

On 8th February, 1937, the Premier of New South Wales wrote to the Prime Minister and stated that the Government of New South Wales had voted the sum of £2,000 to complete the printing of the manuscripts. It was suggested that the Commonwealth Government should extend favourable consideration to making the extra £2,850 available to complete the work. The Commonwealth Government has agreed to find this amount.

(b) *B.A.N.Z.A.R. Expedition, 1929-30*

On 1st February, 1935, the Commonwealth Government decided that, subject to the finances of each year, it was agreeable (so far as it could properly commit itself to the future) to vote the amount of £1,000 per annum for five years from the budget for the printing of the manuscripts and scientific data of this expedition. This work is now being carried out in Adelaide.

(c) *Production of a map by the Commonwealth Government*

During the last three years the question of the production of a reliable map of the Antarctic has been under consideration by the Commonwealth Government. A large amount of information has been collected and the map is at present being drafted. Sir Douglas Mawson has made available to the Commonwealth Government all the survey material obtained by him on both his expeditions, and the material is being used in the production of the map.

A comparison of Sir Douglas Mawson's maps with information obtained from other sources indicates that the maps are very reliable, with the exception of the portion of the coastline shown as Princess Elizabeth Land. Although land was clearly visible in this area, it appears that a mistake was made in regard to the position of the coastline. Recent Norwegian discoveries have now completed the coastline from the MacKenzie Sea to Queen Mary Land, and efforts are being made to obtain this information in order that it may be incorporated in the map. In addition, the "William Scoresby" visited this region in 1936, and the report made by that vessel has added considerably to the knowledge of the coastline between MacRobertson Land and Kemp Land. An arrangement has been made for this information to be available to the Commonwealth Government.

These activities might reasonably be regarded as measures of effective occupation all tending to confirm title. It is noted, however, that certain United States expeditions have been very active in the New Zealand sector and that a large amount of Norwegian exploration has been done in the Australian Antarctic sector. In regard to the latter, no requests were made to the Commonwealth Government for this exploratory work to be made and names were given to various features in the Antarctic sector without reference to the United Kingdom or Commonwealth Governments. Individual Norwegians have been disposed to challenge the validity of British title to that portion of the Antarctic comprised between 45° and 90° east, and although there is no indication at the moment of the question being taken up officially by the Norwegian Government, there is a possibility that the issue may be raised at any time.

The Commonwealth Government would also like to learn what other Governments propose in the way of the development of their Antarctic territory. Questions have already been raised, not only in Australia but in foreign quarters, as to what the policy is for future development. The Antarctic territory is of considerable actual and potential economic importance. It is known there are some extensive seams of coal in the Antarctic territory and there may be other important mineral wealth. It is believed from a study of the melting of ice and other meteorological data that reliable inferences can be drawn as to the character of the coming seasons in the southern hemisphere and the amount of rain that may be anticipated.

The question of the preservation of the whaling industry might also be discussed. It is appreciated that an international conference will be held in May, but there is a grave doubt whether any results will flow from this conference owing to the refusal of Japan to participate. This conference will probably not last longer than a week, and, arising out of it, there may be several points which require consideration with a view to a future common policy.

The Commonwealth Government would also appreciate a discussion as to what proposals for future exploration of the Antarctic may be in mind, particularly in view of the possible exhaustion of the funds available for the operation of the "Discovery II." It would like to be informed beforehand of the nature of scientific exploration proposed, and the areas in which it will be conducted, so that the Commonwealth Government might be given an opportunity to co-operate if desired or to indicate any special work which might be carried out on its behalf.