

I have now to ask my successor, Mr. Harricks, to take the chair. We know that he will be a success as President—how great a success he is now going to show us. I can with confidence promise him from every member of the Association that if he needs any assistance at any time during the coming year, such assistance will be available with the greatest good will.

DISCUSSION.

THE PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, it is with very great pleasure that I move a vote of thanks to the retiring President for his address this evening. Although it is rather informal to comment in detail on any remarks which the Presidential address contains, I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration of Mr. Bragg in his bringing forward to-night matters which have called a new bearing, and, so long as the questions impressed upon us of the whole commercial aspect of engineering and the labor problem are handled in a manner he has done to-night, strictly avoiding (as he has done) all political flavour, and dealing with them entirely as matters of economics, I cannot but feel that the frequent interchange of views by members of the Association, and perhaps papers and discussions on the subject in the course of our proceedings will be a benefit to us all.

If we take a strict interpretation of the objects of this Association as described in our Act of Incorporation, there may be some who will take exception to Mr. Bragg's remarks to-night in the matters he has specially dealt with, because our Act of Incorporation states that the object of the Association is for the general advancement of Engineering and Mechanical Science; but nevertheless, when we consider the time that this was drawn up and the change that has taken place since, I think we can all be amply forgiven if we dispossess ourselves of any preconceived notions that we are exemplified by that Act of Incorporation.

You will see that the directions in which engineering is closely allied with industrial management makes a study of these questions which Mr. Bragg has dealt with to-night

really necessary to every engineer; they are practically identical with engineering—in fact, inseparable from it. I feel rather strongly that if we intend to confine ourselves as an Association merely to meetings for the discussion of papers on technical subjects, we are really not going to be as useful an Association to the community as we might be. Surely one of the first steps towards enabling the engineering profession to take its proper place in the public interests is the vitalising of an Association such as ours. (Hear, hear.) We must be living representations of engineering opinion, and we ought to grow in strength until really we are looked upon, or looked to from the public and perhaps from the Government, to state what our opinion is on matters of outstanding engineering interest.

Turning aside from these few remarks in regard to Mr. Bragg's address, and before I ask Mr. Saunders to second the motion for a vote of thanks to Mr. Bragg, I want to combine a vote of appreciation to Mr. Bragg for his very able occupancy of this chair. (Applause.) Everyone who has come in contact with him has realised his strength of position and absolute enthusiasm for the welfare and progress of the Association; and a point which perhaps is not always looked for, but which is a very pleasing addition to any President's capabilities, is the infinite tact and unfailing courtesy that every member of the Association has received at the hands of the retiring President. That, I think, has been one of the outstanding features of his presidency. (Hear, hear.)

I will ask Mr. Saunders to support me in my motion for a vote of thanks to Mr. Bragg for his address, and a vote of appreciation for his efforts during the past year. (Applause.)

MR. A. F. SAUNDERS: Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I have very much pleasure indeed in endorsing all that Mr. Harricks has said, both with reference to Mr. Bragg's presidential address here this evening and his services as President for the past 12 months. There is no doubt that his address to-night has opened a very wide field for discussion, and, whilst he has been very careful to refrain from introducing anything in the shape of politics into the question of the great industrial unrest that exists in Australia

at the present time, I think most of us have something at the back of our head that we think might cure that great trouble. He has touched on the question of training our young men for their future spheres, and, whilst he points out that it behoves us to indicate the path of success, it seems to me we want to-day more than that—we not only want to point that path out, but we want to make that path as easy as we possibly can.

I might say a great deal more, but as the hour is getting late I will content myself with heartily endorsing and seconding Mr. Harricks' vote of thanks to Mr. Bragg. (Applause.)

The motion was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

MR. J. W. BRAGG: Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I am sure it is very kind of you to say these things. One only knows one's self how very undeserved all these kind things are that you have said, but I can only reiterate what I have mentioned in my address: that I shall be only too glad to assist the Association in any way I can in the future; and now that I am down in the ranks again, and practically no longer an officer, having once been an officer and knowing how one in the ranks can assist, I will promise our President that I will do everything I can to help him along and make the coming session a success, and, generally, gentlemen, I thank you very much. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Before declaring the meeting closed, I should like to express as shortly as possible my appreciation and my real sense of gratitude to you for paying me the compliment of electing me to the chair. I think I have given you sufficient earnestness of my enthusiastic interest in the affairs and progress of the Association. I have a very hard task before me in following so very able predecessors, and I can only say I will do my very best to uphold the very high standard that has been provided by these gentlemen. If I fail to find adequate words to really express my appreciation to you, I ask you to accept that as the strongest evidence really of my very, very deep sense of pleasure and gratification. (Applause.)

The proceedings terminated.

