

# N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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## Editorial Comment

### The Town Planning Bill.

The Hon. G. W. Russell deserves hearty congratulation for carrying out his promise that he would prepare a Town Planning Bill for consideration during the recess. There were problems more urgent, and the Minister is one of the busiest in the Cabinet, but he managed to get his measure printed in time for introduction the night before the session's end. Its reception was such as would not give much joy to Town Planners. The House thought it was one of the measures which the Government wished to rush through at the last moment, when members had packed their bags, and were thirsting for freedom. Before the Minister in charge could explain that it was only introduced for consideration after the session, some protests were heard indicating that a thorough campaign to educate parliamentarians will have to be undertaken before the reform can be approved by the legislature. Some members evidently regard it as a fad. Typical of this trend of ignorance and contempt was the remark of the member for Palmerston North, Mr. David Buick, who complained that the Hon. G. W. Russell was "only fooling the House." Perhaps that member forgot that his own leader included Town Planning in the Reform Party's election programme, otherwise he would surely not have implied that his leader had been guilty of fooling the country.

### A Practical Reform.

The first thing to demonstrate to gentlemen suspicious of fads is that Town Planning is as important to a growing community as plans are in erecting a dwelling. There are certain essentials to health, well-being, and comfort in urban life, but New Zealand towns usually grow up without regard to them until the deficiency is obvious, when the expensive process begins of remedying mistakes. Palmerston North must have had experiences of its own, if Mr. Buick will inquire. The Town Planning Bill seeks to deal with the lav-