The Discovery is expected to leave Cape Town in November.

Antarctic Committee To Meet

CANBERRA, Friday.—Although the Antarctic expedition committee will meet in Melbourne on Monday, only minor business will be transacted.

Little progress with the arrangements for the expedition can now be made until the arrival in Australia of the leader, Sir Douglas Mawson.

He is a passenger on the Maloja, which will reach Melbourne early in June.



Sir Douglas Mawson

MAWSON EXPEDITION

LEAVES ON AUGUST 1

LONDON, May 27. The British Government will hand over the Discovery to the Mawson expedition on July 1, and it sails on August 1. It will coal at St. Vincent and arrive at Cape Town at the end of October.

The expedition will not reach Australia until it has completed its first season's work in the Antarctic. The crew comprises twenty-eight officers and men and a scientific staff, probably of twelve.