

# N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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## Editorial Comment

The War! No one talks of anything else. As for the newspapers there is very little else in them, and that little is made nothing of by the eager readers of the war news. It has been one of the most sudden wars of our time if not of all history. On the first of July an article in the "National Review" contributed some argument to the discussion that has been going on for twenty years about the prospects of peace, proving most conclusively that for a hundred reasons war between Britain and Germany was a thing unthinkable. But before that number of the "National Review" got here the Governor had made that famous announcement in the presence of 12,000 citizens of Wellington of the outbreak of war, and fighting had been going on since then. The article causes no amusement because it shows as clearly as facts can show that for twenty years men have been regarding the armed camp into which Europe was converted as having only an academic connection with war. The article coming at the time it did is a startling reminder that the menace which has been so long standing over Europe has at last fallen and destroyed the peace of the world.

At the moment the allies have been driven out of Belgium and out with great difficulty defending the invaders' road to Paris, which city is strengthening her works. But the Russians are masters of East Prussia, and are marching on Berlin, and Austria is in the grip of Servian and Russian troops. It is probable therefore that the tide of German invasion in France will be stopped.

Japan has come into the strife on our side and it is likely that the Balkan alliance may be revived for the purpose of attacking Turkey. Italy which covets the Austrian possessions on the Adriatic is watching the progress of the fighting with impatience ill concealed and may at any moment get the bit between her teeth. In truth the ambition of the German War Party and its cranky Kaiser has thrown the whole world into the hell of war. But the chances are that he and the party will be des-