

however small. If each fellow of the Society made himself responsible for £2, we should be in a position to send off the relief ship fully furnished with all requirements. It is not necessary that each fellow should contribute £2 out of his own pocket; if he gives what he himself can afford, he would probably have no difficulty in obtaining the balance in small contributions from his friends.

Out of the 4,000 or more fellows of the Society, only 150 have contributed to the funds for the relief ship. I cannot help thinking that when those fellows who have not contributed realize this they will come to the help of the council, without hesitation, in the manner I have suggested, or in some way equally effective. The council has made itself responsible for the relief ship. The vessel, the *Morning*, has been purchased, and is now in the Thames undergoing the necessary alterations. When these are completed, the balance of the sum subscribed will be quite insufficient to furnish her with the necessary stores and to provide an adequate equipment of officers and crew.

In the hope of enabling the fellows to realize the situation and the Society's responsibility, I give the following extract from the last despatch from Captain Scott, written just before the *Discovery* left New Zealand to make her way through the ice to her destination:

It is with great satisfaction that I learn that it is intended to send a relief ship. I had contemplated writing most urgently to you on this subject, knowing how absolutely our retreat would otherwise be cut off should any accident result in the loss of the *Discovery*. The conditions which surround the Antarctic lands with a belt of tempestuous ocean have always impressed me with the difference to those existing in high northern lands, and I have felt that, since our retreat by boats to any civilized spot is a practical impossibility, our movements, and the risks we could rightfully take, must be greatly limited, if the loss of the ship of necessity implied the loss of all on board.

I see that every effort will be made to despatch the vessel which you have already purchased for the purpose. It will, therefore, be a great relief and satisfaction to me to leave Lyttelton, confident that such efforts will be successful and that a line of retreat is practically secured to us.

I feel sure that after this statement the fellows of the Society may be relied on to support the council in an undertaking absolutely essential to the complete success of the National Antarctic Expedition.

THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

IN the U. S. Geological Survey the Geologic Branch is reorganized by the appointment of Mr. C. Willard Hayes to the position of geologist in charge of Geology to take effect March 1, 1902. Mr. Hayes has been connected with the survey since 1887 and has served with ability in various relations as assistant geologist, geologist, and since 1900 as geologist in charge of investigations of non-metalliferous economic deposits. He is now placed in administrative control of the geologic branch in order that the director may be relieved of executive details and the organization may be strengthened by the undivided attention of its head to carrying out the director's general policy. By this appointment Mr. Willis, who since 1897 as assistant in geology to the director has performed the administrative work of geology, is freed from that duty and will be at liberty to give more attention to the division of areal and stratigraphic geology, of which he has charge. In announcing these changes at a meeting of geologists in the office of the survey on February 20, the director called attention to the plan of organization of the geologic branch set forth in the Twenty-first Annual Report, pages 20 and 21, and more fully elaborated in the forthcoming Twenty-second Annual Report. The fundamental idea of the organization is that scientific direction and supervision may be and in most cases should be separated from administrative control. Specialists are placed in charge each one of investigations in a particular subject, Messrs. Becker, Chamberlin, Day, Emmons, Hayes, Stanton, Van Hise and Willis having been thus appointed, but their authority is in general limited to consideration and approval of the scientific aspects of the work. Administrative authority remained immediately with the director, and is now in a degree transferred to the geologist in charge of geology, Mr. Hayes.