

# 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

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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, JULY, 1917.

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## Editorial Comment

### Two Parliament Buildings

We should soon be hearing of the result of the Australian Government's competition for the Commonwealth Parliament Building at the new national capital of Canberra. The Australian Government offered eight premiums totalling £6,000, the first being for £2,000, and the competition was open to architects in all friendly countries. It opened just before the war, but the Australian Government suspended it when war broke out. However, they decided in September, 1914, to go ahead, and the time fixed for receipt of designs in either London or Melbourne was January 31st of this year. Unlike the New Zealand Government when it had to deal with a similar competition, the Commonwealth took a very broad view, and set up an extremely representative commission of judges to decide the matter. It comprised George T. Poole, an Australian architect, Sir John J. Burnet of Great Britain, Victor Laloux, of France, Louis H. Sullivan, of the United States, and Eliel Saarinen, of Russia. Our readers will be interested to hear on the authority of the Minister of Public Works, that New Zealand's Parliament Building will be partly ready for use next session. The House of Representatives chamber, the Press Gallery, and a number of rooms can be finished in time, in fact the roofs are on now. The furnishing and interior finishing is being carried out with great care under the direction of a joint committee of both Houses. New Zealand woods, carefully selected, are to be used for the important rooms and the two chambers, and the Native Affairs Committee room will have a Maori touch about its design. The Maori people would have liked to have presented the Dominion with a Speaker's chair of Maori design for the Representative chamber, but this offer was declined, doubtless because the introduction of such a feature would have been out of harmony with the rest of the design.