

# BACK TO SCHOOL FOR S.A. ICE TEAM

EXPRESS REPORTER

**H**IGH on the Pretoria "ice-cap", 14 of the 16 men picked for the tenth South African National Antarctic expedition went back to school last week.

From now until December 28, when the expedition vessel RSA sails from Cape Town for the White South, the team will undergo a rigorous and comprehensive training course.

For the men of the tenth expedition will be carrying out an exercise in Antarctica that no South Africans have done — they will be spending the winter high up in the mountains of the interior of the continent in temperatures expected to drop to as much as minus 50 degrees centigrade.

The fire peril in the Antarctic was emphasised by the leader of the expedition, Mr. H. J. Fulton, when he talked to me of the expedition's plans and prospects.

## TIN-OPENERS

"More lives have been lost in the Antarctic through fire than from any other single cause," he told me.

So starting tomorrow the expedition members will be joining the Pretoria Fire Brigade for a week to learn everything they should know about fire-fighting.

The comprehensive training for the expedition team even includes instruction on how to use a tin-opener.

Mr. Fulton insists that in spite of the hazards and dangers of the journey to the mountains the object of the expedition is purely scientific.

"Polar exploration and dashes to the Pole are out," he says. "This is research. We want to find out what is there and why."

Under the Antarctic treaty all scientific knowledge is pooled with an international body, the Scientific Council for Antarctic Research.

There are no national bound-

aries and no territorial claims are recognised.

And if the South Africans were to run into danger or meet with an accident with which they were unable to cope, they could radio for help and get it from any other national expedition in the area — it could even be from the Russians.

## DOG SLEDGES

The journey to the mountains and back over some of the worst terrain in the world will total 3,797 miles.

Mr. Fulton points out: "One kilometre over the Antarctic ice is equivalent to 30 miles over the Republic's roads because of the atrocious surface conditions, the weather and the topography."

The mountain party will travel on dog sledges, motorised toboggans and snowmobiles.

Mr. W. Hodson will lead the mountain party of geologists, a radio operator and a diesel mechanic.

They will carry sledging rations which will include pemmican, the biltong-type preparation favoured by Polar explorers since the days of Scott and Amundsen, consisting of dried meat and fat pressed and pounded into cakes and usually flavoured with currants.

Says Mr. Fulton: "We shall carry pemmican on journeys where it is necessary to keep down the weight of supplies.

"Otherwise our food is excellent and varied — apart from the fact that it is mainly dehydrated or canned."

The expedition will be based at the headquarters of SANAE — South African National Antarctic Expedition — which for the navigational precision is at the point 20 deg. 21 min. west and 18 deg. 5 min. south.

"The position changes a bit as the base is established on floating ice," says Mr. Fulton.

The H.Q. consists of living, sleeping and recreational quarters, a power station and an auxiliary power station, huts for

scientific activities, an animal laboratory, a balloon hut—from which weather testing probes are released — and a hospital.

Some time in the next few years the whole base is to be rebuilt. For the only permanent thing about the White South is the snow and ice that covers it.

The RSA will land the expedition at the SANAE base two to three weeks after she sails from Cape Town, depending on the weather and how much pack ice she has to butt through.

There she will pick up the Ninth Expedition. But two of its members, Mr. R. W. Johnston and Mr. A. P. H. Aucamp, will remain behind to complete the tenth expedition.

By the time these two men return home they will have spent two winters in Antarctica.

## HIS THIRD

It will be the third expedition Mr. Fulton has led.

For those taking part in it the expedition means not only adventure but the chance to save.

They are paid according to their qualifications and receive generous allowances. They cannot spend a cent.

Says Mr. Fulton: "There are two forms of barter — in beer and in cigarettes."

The money the men earn is banked at home. When they come back many will use it to pay off study bills or to finance further studies, in South Africa or overseas.

The opportunity of being able to further their studies is the motive most of the young men have for going.

But to be picked they must meet strict fitness and aptitude tests. They are psychologically examined, too, to find out whether they will mould socially into a team — survival could depend on this.

Until they sail, the training at the South African Army College at Voortrekkerhoogte will be rigorous and detailed.



● Lecturer Mr. H. Kleuver is outlining the principles of group dynamics. In front of him, second from left, is expedition leader, Mr. H. J. Fulton.

## NEW TRUNK CALL SYSTEM — PRETORIA FIRMS COMPLAIN

EXPRESS REPORTER

**P**RETORIA BUSINESSMEN are unhappy with the new national trunk dialling system from Pretoria to other centres because no check can be kept on unauthorised trunk calls, or on the time taken by other out-of-town calls.

Businessmen said this week that they regarded the system as a mixed blessing. On the one hand it was a valuable step forward to telephoning Cape Town, Durban and other centres direct.

On the other, calls to these centres were metered on a local call basis.

This meant that only a total number of metered calls was given on telephone accounts — without any indication being given of how many long distance calls were made.

The complaint of businessmen is that they themselves have to keep a check on time taken on authorised long distance calls. But there is no check at all on unauthorised calls.

The only effective way of cir-

## Clinic for alcoholics a success

Express Reporter  
**P**RETORIA'S Castle Carey Clinic for alcoholics this week claimed a recovery success figure of nearly 100 per cent in the case of follow-up studies on 37 families in which

## 35 p.c. OF AMERICANS, CANADIANS WOULD VOTE NAT.

Express Reporter

**A** COUNTRY-WIDE marketing research survey has revealed that 35 per cent of American and Canadian businessmen based in South Africa would support the Nationalist Party if they were eligible to vote. About 31 per cent would support the United Party and 15 per cent the Progressive Party.

Eighty-one per cent of the businessmen — all of the top executives — believe that South Africa's racial policies represented an approach that was at least an attempt "to develop a solution."

Eight per cent considered the Government's policies a "acceptable approach," 6 per cent believed they

INDUSTRY QUESTIONS?