

N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

(With which is incorporated "The Scientific New Zealander")

A Journal for Progressive men interested in the development of New Zealand's
Architecture, Building, Engineering and Industries

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Incorporating the Journal of the New Zealand Institute of Architects.

PRICE 6d. per Copy; 7s. 6d. per annum post free.

(Note: 1s. Discount allowed if paid in advance).

WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND, CHRISTCHURCH, AND DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND, DECEMBER, 1917.

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Editorial Comment

Capital and Labour.

The ever-present trouble to adjust differences between the worker and the employer under our capitalistic system has prompted two important organisations recently to take steps towards promoting more sympathetic relations between the opposing forces. At the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Wellington, it was unanimously resolved to request all affiliated bodies to encourage the Workers' Educational Association, which is doing valuable service to the wage-earners by bringing within their reach sound education on political and economic subjects. Another instance of the employers' desire to come into more sympathetic touch with the wage-earner was shown in a discussion by the Wellington Provincial Industrial Association upon "Some Aspects of Citizenship in Relation to Industry and Education." The principal speaker, Mr. L. T. Watkins, favoured the establishment of an Arts and Crafts Guild, and suggested that if boys were apprenticed by document (as is usual), but presented through the Guild in meeting, with the Mayor in the chair, and representatives of the City Council present, as is done by the Lord Mayor and alderman of London in certain guilds, the boys might enter upon their apprenticeship somewhat impressed, and in quite a different frame of mind to the lads in present-day instances. The employer or the apprentice could appeal later to the guild if dissatisfaction existed. At the termination of the apprenticeships the completed indentures could be presented by the Mayor at periodic meetings—possibly even this little publicity would be an incentive for the boy to improve himself, so that a word of praise might be said for the way in which he had come through his trade schooling. The Association decided to invite views from the Trades and Labour Council, and we imagine that the Labour delegates, trained in the hard school of bargaining with employers, will get down to bedrock with a demand that the Guild should provide something more for the apprentice than an encouraging public ceremonial. The Arbitration