

MEMORANDUM RE ANTARCTIC REPORTS.

My Antarctic Expedition of 1911-14, known as the "Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911-14" was an undertaking of the Australasian Association for the advancement of Science, inaugurated at the meeting of the Association in January 1911 in Sydney.

On return of that Expedition in March, 1914, after a successful campaign, the Federal Prime Minister, at the Town Hall Reception to the Expedition in Melbourne, stated that it was generally found that such expeditions had liabilities to meet and he felt sure that this one was no exception to the rule. If such were the case, he felt certain that his Government would be prepared to meet such liabilities. I replied that there were considerable expenses yet to be met, but that I hoped that by sale of a popular book and by the exploitation of a cinema film and by public lectures I would be able to balance my budget - that I had no intention of asking for further help from the Government if I could possibly settle my accounts otherwise.

Unfortunately, the War broke out four months later and entirely altered the outlook. There was little return from the popular book and from the film. For eighteen months I gave public lectures in Australia, New Zealand and America, eventually succeeding in paying off all debts on the Expedition, but could not provide a fund for printing the reports.

I then applied to the Prime Minister asking for about £5,000 to cover cost of printing the Scientific Reports. Mr. Fisher replied that as the War was on, every penny and every man were required for the War and that it would not be possible to allocate money for Scientific Reports.

As soon as the War was over I approached the N.S.W. Government, with the result that the arrangement for printing was drawn up, it being understood that about £5,000, plus sales of parts, would cover the cost. However, the cost of paper and of printers' wages advanced - also the reports have proved more voluminous than expected.

Under these circumstances, some portion of the expense should be a fair call upon the Commonwealth Government, notwithstanding that the assets of the Expedition (specimens, relics, manuscripts, maps, negatives, etc.) are the property of the N.S.W. Government by virtue of the agreement of 1919.

In recent years the Commonwealth Government have taken over the section of the Antarctic Region dealt with in our reports - it is their territory, and consequently the Commonwealth Government are interested in the investigation and development of it.

The consideration of the meteorology of Antarctica in its relation to Australia is a matter for the whole Commonwealth. The charting of the coasts, investigation of the fisheries, etc. are all matters of general interest to the whole of the Commonwealth. There is therefore every reason why the Commonwealth Government should now be prepared to assist the New South Wales Government to complete the publication, and in doing this, in some measure redeem the Prime Minister's offer of 1914 when he publicly stated in the Melbourne Town Hall that his Government would sympathetically consider the settlement of the Expedition's outstanding debts.

According to Mr. Ifould, the expenditure up to date has been £6,000, and he says that nearly £5,000 more is required to complete the job - making in all £11,000.

My information indicates that the assets of the Expedition that have been handed over, or will be handed over to the New South Wales Government, or will be realised by this agreement are as follows:-

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| 1. Anticipated sale of parts and value of exchanges - not less than | £5,000 |
| 2. Value of zoological, botanical, geological collections, relics, manuscripts, charts, etc. - not less than | 5,000 |
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| | £8,000 |
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Leaving cost over return of £3,000.

(SGD.) D. MAWSON.

8.2.37.