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Editorial Comment

Wellington Anglicans' ambitious effort to erect a grand cathedral as a Memorials war memorial has received a good deal of criticism from the general public, who suspect that the movement will divert funds from the all-important purpose of providing our soldiers with comforts and necessaries, both at the front, and when they return maimed. New Zealand is so wealthy to-day that it is doubtful if the appeal will seriously interfere with other worthy objects, but the movement started with so much vigour raises the broad question of national war memorials. If Anglicans are going in for "war memorials" in various parts of New Zealand, and other religious bodies do the same; if the general public feels itself compelled-as it will we are sure - 40 set up something in recognition of the heroism of the men who have gone from particular localities, then we foresee a great waste and conflict over this business which will lower its high tone, and result in a loss of that general enthusiasm and sympathy without which no movement can be effective. In this, the Government should give a lead, at any rate to the extent of securing the advice of those best able to give it, on the question of how the whole community may unite in a truly worthy memorial to the heroes who have gone from this country. Let us get away from the parochial in this great and solemn duty. If there are to be thousands of little memorials in all parts of the country, let them be simple, and of public utility, and let the whole community, in addition to the local tokens, unite in some general memorial which will serve to fittingly tell posterity what we thought of the gallantry of our lads who left the workshop and the plough and became efficient soldiers in the greatest war in the world's history. Already this subject has received attention in England, and among the wise things said we would like to repeat the remarks of a writer