

### MAWSON EXPEDITION.

#### Gratifying Response to Appeal.

MELBOURNE, September 19.

A sum of about £41,000 has been subscribed toward the expenses of the Australian Antarctic Expedition. Professor Mawson, of the Melbourne University, who is Chairman of the antarctic committee of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, said to-day that considering that the appeal was not launched until the end of January, the response could be regarded only as highly gratifying. They had requested £50,000 for the expedition. If they had the funds to instal a wireless telegraphy apparatus they intended to try to do what no other expedition had attempted before—keep in communication with the mainland (Hobart) during the whole time the expedition was down south. If they did not get £50,000 something would have to be discarded. Wireless communication with Australia, although it would be something in the way of an achievement and of great value to meteorologists, was not essential to the expedition, and if the funds were short the proposal would in all probability have to be dropped. The ship's company had not been completed yet. There were still vacancies in each branch of scientific research for applicants possessing the necessary qualifications. They would also like to secure the services of several surgeons with a taste for biology, or some other department of science.

### A CHAIR OF THEOLOGY.

PROFESSOR NAYLOR'S SCHEME.

£30,000 WANTED.

The recently-formed Theological Students' Association, which embraces students of all denominations except Roman Catholic and Lutheran, is agitating for the establishment of a theological chair and faculty at the Adelaide University. Professor Darnley Naylor is in sympathy with the movement, and at the invitation of the association he on Friday evening, at the Y.M.C.A. rooms, addressed the students on the question. He said he had always taken a keen interest in the subject of theology. Whenever the term university was used nowadays—it did not matter what the original signification of the term was—it included the idea of universality of knowledge. At present they had schools of Philosophy, History, Literature, Law, Science, and so forth, but there was one subject, which, after all, lay at the root of every other one, pervaded every other, and gave worth to every other, which had been hitherto neglected in their Australian universities; and that subject was theology, which dealt with the relation of the human to the Divine. The allegation was usually made that such a science was impossible in our universities because of its controversial nature. That objection had little force with him. All knowledge in one sense was of a controversial nature. Any subject treated academically would involve the presentation of conflicting views. In a university, of all places, they had a right to expect controversy of the highest kind. The influence which the holder of the chair of philosophy could wield was enormous. One man could turn out a community of pessimistic materialists and another a body of optimistic idealists. It was hardly an exaggeration to say that the moral tone of a whole people might be modified in one generation by a great professor of philosophy who forgot his position on the bench and became the advocatus dei or diaboli, as the case might be. Yet they went on electing to the chair of philosophy and never asked if the candidate was a materialist or an idealist or similar questions. All they required was that he should know his subject from alpha to omega and that he should hide nothing, evade nothing, color nothing, that he should try all things and help to choose the true. Why did they run that apparently grave risk? Because, first, they were getting an educated man who had been trained to see all sides of every question. Those remarks applied with hardly less force in certain countries to the chair of political economy. A professor of law was bound to have some political opinions, and a professor of history must hold views on the rights or wrongs of the Reformation. Not one of those chairs could escape from touching on highly controversial subjects, and yet they had always trusted and always would trust the holders of them to treat their subjects academically, that was, with perfect fairness so far as human limitations applied, and without suspicion of blind antipathy or partisanship. The fact was the objection to a chair of theology on the ground of its controversial nature was a mere childish bogey which disappeared with the lighting of a penny dip. What he wished for was a chair of theology, not a chair which would present only one position of the facts, which would deal only with Christianity and with only one aspect of that. His ideal holder of the chair would know all about Buddhism, Mohammedanism, Confucianism, and so forth, as well as of Christianity in all its varieties; and, what was more, any student, no matter which of those religions or systems he favored, would be able, if he possessed the necessary knowledge and capacity, to take his degree in theology and obtain the highest honors in his course. It was no mere dream of his. The thing had actually been done in London, Manchester, and elsewhere. The newer universities in England had set them an example which they need not be too proud or too timorous to follow. The University of London had recently founded a faculty with several professors and lecturers. Manchester had done the same, and had five professors and at least eight lecturers. Wales from the start had a faculty. Paris had now not only a Protestant faculty, but also a faculty of comparative religion, and the new and enterprising University of Tokio had founded a chair in the latter subject. Otago, too, had set the machinery going for the formation of one. Thus of the newer universities those in Australia stood

out as exceptions. In the first place he thought they should appeal to the generosity of wealthy men interested in their aim. They required at least £30,000, and he did not see why four or five citizens might not be found who would join in contributing the sum. But he wished to emphasise the fact that if such generous donors should be forthcoming they would have to be prepared to trust the University absolutely. He saw nothing to prevent the council from founding a chair of theology in the broad sense which he had attempted to define, but it would be impossible in his opinion, for the University to accept money with any conditions attached. Supposing they got the money, what were they to expect from the holder of the chair? For the sake of putting forward something concrete he would suggest that they should seek a good New Testament and Hebrew scholar, but above all a man who was a first-class specialist in Comparative Religion. That was of the highest importance. A theological degree meant knowledge of history, ancient and modern, of philosophy, Latin, Greek, German, and law. It was a heavy subject, and so it should be. But when they got the chair, if they did, he believed that one of the most valuable steps in the history of Australian education would have been taken. Adelaide would then indeed deserve the reputation of being the city of culture, for she would have set an example to the other States of how difficulties, due entirely to the prejudices of ignorance and a want of faith in a fearless pursuit of truth could be overcome. The Master had said, "Seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened," and they were words which would surely bear the broader interpretation. (Applause.)

Advertiser, Sep. 21st, 1911

#### Helping the University.

Mr. Ryan moved the adoption of the first report of the Adelaide University Royal Commission, and the Premier seconded the motion. Mr. Peake thought the motion should not be passed without a word. As a member of the Commission he expressed pleasure that the University was to be placed more on an equality financially with similar institutions in Melbourne and Sydney. He hoped the Bill to be introduced would make the extra grant permanent. Messrs. Smeaton and Coombe briefly supported the motion, and Mr. Ryan, in reply, said he would reserve his remarks until the measure giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission was introduced.

Advertiser, Sep. 22/11

#### EDUCATION COMMISSION.

In pursuance of the recent decision of the House of Assembly the Governor has issued a proclamation directing that the scope of the Commission appointed on January 26 on University and higher education be extended, to enable the Commission to enquire into and report upon all branches of education.

Register, Sep. 21/11

#### —University Grant.—

Being private members' day, notices of motion had priority until only 4 o'clock, and as the hands of the clock moved across the last quarter of the face, Mr. Ryan, who had a motion on the paper for the adoption of the report of the Education Commission, became amusing in his noticeable anxiety. As each member rose to speak he grew more restless, and then when his chance came, to save his motion, he moved it with a word of explanation. Even the Deputy Speaker was surprised, and called on him again, but the member for Torrens again contented himself with formally read-

Advertiser, Sep. 22/11

#### The Antarctic Expedition.

A sum of £5,000 has been placed on the Estimates for the Mawson Antarctic expedition. Hon. A. H. Peake—A very generous contribution from this State. The Treasurer—The Federation and the other States have given equally generous contributions.

Register, Sep. 25/11

#### MUS. BAC. REGULATIONS.

An alteration is proposed by the University Council in the regulations for the second year of the Mus. Bac. course at the Conservatorium. Hitherto the regulations have provided that the candidate should be examined in one of the following practical subjects:—Singing, pianoforte, organ, violin, or violoncello. The line proposed to be added is, "Or any other instrument approved by the Faculty." The University Senate will consider the matter on September 28.

ing it. The Premier seconded it without any observation, but the Hon. A. H. Peake, a member of the commission, said the public deserved some explanation of the proposal which was to grant the University an additional vote of £4,000 this financial year, and to have representatives of the Parliament on the council. Mr. Ryan, in replying announced that the Government intended to bring in a Bill to deal with the University this session, and the whole question could be discussed then. The report was adopted.