

N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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A Journal for Progressive men interested in the development of New Zealand's
Architecture, Building, Engineering and Industries

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Contents for April

	Page
Directory for Supplies of Material	606
Publisher's Announcements	607
Editorial	609
New First Presbyterian Church Invercargill	611
Contest to Improve Conditions	615
Our Forty-first Competition	616
"Veandhor" Re-inforced Concrete System	617
The Lay-out of Roads in Relation to Requirements—S. D. Adshad	620
Trade Union Rules and Munition Output—by Robt. Whitson	623
Recent Building Patents	625
Building Notes	626

Editorial Comment

The War Outlook

So far, New Zealand has not really felt the pinch of the war in its industrial life, however much the grim struggle has revolutionised our personal affairs. Now that the Home Government is restricting its imports severely, and it is also difficult to get English goods sent to the Dominion by reason of shipping difficulties, our business men are facing a good deal of trouble, added to the increasing difficulty of carrying out contracts owing to an acute shortage of skilled workmen. If ships were only available, we would see a tremendous dumping process going on from America in this country, but the tonnage shortage helps us, whether we like it or not, to save up good business for the British manufacturer when the glad times of peace come again. Though the Empire experienced its "black week" just as this month began, the Irish rebellion happening at the same time as the surrender of General Townshend at Kut-el-Amara, the general outlook upon the position now appears brighter. The stolid, slow moving, but dogged British character is now showing its finest side. We are unemotional, and slow to realise the import of great events, but now it is quite evident that at the heart of the Empire, all parties are prepared to go the fullest lengths in throwing into the field every possible resource in men and munitions. Everything we hear points to a determination to finish the war this year. New Zealand is putting forth a further effort in its man supply, and we all hope that the result of two years' experience has now provided the Allies with that overpowering superiority which means speedy victory. It may happen that the optimists will be again disappointed. If so, we can count on our national quality of doggedness to essay the task another year. Whatever happens, we must not tire of the struggle until all we are fighting for—all our brave men have died for—has been secured. So this process of "feeling the pinch"—a comparatively mild affair compared with what the Central Empires must have been suffering for a long while, must be endured cheerfully, in a spirit of mutual help.