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THE ANTARCTIC.

MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

PLEA FOR FINANCIAL AID.

Sydney, May 3.

"It is high time Australians took up the work of exploring the great Antarctic continent." That sentence was the key-note of the portion of his presidential address to the Royal Society, in which Professor David to-night commended the Mawson expedition to the members. Recently, he said, they had received news of the safe landing of Captain Scott's expedition, accompanied by the sensational announcement that the famous Amundsen had established headquarters within about 400 miles of Scott, and proposed to compete in the race for the Pole. "We can join," said the professor, "in wishing every success to both expeditions, and we can hope that the work of the one will be complementary of the work of the other. There is ample room for both. There is room, indeed, for a great number of expeditions in the Ross Sea area of the Antarctic alone, but I desire particularly to bring before you the Mawson expedition, to which the Association for the Advancement of Science voted £1,000. It is to be an Australasian expedition, and that point should claim your attention."

Professor David then made the declaration which heads this report. "We must," he went on, "realise the close proximity of the Antarctic, and the intimate way in which we are bound with it geologically and geographically." A deputation which waited on the Acting Prime Minister had been received sympathetically. Mr. Hughes recognised that it was not so much the immediate economic advantage as the advancement of pure science that should weigh. Dr. Mawson was at a critical juncture. Money was required. There had been received promises amounting to £6,000. It was emphatically important that the expedition should start this year, and if that could be done Dr. Mawson would be able to be down there in the Cape Adare region at the time when his scientific observations would synchronise with those taken by Scott's very fine scientific staff. Amundsen would help Scott's work in the direction of geographical observation. Dr. Mawson was a man thoroughly imbued with the love of science for its own sake, and it might be taken for granted that his observations would be thoroughly reliable. In addition they would be enhanced by those of Scott, taken at a similar time. The speaker urged all to endeavor to influence the public so as to secure financial aid. The Shackleton expedition cost £43,000, and even if the Federal Government contributed a substantial sum there would still remain between £20,000 and £25,000, in addition to the promises already received, to be raised.

THE ANTARCTIC.

CAPTAIN AMUNDSEN'S PLANS.

DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

London, April 7, 1911.

Professor Otto Nordenskiöld, the well-known Swedish explorer, has expressed in the Swedish press his grave doubts of the propriety of Captain Amundsen's action in encroaching upon what is considered to be Captain Scott's "sphere of influence" in the Antarctic. He admits that Amundsen, possessing as he does a close acquaintance with the Antarctic regions, would naturally be anxious to try his fortune in the Far South, but he criticises severely the secrecy which he maintained concerning his South Polar project, and holds that unless he has ulterior scientific motive for his dash in competition with Captain Scott, it will be difficult to find an excuse for him. It would be very regrettable, says Professor Nordenskiöld, if Scott, arriving at the South Pole, found that Amundsen had reached it a week before him, taking the British route and making use of previous British discoveries. In such circumstances it would be no great honor for Amundsen to be first at the Pole.

Several Norwegian newspapers have published a letter which Captain Amundsen has addressed to the chairman of the committee of the Fram expedition. In this letter Captain Amundsen apologises for not having previously communicated his change of plans to the committee, and admits that one of the reasons which dictated his silence was the apprehension that the committee might endeavor to dissuade him from his project. His chief motive, however, was want of money (for his Arctic scheme presumably), and his belief that the discovery of the South Pole might stir his countrymen to accord him better financial support.

Antarctic Aeroplane.

Dr. Douglas Mawson has decided to take an aeroplane with him on the Australian Antarctic expedition which he hopes to lead south before the end of the year. He spent an afternoon at the Aero Exhibition on Friday explaining his needs in the matter of an aeroplane for Polar work. He examined with great care a Bleriot two-seated, military-type monoplane. Either of the two occupants can control this machine without changing seats. Maps and compasses are fitted in special frames. The airmen are shielded from the rush of wind, and have an excellent view over the monoplane's wings. Such a machine will take two passengers for 180 miles without a descent. A special machine might be built to carry two passengers approximately 250 miles without a stop.

"ONE GOOD TURN."

THE MAWSON EXPEDITION.

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON'S APPEAL.

LONDON, May 8.

Sir Ernest Shackleton, leader of "The Farthest South" expedition, has a letter in The Daily Mail, in which the famous explorer appeals for the sum of £12,000 to enable his friend and comrade Dr. Douglas Mawson, of Adelaide, to purchase a ship which he thinks ought to start from England for the antarctic in June. Sir Ernest highly eulogizes the career of Dr. Mawson, and in justification of British support of the Commonwealth expedition says "Australia has done much financially and scientifically for antarctic exploration."

In commending the expedition to be led by Dr. Mawson, and in endorsing Sir Ernest Shackleton's hearty appeal, The Daily Mail remarks "one good turn deserves another."

THE GERMAN EXPEDITION.

BERLIN, May 7.

The Deutschland, with Lieut. Filchner and the other members of the German expedition to the antarctic on board, sailed for the south polar regions from Bremerhaven yesterday.

The Deutschland sails for Buenos Ayres. Thence the expedition will force its way into the Weddell Sea, south of the Falkland Islands, and opposite Scott's base, in November. A station will be established as far south as possible. Scientific observations will be conducted for at least a year, while four men, with Nansen's sledges, will make a dash for the south. The investigations of the expedition will include whaling, and also atmospheric conditions, in which kites and balloons will be used. Three motor vehicles, a motor boat, and a number of Manchurian ponies are being taken. Several members of the crew of the Gauss expedition have been recruited; and Capt. Vahsel, who was on board the Gauss, commands the vessel.

Register, May 10/11

THE ANTARCTIC.

APPEAL FOR THE SCOTT EXPEDITION.

LONDON, May 9.

The Right Hon. Sir Edgar Speyer, Bart., and Sir Clement Markham (late President of the Royal Geographical Society), in a letter to the newspapers, point out that Capt. Scott, leader of the British Expedition to the antarctic, is in urgent need of from £8,000 to £10,000, and that he is entitled as a founder of antarctic land exploration to first claim to the support of the public.

MAWSON EXPEDITION.

£6,000 SUBSCRIBED.

This week, through the columns of The Daily Mail, Sir Ernest Shackleton appealed for the sum of £12,000 to enable Dr. Douglas Mawson, of Adelaide, to purchase a ship to convey his expedition to the antarctic.

The Daily Mail announces that £6,000 has been subscribed in response to the appeal, and that this amount includes £2,500 given by Mr. Samuel Hordern, of Sydney, and £1,000 each from Lord Strathcona (High Commissioner for Canada), Mr. Sandow, and an anonymous Melbournean.

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DR. MAWSON'S PROJECT.

SIR E. SHACKLETON APPEALS FOR FUNDS.

LONDON, May 8.

Sir Ernest Shackleton, who led the last British expedition to the Antarctic, has written to the "Daily Mail" warmly appealing for £12,000 to enable Dr. Mawson to purchase a ship and start on his journey to the southern ice in June. Sir Ernest eulogises the career of his former colleague, and declares that Australia has done much financially and scientifically for Antarctic exploration.

The "Daily Mail," in endorsing the appeal, remarks that one good turn deserves another.

ANTARCTIC RESEARCH.

THE SCOTT EXPEDITION.

LONDON, May 9.

Sir Edgar Speyer and Sir Clements Markham (late president of the Royal Geographical Society) have written to the newspapers, stating that Captain Scott is still in urgent need of £8,000 or £10,000 for his Antarctic expedition. They add that as the founder of Antarctic land exploration, Captain Scott has first call on public support.

DR. MAWSON'S SCHEME.

£6,000 SUBSCRIBED TO DATE.

LONDON, May 9.

The "Daily Mail" announces that £6,000 has already been subscribed in response to Sir Ernest Shackleton's appeal for £12,000 for Dr. Mawson's expedition to the southern ice. Mr. Samuel Hordern gave £2,500, while £1,000 each was given by Mr. Sandow, Lord Strathcona, and an anonymous Melbourne subscriber.