

in the "Times" who contends that if a community is to express itself it must be through something it likes, and he says boldly, that people do not like the statues, the drinking fountains, the clocks, which they commonly provide as memorials. "They may be monuments of our piety; they are not monuments of our taste in any sense of the word. If we could show them to some man of the future, we should agree with him in disliking them."

#### Town Planning Moves Ahead

Quite a notable advance was made in the Town Planning movement this month by the conference of Town Planning delegates from Town Planning and kindred organisations which was held in Wellington. Credit is due to the Wellington Town Planning and Municipal Electors Association for initiating the gathering, and its results amply compensated for the trouble taken. The Wellington enthusiasts were somewhat dubious about the experiment, for they had had a rather disappointing experience in their efforts, year after year, to impress the Government with the importance of early legislation on the subject. They had been promised legislation "next session" until they tired of deputationising a sympathetic, but apparently helpless Minister. Then it was resolved to enlist the sympathy of kindred bodies throughout New Zealand, and the response was a surprising revelation of the interest taken in city amenities and the housing problem throughout the Dominion. The representation at the conference is worth noting, as an indication of the widespread interest taken in the subject by influential people. Wellington's delegates were Messrs A. Leigh Hunt, Chas. E. Wheeler, and Carwell Cooke with the Hon. J. G. W. Aitken, President of the local Association who opened the conference, while Christchurch was represented by Mr. Hurst Seager, Mr. Holland (mayor), and Mr. Kay (chairman of the Christchurch Beautifying Association), Auckland by Mr. C. J. Parr, C.M.G., M.P. (who was elected President of the Conference), Dunedin by the Hon. J. T. Paul, of the Dunedin Amenities and Town Planning Society, Timaru by Mr. C. S. Cray, President of the Caroline Bay Association, Wanganui by Mr. Hope Gibbons, President of the Wanganui Scenery Preservation and Beautifying Society, Napier by Mr. John Payne M.P., and Invercargill by Mr. W. M. Page. The delegates spent an interesting morning in discussing in a general way the prospects of influencing the Government, and resolved to ask the Minister of Internal Affairs to invite Mr. Charles C. Reade, the well known Town Planner, who is now in Australia, to come to New Zealand and draft suitable Town Planning and Housing legislation. To show their earnestness in a practical way, they were prepared to offer to pay half the cost of the expert's visit. The Hon. G. W. Russell was obviously impressed by the influential nature of the deputation, and instead of repeating former remarks as to the difficulty of doing anything during a war session, undertook to

take out of his Local Government Bill, which is hung up, the section relating to Town Planning, and submit it to Cabinet with a strong recommendation that it should be put through this session. The delegates had made up their minds to proceed on slow but sure lines. They would have been quite content had the Minister promised to prepare a Bill for consideration by Town Planners during the recess. But Mr. Russell declared that he favoured prompt action, and did not like the prospect of wasting a year. As the Minister's Town Planning clauses would not be comprehensive enough to make a practical Town Planning measure, the deputation asked if he would accept suggestions, and he readily agreed, suggesting that they should get to work immediately. The measure as it stands would only be operative in the case of complete town planning schemes, but as a good deal can be done to improve towns by wise planning by-laws, suggestions are to be made to him on these lines.

The conference cabled Mr. Reade, who is in Adelaide, to come over immediately so that his valuable knowledge of Town Planning legislation can be made available in securing the best possible measure. The conference has given a splendid lift to the movement, and real progress is about to begin.

#### "Partially Essential"

New Zealand industries and occupations having been completely classified by the National Efficiency Board under the four headings of "Most Essential," "Essential," "Partially Essential," and "Non-Essential," we are able to review the position as it affects two important classes of our readers. Building and contracting, dealing in building requisites, the manufacture of bricks, cement, lime, quarrying, carpentering, plumbing and plastering all appear under the heading of "partially essential." Motor repairing for commercial purposes is in the same category, but motor agents are among the "non-essentials" just now. The classification of building and allied trades under "partially essential" gives a Government guarantee that the business may continue, but only under short sail. To put it into the official language of the classification: "(C.) **Partially Essential.**—The industries and occupations included under this heading are deemed to be of secondary importance to those in Class B (Essential). In this classification it may be found that a much smaller percentage of men need be excluded from military service than in Class B; but there will be some whose removal would imperil the successful maintenance of the industry or occupation, and in proved cases such men should be exempt." Having classified the industries, the National Efficiency Board is engaged on the important task of assessing the value of various tasks within these industries, so as to advise the Government and the Military Service Boards what jobs in a partially essential industry should be done by skilled men who may be regarded as indispensable if the industry is to be maintained.