

N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

(With which is incorporated "The Scientific New Zealander")

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

Editor: Chas. E. Wheeler.

Incorporating the Journal of the New Zealand Institute of Architects.

PRICE 6d. per Copy; 7s. 6d. per annum post free.

(Note: 1s. Discount allowed if paid in advance).

WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND, CHRISTCHURCH, AND DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND, MAY, 1917.

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Editorial Comment

Anti-Con- scriptionist "Facts"

We have always regarded Australian "Building" as a well-balanced production, given to liveliness in its editorials, but keeping the fiction department in its proper place. But in the April number of "Building" the chief editorial entitled "Conscription Run Mad" is a most extraordinary tirade against our Military Service Act, paragraph after paragraph containing falsehood after falsehood. Where "Building" got its so-called facts is hard to imagine, unless they came into the editorial head as the result of a particularly lively nightmare. We are told that "industrially, commercially and socially, the conditions brought about by ill-considered Defence administration in New Zealand are chaotic." A woeful prediction follows to the effect that thousands are going to be thrown out of employment, not only on the railways, but in the mining and other industries. We admit that a few hundred miners were thrown out of employment recently, but they managed the performance quite off their own bat, and were proud of it rather than sorry. New Zealanders will read with wonder the news which "Building" is able to print about conditions in our capital. "Another instance of folly" it says, "is the action of the authorities in ordering the Wellington daily newspapers to come to an agreement amongst themselves within one month to publish only one paper for the duration of the war. This means the closing up of three big industrial concerns, the almost certain ruin of their proprietors and the throwing out of employment of hundreds of people with many hundreds of dependents, who are ineligible for military service. Every city and town in the Dominion, presumably, will be affected in a lesser or larger degree in regard to its Press." Wellington newspapers certainly came to some arrangement among themselves, but the sacrifice resulting was not thrown on any of their proprietors, but upon the general public, which had to pay double price for its reading