

Royal Societies Club  
St. James's Street  
London S.W.

19th. October, 1916

To / The Right Hon. The Prime Minister,  
Commonwealth of Australia.

Dear Sir,

Upon my return from Antarctica there was a considerable debt hanging over the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. At a Public Reception in Melbourne at the time, Mr. Watt, then Premier of Victoria and one of the principal speakers, said the following (as nearly as possible in his words) " We will not be surprised to learn that this expedition has a balance of debt to pay off and we promise them most sympathetic consideration if they come to us".

I replied that there certainly was a debt but that we had assets in film, lectures, and a popular book which was expected to clear everything and also contribute to the cost of preparation of the Scientific Results.

Unfortunately war broke out at the critical time causing public interest to be diverted and foreign rights to lapse. So instead of those assets being worth some £8000 they have not exceeded £2000. At the date of publishing the "Home of the Blizzard" the financial balance appearing as an appendix showed about £5000 then to be owing. Since then all that has been possible to clear this off has been done. Amongst the contributions is £1000 from Lady Scott (Capt. R.F. Scott's widow), which speaks well for its deservedness. The total sum now owing is £1235; but I have reason

to believe that the Vicker's Engineering Co. will, in a few days's time, strike off the £265 owing to them, making it a donation to the Expedition. The balance is £270 on which I am unable to get further concessions made.

I am therefore writing to request the Commonwealth Government to consider making a grant of this £270 as final settlement of the Expedition accounts.

I am prompted to hasten the forwarding of this appeal in view of the fact that so much money is being spent on a subsequent Antarctic expedition which has not had scientific aims to the same degree - and because Sir Ernest Shackleton is reported to be sailing for Australia with a view to further pushing his affairs.

We look forward to the Results of the Aust. Ant. Exped. , now commencing to pass through the press, to prove second to no scientific expedition save the classical "Challenger Expedition". The 18 Quarto Volumes of "Results" which are in preparation will be of real value to general science and a unique advertisement of things Australian.

I trust that you will give this matter sympathetic consideration.

I am,

Yours truly,

Captain, E.S.O.