

# N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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## Editorial Comment

Just before the last mail left, Mr. Asquith promised a London deputation that the question of British representation at the Panama Exhibition would be before the Cabinet soon. One thinks at once of the progress made in the buildings, some of which are illustrated in this issue. There is no lack of descriptions of them. We note how the buildings are advanced, most of them completed, with noble architecture in a perfectly wonderful setting of landscape gardening. The best gardeners in the world have been got together, soil of every variety required has been brought to the spot, the water supply is perfect, for irrigation, for watering, and for the fountains to play, and it is announced confidently that there will be specimens of every flower that blooms in the world. What this last means may be judged from the statement of Sir Herbert Maxwell, who is one of the first rose growers in Europe, that the Exhibition will have the very finest rose garden the world has ever seen.

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The city of Wellington loan proposals are very interesting. Amongst them we note a good provision for street formations. Now, building streets is one of the most important industries in the world. It has made great advances in older countries. Have we any guarantee that the streets we are going to devote these loan moneys to are to be the best obtainable for the money, and not only the best, but the cheapest? It is a maxim of engineers that the whole art of engineering is to carry out works to fulfil all requirements at the lowest cost. We have no desire herein to reflect on the City Engineer. For Mr. Morton we have the highest respect. He has done splendid work for the city. Look at the second Karori dam, the new dam at the head of the Wainui water supply, at the reticulations, the tramways, at everything, in a word, that bears his stamp. These are his titles which cannot be gainsaid. The Mayor seemed to gainsay them the other day in a discussion about a road-roller in which he ought not to have spoken at all. But he has explained that he meant no criticism. We may let it