

Wellingtons' New Hotel

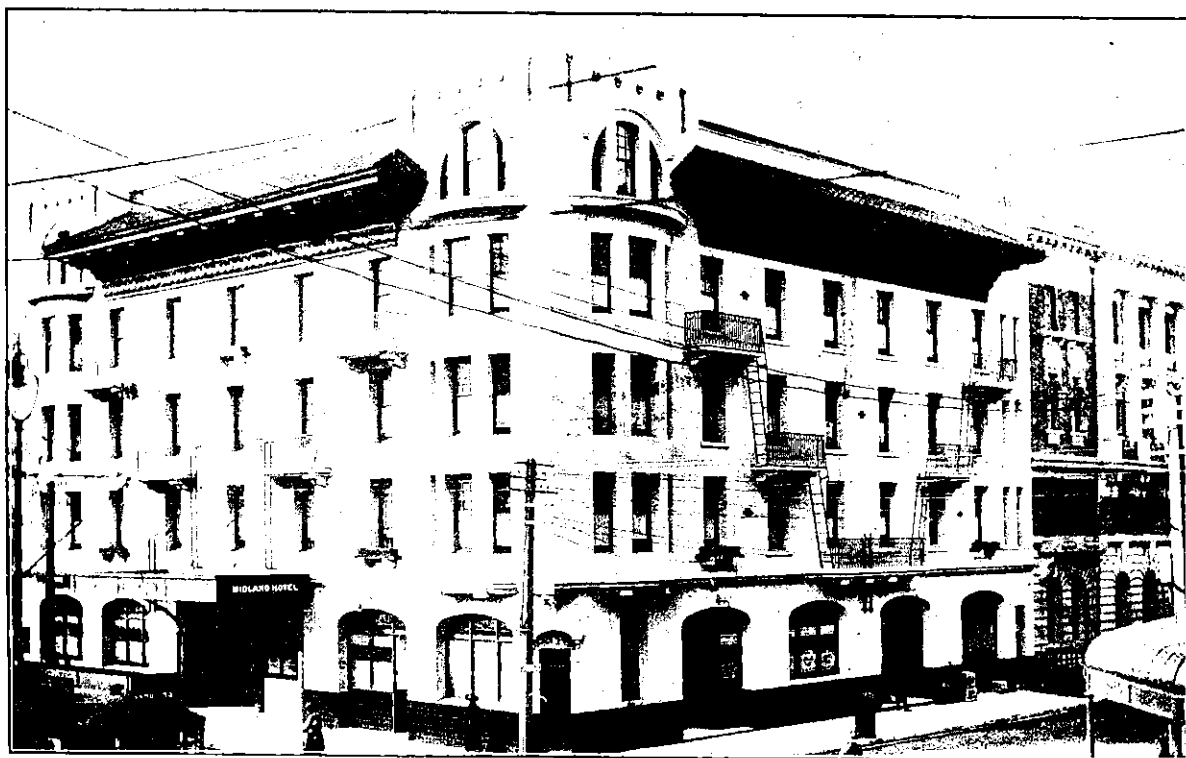
THE MIDLAND, LAMBTON QUAY.

That there was room for a new hotel in Wellington appears to have been proved by the fact of the owner, Mr. Joseph Dwyer, having had a very busy time since the building was completed a few months back.

The new hotel is situated at the corner of Lambton Quay and Johnston Street, the frontage to the Quay being 98 feet, and that of Johnston Street 87 feet. Mr. Henry White was the architect, and the contract price was about £23,000.

The style chosen by the designer is an adaptation of old Spanish Mission, which is new to Wellington

space to wall space, however, does not seem of the happiest. Relief is provided at the ends and corner by square towers between which is a striking feature in the form of massive metal cornices on each facade, which protrude 6 feet, a projection by the way that must have caused the architect some trouble to get a special permit for, as projections are not usually allowed by the Council to the width of six feet. The cornice is covered with special tiles which lend that touch of the antique that is always so effective. Further relief is provided in the suspended awning over the main entrance on the



View of Midland Hotel from Lambton Quay.

Henry E. White, Architect, Wellington.

and certainly picturesque. On account of its simplicity and apparent solidity, which is in marked contrast to the older type of buildings, it attracts attention and creates a suggestion of airiness and cleanliness. It aims at the elimination of external detail, an item of importance in such a smoky place as Wellington. Buildings treated in this manner will retain their comparatively clean appearance when other more ornate buildings have become drab and dirty by reason of the accumulation of dust and soot on the projections. Both elevations present a plain surface of creamy white stucco pierced with plain unadorned windows, the proportion of window

Lambton Quay side, and the iron fire-escapes which are brought down in steps from either end to the awning in the manner that makes ornamental that which is usually provided as a commonplace utility. The two facades are faced with brown glazed tiles to a height of 4 feet from the ground.

The main entrance to the hotel is in Lambton Quay and is 20 feet across the base. The designer's intention of an imposing entrance has been somewhat marred by the insertion of an office at the side of the otherwise effective entrance, and the polished Coromandel columns lose a great deal of their intended effect. The office gives one the impression