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Editor: Chas. E. Wheeler.

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Editorial Comment

Town Planners' Suggestions

Town Planning advanced another stage recently, when the Conference of New Zealand Town Planning Associations placed before the Minister of Internal Affairs a number of important suggestions for incorporation in the proposed Town Planning Bill. As the Minister's measure stood originally, it contained very little machinery for smoothly carrying out complete town planning schemes, or controlling other town developments on sound lines. Consequently the Conference made suggestions which will remedy these deficiencies. A very complete schedule of the subjects which should be covered by town planning by-laws was proposed. Under it, City Councils will have power to deal with unsightly advertisements and all other matters in which unrestricted commercialism is inclined to spoil the appearance of a city for the mere purpose of pushing some profitable nostrum. Needless to say, the proper subdivision of areas of land not large enough to be dealt with as a complete town planning scheme also come under the purview of these comprehensive by-laws. The central Town Planning authority suggested will include an expert who will bring to the solution of our problems the wider knowledge which can be placed at our disposal now that the science of the subject is so well understood in older countries. Ample scope is given for local co-operation, as schemes will be under the direction of a local Town Planning Board nominated by the Governor, who may appoint, not only representatives of the local bodies within the area but enthusiastic and enlightened citizens who have ideals. Housing is recognized as an integral part of the movement, and it was reported to the Conference by the delegate who had been specially asked to deal with this question that a large mass of legislation exists empowering local authorities to provide dwellings where need exists among the working classes. Under this legislation, a portion of which we quoted