

THE AUSTRALASIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1911-1914

The University,
ADELAIDE.

19th February, 1937.

Mr. Parry's information of some nature can be done until Feb. 25th. I will supply the extra £2500 necessary.
W.H.I.
22/2/37

Mr. W. H. Ifould,
Principal Librarian,
Public Library,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Ifould,

Your note of the 12th February has duly reached me. I am very pleased to note that in collaboration with Mr. Hay you completed on the afternoon of the 8th inst. the draft of a letter for the Premier to be transmitted to the Prime Minister relating to the Antarctic publications.

That was the right moment to act and I am practically certain will meet with approval by the Federal Members, judging by the reception accorded to me at Canberra the following day.

In view of the practical certainty that the Federal Government will meet this request from the New South Wales Government, I am sure you will agree that no moment should now be lost in proceeding with the printing of the reports. I have just written Mr. Drummond pressing him to authorise the continuance of printing and stating that in the interests of the whole work it is the biological parts (Zoology and Botany) which should receive immediate attention. The other sections of the work cannot be pirated and therefore their publication is not so important as in the case of the biological parts.

The position is this: that every day of further delay in printing the biological parts may see published works on similar sections by the "Discovery Committee" in London or the Norwegians, or even by those working upon the materials brought back by the Byrd Expedition, which may thus claim priority and nullify the value of our work. If such happens, examples of the animal and plant life collected by our Expedition (the property of the New South Wales Government) which are being described as new species and represent the types for those species, and therefore of very considerable value, may become superseded and therefore valueless.

*Seen
D.H.P.
25.2.37*

The type specimens in some of the zoological sections which are awaiting description have an intrinsic value to the State Museum well in excess of the cost of printing, but if such reports are not printed before our work and publications are superseded by others now in the field, the value of the collections is reduced to a very small figure and the demand for copies of the publications will also be greatly minimised.

Please, therefore, do all you can to push on with the zoological and botanical parts - whatever the Government Printer's estimate, these will not cost the £2,000 that has already been visualised by the New South Wales Government. If you will do this I will take the responsibility of finding the balance of the money to complete the work.

Thanking you for your recent prompt action and help in achieving this publication,

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

Douglas Mawson