

## THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

### "WIRELESS" AND WEATHER STATIONS.

The Mawson expedition, which will set out from Australia next month to make scientific investigations in the Antarctic zone, will include Mr. G. F. Ainsworth, who is temporarily attached to the Adelaide Observatory. It is the intention of Dr. Mawson to establish wireless and weather stations on the Antarctic continent and at Macquarie Island, and in that way it is believed the party will be able to communicate daily with the Commonwealth. Mr. Ainsworth will be associated with this branch of the work. When interviewed on Thursday he said:—

"It has long been recognised by Mr. Hunt that observations from an Antarctic station would be of valuable assistance to him in his capacity as Commonwealth Meteorologist, and after several consultations with him Dr. Mawson came to the conclusion that in connection with his expedition he would establish a meteorological base on Macquarie Island. It lies about 1,000 miles in a south-easterly direction from Tasmania and about 800 miles south-south-east from New Zealand. As a matter of fact it was generally supposed to belong to the Dominion, but when Dr. Mawson got busy with his idea he discovered that it really belongs to Tasmania, and the Commonwealth Government have, I understand, given him unlimited privileges in the matter of establishing stations. The island has never been surveyed, and, as showing its non-importance at present, it may be added that its exact position, approximately 50 deg. S. lat., and 160 deg. E. long., has never accurately been determined. It is considered a good site, lying as it does within the low-pressure belt and the track of the 'Brave Westerlies' or 'Roaring Forties,' as they are more popularly called, and it is hoped that during the period we are there a fairly reliable knowledge of the conditions normally obtaining in these latitudes will be acquired. The work will be purely of an observational nature, and as we shall be in communication per medium of wireless telegraphy with the mainland records of the weather features, particularly under extraordinary conditions, will be daily sent to the Central Weather Bureau in Melbourne, where they will doubtless be of great assistance to Mr. Hunt, especially in the matter of the issue of forecasts and storm warnings.

#### The Range of Observations.

"Much of the work will be performed in accordance with Mr. Hunt's ideas and advice and the data obtained will be placed at his disposal. The instrumental equipment will be complete and thoroughly modern, and all instruments are being carefully tested at the Melbourne Bureau under Mr. Hunt's personal supervision. The observations will of necessity take a wide range, embracing pressure, temperature, insulation, wind movement, velocity, and pressure, as well as electrical and optical phenomena, in order that comparisons may be instituted with the data recorded there and those taken synchronously at the three Antarctic bases, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Southern Australia, and deductions made as to probable dependency or actual connection. When we consider the great influence of the Antarctic Ocean on the weather conditions of Australia, it naturally follows that the observations from Antarctic stations must tend to throw some light on happenings here, and as a field for the study of the westerlies alone it should prove extremely fruitful. Then the disturbances technically known as 'Antarctics,' which pass along the south of the continent, particularly in the winter months, largely control the rainfall and other conditions in this area. It is generally concluded that their source of development lies in high latitudes, being regarded as eddies in the general circumpolar winds and we know very little concerning their movements and path of travel off our coast. Even when their limit of operation extend so far north as to bring them under review their movements are wonderfully erratic and elusive.

#### Where the Cool Changes Go.

"As an indication of the fact I may say that sometimes they appear off the Leeuwin as storms of great intensity, and after 'raising Cain' in Western Australia, suddenly drop off the coast, or weaken to such an extent as to suggest that communication with the supply base had been cut off; or they may appear there as ill-defined low-pressure areas with little energy, drift along the south-west and surge up into the south-east of the continent as violent storms. They are active agents in the winter months; that is, when the migration of the heat equator northwards induces a bidly swing of atmospheric conditions in this hemisphere in the

same direction, thus bringing the anti-cyclonic or high-pressure belt well across the continent and allowing them free play along the southern shores. Questions have also been raised concerning general atmospheric circulation between the anti-cyclonic belt and the South Pole, and it is hoped that our data will throw some light also on this matter. The Argentine Republic have an observation station on the South Orkneys, which was established in 1903 and conclusions of some moment have been arrived at as a result. For example, it is shown that as regards temperature the influence of Antarctic conditions extends along the South American coast to lat. 35 deg., and further, that the winter rainfall over the Argentine depends upon the amount of ice in the south. It has been practically proved that the storm tracks depend upon the northern extension of the ice pack, and so the greater amount of ice in the south the greater the rainfall. In the seasons of 1903, 1908, and 1909, when there was little ice, the storm tracks were far south, and droughty conditions prevailed generally in Argentine and on the Chili coast.

#### Life in the Antarctic.

"That is the field for the observation of all these weather features and occurrences, and, although results may not be up to expectations I am hopeful that the facts collected will at least throw some light on these dominating features in the determination of weather conditions over the greater and most populous area of Australia. The social side of the undertaking will have its limitations. There will be five of us in the party, and I suppose life there will be rather monotonous, particularly when we have to look to seals and penguins to provide the comic relief. But we are enthusiastic and hopeful, and perhaps Mrs. Upton Sinclair's search for a soul-mate may lead her in our direction. If so I am sure that local society as there constituted will extend her a hearty welcome."

Register, Oct. 27/11

## ESPERANTO CONGRESS.

Opened by the Governor.

Australian Association Formed.

The Esperanto Congress was opened in the Prince of Wales Lecture Theatre of the Adelaide University on Friday morning. The ceremony was performed by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Day Bosanquet). There were present also the Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Coneybeer), Sir Samuel Way (Chancellor), and Dr. Barlow (Vice-Chancellor), and Professors Henderson and Darnley Naylor (of the Adelaide University), the Rev. A. Taylor (of London), and several prominent citizens.

#### —A Demonstration.—

Mr. C. A. Uhrlaub gave a 15-minutes' demonstration of the construction of Esperanto, elucidating the simple manner in which the parts of speech and their variations are indicated in the form of the words. With a little more than 2,000 stems or rootwords the new auxiliary language was capable of expressing the whole gamut of human feeling.

The President of the Congress (Mr. Hugo Leschen) announced the receipt of a cable message from Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, of Warsaw (founder of Esperanto), as follows:—"Wishing full success to the Congress in your distant and progressive part of the world;" and from the London Esperantists congratulating the Congress on its opening.

#### —The Opening.—

Sir Samuel Way welcomed the members of the Congress to the University building, and asked His Excellency to declare the business open.

His Excellency thanked the council for the invitation to open the first Esperanto Congress in Australia. The words of the Emperor of Germany, quoted by Chief Engineer Prehn, appeared to convey the most forceful reason for the favourable consideration of Esperanto from the point of view of social progress and human welfare. His Imperial Majesty had said, "Plurality of language is a hindrance to the important movement towards solidarity between the nations, a movement whose development is daily becoming more clearly visible to all thinking

men." That was a weighty saying. (Applause.) One great obstacle that had hitherto barred the satisfactory progress of universal brotherhood had been the language problem, the solution of which was vital to the cause of peace among the Great Powers of Europe. Those favourably inclined to the advancement of international friendship and the abolition of international jealousies and disputes should welcome the advent of an international medium of conversation. That medium, if generally accepted, would clear the air of false statements and lying rumours so dangerous to international peace, when international relations were strained. For commerce, art, and literature, and for the medical profession, the advantage of the use of a general language like Esperanto was self-evident, and no doubt a work on any branch of science, if published in an international language, would avoid an acknowledged hindrance to scientific progress. (Applause.) But scientific description, which required the use of accurate technical language, was another question. Many of these words could not be accurately translated, because in other languages they had no synonym or equivalent. Books on seamanship, written in English, could not be translated accurately, because many of the technical words did not exist elsewhere. They had no equivalent; the things themselves being unknown outside the British Navy. It was true such things could be described, but a description was a pregnant source of error. The Rev. Henry Howard, the other evening, had stated a great truth when he said that power was created by its own limitations. It was well known that English philosophers did not understand what the language of Plato and the ethics of Aristotle really meant, until, in the latter quarter of last century, Professor Jowett and his contemporaries and followers, studied German to ascertain the exact limitations and values of the technical words used by the German philosophers, who were in advance of any other nation in that form of research. In English there had been at that time no good or even tolerable translation of all Aristotle. Specialists had much difficulty in keeping themselves informed of discoveries and progress in other lands in their special subjects. Those who did not know foreign languages were handicapped in comparison with others, and some were compelled laboriously to spend time in keeping abreast, which would better employed in research. How great an advantage if each author could make a resume of his own paper in Esperanto, which would be published in every country at the same time as the original paper. If, therefore, Esperanto could provide a universal language in which all philosophers, scientists, and artists could in their own technical phraseology express their exact meaning, a great stride would be accomplished in the direction of the millennium and the regeneration of mankind. (Applause.) He had great pleasure in welcoming the interstate visitors, and wished them a happy time during their stay in South Australia. (Applause.)

#### —Presidential Address.—

Mr. Hugo Leschen, in his presidential address, said he profoundly felt the honour done him in the unanimous vote which had placed him in the position of President of the first Australian Esperanto Congress. It seemed hardly credible that the dream of so many Australian Esperantists had become realized. (Applause.) Drawn together by the similarity of lofty ideals, they were demonstrating to the world that Australia had joined the other countries in the progress of the movement. In the making of Esperanto history, their fellow-fighters had often felt tired nigh to death by the opposition that had met them, but many of their erstwhile opponents were now most ardent fellow-workers. He remembered when Mr. Uhrlaub was the only and untiring soul in Adelaide who preached the Esperanto gospel, and much of their success was due to that genial friend and expert teacher. (Applause.) Many opponents were such only because they erroneously thought Esperantists aimed to substitute Esperanto for the national languages of the world. Australian Esperantists would strenuously oppose so unworthy an attempt. He did not suppose a single congress member would be likely to consent to the entire substitution of Esperanto for his beloved mother tongue. Nor would other countries sacrifice their mother tongue for the exclusive substitution of Esperanto. Some scholars took objection to Esperanto on the ground that it might threaten to trespass upon their classics. If he saw the slightest danger in that direction he would immediately join in their opposition to the advance of Esperanto. But Esperanto did not aim at being anything more than an international auxiliary key language for deliberations in international affairs; for commercial correspondence; and for general exchange of friendly thought among the peoples of the world, who without it would be debarred from communicating with each