

Register, Aug. 12/11

Recent British antarctic enterprises have been cordially welcomed, and their funds generously supplemented in the Commonwealth. Dr. Mawson's plans are heartily endorsed by his former fellow antarctic navigator, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and by other leading authorities. The Royal Geographical Society voted £500, and the British Government granted £2,000 towards the purchase of the ship Aurora, which will convey the expedition to and from Antarctica. British sympathy with the project has been fully aroused. The idea that Australia is strong enough to investigate and claim new territory for the Empire has placed the Commonwealth in a new light, and added to the world's respect for her people. Yet a study of the map of the earth suggests that Antarctica, or a large portion of it is an Australian "sphere of interest," and should in time become familiar to our sailors and merchants. A picnic to the South Pole is not likely to find favour with our legislators, but, on the people's behalf, they may help to lighten the hardships of sturdy men who bravely attempt that cold and cheerless journey. Dr. Mawson's investigations will be pursued in territories and seas immediately south of Australia. Because the Ross Sea area is more conveniently situated to the south geographical pole, most expeditions to the Australian quadrant have wintered there. This has led to the neglect of the great coastline westward of Cape Adare. Information regarding it is very fragmentary, and mostly untrustworthy. Geographers say that, properly equipped, an expedition to this region should achieve important successes. Even the ill-found sailing ships of Wilkes, D'Urville, and Balleny attained fair results, and proved the practicability of navigation along that coastline. Lying within wireless telegraphic distance of Australia, and within five days' steam of Adelaide, this region has a special claim upon the spirit of geographical enquiry and adventure which has been developed in this continent.

The coastline to be visited presents some of the finest scenery in the world. Great mountains from 8,000 to 15,000 feet in height rear themselves from the shores, rising among glaciers the like of which do not exist elsewhere on the earth. These natural features await investigation, and—to quote a remark by Professor Orme Masson—"surely there is no knowledge which has a prior claim upon men's attention than the knowledge of their own earth. There is no more fascinating scientific enquiry than one which seeks to increase this knowledge." In the antarctic regions an area of about 5,000,000 square miles of land, having a coastline of 8,000 miles, is offering a standing invitation to the exercise of the virile roving spirit which has set the limits of the Empire so wide. Along the whole 2,000 miles of coast between Cape Adare and Gaussberg a landing has been made once only, and then but for a few hours, by D'Urville's party in 1840. Few vessels have ever come within sight of the coast, and practically none since the days of D'Urville and Wilkes. Dr. Mawson desires to raise the Union Jack and take possession of the land for the British Empire. He proposes to accomplish a complete geographic and magnetic survey between Cape Adare and

Gaussberg. This work would be effected by sledging parties proceeding along the coast from the wintering stations. At least one inland party will be dispatched—that to the magnetic pole, which will be approached from the opposite direction to the one followed by the Shackleton expedition. It would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of Dr. Mawson's project in relation to the future of Australia. The pursuit of such an undertaking will act as a tonic to the public, and stimulate research along lines which may prove highly advantageous, especially to young men capable of conducting enterprises which have in them a spice of danger. There is good reason for believing that the venture will pave the way for investment by Australians in the sealskin and whale oil industry, and possibly add to the world's mineral wealth. In any case, the scientific data which the explorers will collect should prove of lasting value.

Advertiser, Aug. 9th

**UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS.**  
The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE informed the Hon. A. W. Styles that the Minister had no authority whatever in relation to appointments at the University. In the course of the reorganisation of the department the council of the University had been asked whether, in consideration of a subsidy from the Department of Agriculture, a chair of botany could be instituted and the services of a vegetable pathologist made available to the department for consultation and professional reports. The council had replied that the proposal could not be effected with the amount of subsidy proposed. Accordingly other arrangements would have to be made to meet the need of the department.

Register, August 11th

**DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.**

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**BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S GIFT.**

LONDON, August 9.

Government supplementary estimates have been laid upon the table of the House of Commons. They contain an amount of £252,000, set aside for the payment of members under the scheme of remuneration at £400 per annum. The sum of £120,000 has been earmarked for the cost of the royal visit to India on the occasion of the Coronation Durbar in Delhi, in December. A vote of £2,000 is also included towards the expenses of Dr. Douglas Mawson's antarctic expedition.

Upon his return to Adelaide from London last month Dr. Mawson stated in an interview:—"Lord Denman, the new Governor-General, gave me money for the expedition, and then went to the British Government with a recommendation in my favour, with the result that it voted £2,000 towards the purchase of the Aurora (which vessel is now on her voyage to Australia)".

**DR. MAWSON'S EXHIBITION AT THE EMPIRE FESTIVAL.**

The Festival of Empire, which is now in full swing at the Crystal Palace, London, is the most remarkable pageant of its kind that the world has ever known. Each unit of the Empire is represented by huge buildings of special topical design, containing scenes and productions illustrative of the life and commerce in those widely separated lands. In its construction over 8,000 workmen have been employed at one time. The roadways leading from one portion of the grounds to another aggregate 10 miles in length. As many as 100,000 school children have been entertained and instructed at the public expense in a single day. The cost of the building representing Canada amounted to £40,000. The Australian building contains a number of scenes illustrating successive stages in the growth of the Commonwealth beginning with a tableau representing the landing of Capt. Cook in northern Australia. The final scene was to have been the inauguration of the Commonwealth, but Dr. Mawson received authority to carry the drama a stage further. A large scene has been added, illustrating explorers sledging along the antarctic coastline southward of Australia, prophetic of next year's work. This is surrounded by exhibits of instruments and equipment to be used on the expedition. It is an attractive show, and daily draws large crowds of interested visitors, appraising them of the scientific and progressive spirit of Australia.