

N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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

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Editorial Comment

"The British Empire Ltd" We have reached the period when the problems of after the war are prominent in the minds of Empire statesmen. The economic agreements of the Allies are being considered, and although the influence of America will be powerful in preventing, if possible, a rigid exclusion of Germany from trading facilities with the nations with which it has been at war, there is no doubt but that private prejudices against the Hun will have sway for at least a generation. And America, much as we will be disposed to defer to that great democracy with its high-minded statesmanship, will not be disposed to object to a system under which the devastated parts of France and Belgium will have the preference in supplies of material until the ravages of war are, as far as possible, obliterated. And there is another important movement which must be brought to a successful issue. This is the organisation of the British Empire's trade so that it will never again be dependent on outside nations for some of its most important supplies. "Key" industries both in chemical and metal manufactures were shrewdly controlled by German firms before the war, though the bulk of the raw material came from within the British Empire. The zinc corporation which manipulated Australia's large output of that valuable metal is a case in point. At the heart of the Empire, our manufacturers are thoroughly alive to the value of this policy of Empire independence, and it behoves New Zealand to stir itself, and do its share, for there are indications that we have already been left behind by our neighbour, the Australian Commonwealth.

New Australian Industries

From English sources we learn that an important textile firm has decided to open a branch of its business in Australia in connection with the movement to establish new industries there. Although Australia is the greatest wool-producing country in the world, she is forced to import nearly all the yarns that she requires. Tonnage is required