

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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Editorial Comment

The Passing of Kitchener

This month has seen the Empire in two moods. The triumph of the Navy: its great sacrifices, its glorious bravery, sent a thrill of admiration around the world. The spectacle of the German fleet scuttling back to safety behind its mine-fields proved even to doubting neutrals that Britannia still rules the waves, and that the triumph of the great ideals for which the Allies fight, will surely come. And then, when we were almost counting the day of victory, came the smashing blow of Lord Kitchener's passing. True to their British character, New Zealanders spared no time for rejoicing or reproach. Within a few days of the tragedy of the Orkney Islands, the House of Representatives passed a Military Service Bill, which will make sure of our supply of soldiers though the war goes on for years. We are truly carrying out the Kitchener plan in doing this. The great organiser, in the first month of the war, declared that he was planning for three years ahead, and his wisdom has been proved only too truly. Victory will not come from one pitched battle, nor even a succession of them. It has to be slowly forged by dogged resolution in the organisation of resources to that end. And Kitchener's death, swift and dreadful as it must have been, stirred us all to still greater resolves. The future will see in New Zealand a more systematic marshalling of our power, a sterner reminder to every man that "the State comes first." Those who have selfishly left to warmer-hearted patriots the real sacrifices which war entails will now find the compelling hand of the State upon their shoulder. The whole community will at last face the reality of the great situation.

Employers' Obligations

The State's reminder of duty takes the shape of compulsory military service. It is supposed to operate only when the voluntary system fails to provide sufficient recruits, but we believe that when, in the course of a couple of months the machinery of the new Act has been perfected, there will be a clamorous demand to end the "moral suasion" system which takes all the sterling patriots, and leaves