

N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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Editorial Comment

"It is the duty of everyone of us who has an opportunity of making his influence felt, to avoid any action which would have the effect of aggravating in any way the general alarm and uneasiness which must inevitably prevail at such a moment as this" says Lord Landsdowne in a recent speech. If such words are taken to heart in this Country as they have been in England there will be a minimum of unemployment for us to deal with. The British Government have issued the following notice regarding the building trade:—"It appears from various enquiries addressed to the Commissioners of Works that there exists some apprehension lest unemployment should be increased in the building and other trades by suspension during the present crisis, of building and engineering operations provided for in the estimates of the Office of Works recently approved by Parliament. It is, therefore, desirable to state publicly at once that it is the intention of the Commissioner of Works to proceed with all services in their charge, to employ as many men as possible to carry out such services, and to develop and expedite their building programme in any way practicable. As the Minister mainly responsible for Government building, the First Commissioner of Works would wish to take this opportunity of expressing his sincere hope that private individuals, companies, firms, and contractors will spare no effort to follow the policy of the Government in this matter, as far as circumstances admit."

The British Government at the same time announce that they are going to spend no less than £4,000,000 on housing in suburban and rural districts. The recent trouble between the master builders and the men has been satisfactorily fixed up, and every effort is being made to minimise the distress likely to accrue as a result of the present campaign. The level headed appeal to private individuals by the British Government quoted above, and the announcement of their intention to spend such a huge sum on building is an example that will appeal to the whole Empire, and we hope will be acted upon in this Dominion as much as practicable.