

(b and)

Req.

13. 8.

27.

£30,000

would contribute to the building that was so essential to their future progress. (Prolonged applause.)

### An Academic Home.

Sir Josiah Symon, who was received with three vigorous cheers, said he wished his extremely earnest welcome could improve his defective eyesight, as he would then be able to see them and address them to better effect. They had met to advance a purpose for the progress of the University, and the presence of the Premier and other prominent citizens showed their goodwill toward the movement. The Premier had explained frankly that any expectations that the Government would contribute to the project at that stage must not be entertained. But he believed that there were enough large-hearted and large-minded men and women in the State to render it unnecessary at present for the Government to make a sort of "forced contribution" of the taxpayers' money. He believed that with the effort that was being put forward there would be no difficulty in accomplishing the object in view. Outlining the aims of a university union, Sir Josiah said it was, of course, half of the University, but it was, in a certain sense, the outside scholastic disciplinary regime of the University itself. It was what he had heard called, and what he has called himself, the academic home under its own self-government and self-management. It was not a hostel or anything of that kind. If there were any impression of the kind the sooner it was dispelled the better. It was a home in which graduates and undergraduates might have recourse in the intervals of the class and lecture rooms, and when those were over, to provide study, reading, and recreation, and that interchange of opinions, ideas, and criticisms, which was so desirable. Those particular pursuits might be varied and relieved by lectures, debates, addresses, and other entertainments of a strictly intellectual kind, to which of course, personal friends might be invited. Personally, he regarded the opportunities of free and unrestrained conversation and criticism under favourable circumstances with adequate creature comforts most valuable. Students were not ascetics.

### Humanizing Factors.

The University, continued Sir Josiah, did not exist to produce bookworms or prigs, but men of the world to mix with their fellow men and lend their ability to forward the civilization of their age. Unions were humanizing factors in the University life. They afforded the opportunities for kindly, and by no means pointless, criticism that was not possible in the atmosphere of the class and the lecture room. He considered that it required more than the education received in the classrooms to produce a cultured gentleman. It required the personal touch, which was the dominant note of a university union. There was a great precedent at the present moment. It was the rehabilitation of the University of London. It had twice as many students as Cambridge and Oxford, and £525,000 had been paid for a site in the heart of London for a Union Building. The Rockefeller Foundation had given £400,000, and the Government £125,000. The South Australian Government had given the land in this case, and public subscriptions were sought to erect the building. It would be a memorial in perpetual remembrance of the men of the Adelaide University who had served in the Great War for the preservation of humanity, in which Australia had taken no mean part. He trusted that the proposal would be readily supported. He was confident that the great scheme would be carried to a successful issue, and the future of the University and its students would be assured. Future generations would rejoice with the present in gratitude to all who had contributed to the result. When they rose from the positions of students to be among the thoughtful men of the world they would realize that the union had been of some use. (Prolonged applause.)

### Gifts by Governments.

The Leader of the Opposition said he considered it his duty to lend his presence to the gathering. It had been mentioned that the Government should do more towards the establishment of the Union Building. He had been informed that this was to be a direct appeal for public assistance. The University had been established by endowments, and the Government had given subsidies from year to year. There were greater difficulties than finance, however. The University had found itself cramped for room and in 1920 three acres were made available on which the Darling Building and the engineering and physics school stand. He had something to do with that matter as Commissioner of Public Works. The Government paid the whole cost of £50,000 for the latter building, and paid for half of its equipment. That building was a wonderful

asset to the State, and gave the University a great opportunity of training that branch under Professors Chapman and Kerr Grant, who had given very valuable services indeed. In 1925 the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society had vacated the Exhibition grounds, and the land was made available to the University. In March last, he had secured the approval of Cabinet to grant a further 5½ acres to the University. They now had approximately nine acres, valued at £50,000. He was heartily in accord with the policy of the present Government in making additional land available. They must not cavil at money spent on education because it was for the purpose of building up Australia as a nation. He wished the movement every success, and congratulated them on starting the union. It would be a powerful adjunct to University life, and would have a great influence on higher learning in the State. (Prolonged applause.)

### A Wonderful Evening.

The Warden of the Senate (Mr. Justice Angas Parsons) who was noisily received said if that were not a great evening it was certainly a weird and wonderful one and represented the highest aim and endeavour of Professor Harold Davies (Loud laughter.) To-night they were laying the foundation of the soul of the University. Bricks and mortar could not contain the heart of a University; that came from the students themselves. Every penny spent and every inch of land dedicated had been for a splendid purpose. They were pleased that the additional land required to expand the University was soon to be granted. There had been no better friend to the University Union than Professor Henderson. Sir Josiah Symon was a Scotsman. (Cheers and laughter.) He had arrived in Adelaide without a penny and had risen to a position of dazzling eminence without having enjoyed the benefits conferred by a university. The eminence he might have achieved with that facility left them aghast. (Cheers.) Among the contributions no one had given more readily than the professors. It was magnificent to read that the students had voluntarily agreed to contribute £1 a head for the next three years. (Applause.) It was a fine observance of the best traditions of the University. The uniting of a war memorial with a students' union was never meant to be a slogan for raising funds. It was fitting, however, that a memorial should be erected to those who had given their lives for civilization.

### One of the Unemployed—For capitalism!

Mr. Justice Angas Parsons said that the University students of the future would gaze upon the tablets in the hall and think "There is an example for us for all time." The after-associations of University students in South Australia had been far too rare, and only few University friendships lived with them in after years. The mere learning would not make for character without some future social intercourse. They wanted to see not only St Mark's but other residential colleges, and lay the foundation of another Oxford union. They wanted to see an institution that would leave everlasting friendships behind it, and stamp upon the student's character that would be the real impress in life. (Applause.) He hoped that every one in the building would agree to subscribe towards the funds of the students' union and war memorial. (Prolonged applause.)