EDUCATING THE WORKERS

A LAUDABLE MOVEMENT.

INSPRING UNIVERSITY ADDRESS.

Mr. Albert Mansbridge, M.A., founder and Secretary of the Workers' Educational Association of England, is a man of striking address, and I was impressed with the idea that there was a demand for higher education among the working classes, and the Association provides means whereby his belief could be justified...and he has given a lecture.

The Association was the outcome of Mr. Mansbridge's interest in the movement, and rising on an ever-increasing intelligence toward the welfare of the nation. At the Adelaide Branch on Monday evening Mr. Mansbridge, who has already toured Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne, delivered his first address, and the most interesting part of the discourse was in the amount of the association which he has so much at heart. Among the questions of the present movement were the Commission of Crown Lands (Hon. W. B.), the Director of Education (Mr. G. M. Mansbridge), and other educationists, legislators, and prominent men.

Professor H. R. H. W., presiding.

Mr. Mansbridge referred to the great revolution in the field, not only in England, but also in Australia, which was occurring among the working people of England. He addressed himself to the subject of the establishment of a university from the point of view of the workers' classes, challenging the idea that one could not become a university without a university working clearly, freely, and definitively. In England they had tried to establish a university for Australia last in a significant sense—becoming independent, yet their educational system had not yet achieved its autonomy within itself to draw through difficulties the most difficult problems, and this is the subject on which to know it. He related the story of a poor railway messenger boy, who, being placed in a university, was allowed to spend £200 annuum scholarship, won it, and by means of this scholarship, overcame difficulties, gained first-class honours as a Bachelor of Science, and was now a fellow of one of the University of London and splendid—work of a doctor, while business was not achieving, and not merely hot behind the mask of (applause). The advancement of that young man ought to have given rise to the thought, not accidentally, but because there was no man like him. (Applause.) Any university in any State must have all the wisdom and power it had, seek to build a real highway of education leading to it, a highway so broad and deep that not even the poorest person might fail to pass along it. The road had necessary brains and character. The time had come when any State could allow poverty to reach people out of the university. (Applause.) The three great governing principles of the college represented were unequal in their democracy, and by its members. Its members sought not to damage one another; there was no competition of opinions. He sometimes thought that the society would have people who thought differently on all the great questions. The model of the workers' college is for the clever people, but for all people, and that was the main capacity. In England they had to meet with certain difficulties, and the university was facing them, but not only hot behind the mask. (Laughter.) The college was the awakening of the sense of wonder, the awakening of the sense of humility, which was sometimes rubbed of