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Editorial Comment

Town Planning Advance

The prospects of a forward move in town planning in New Zealand at an early date are very hopeful indeed. The town planners who were responsible for getting Mr. Hurst Seager, F.R.I.B.A., to attend the Brisbane conference of Australian Town Planning Associations have already secured good results for their enterprise and Mr. Hurst Seager's personal sacrifices, for it has at last been demonstrated to the New Zealand Government that town planning is a science of which the Dominion is much in need, that it is a practical money-saving movement, and that the towns and villages of the country should not continue to "just grow" like Topsy, leaving posterity to remedy expensive mistakes due to lack of forethought and knowledge. At the public lecture in Wellington which followed his return from the Australian conference, Mr. Hurst Seager made it clear that good legislation is the imperative preliminary to an advance, and the Hon. G. W. Russell, Minister of Internal Affairs, who was present, heartily agreed that it is necessary to thus lay the foundations firm and true. He is hoping to get Mr. Hurst Seager to visit Wellington during the session to address members of Parliament, and he also hopes next year to call a conference of Mayors of cities, and men interested in town planning, to "start New Zealand in the proper direction as regards town planning." From the Brisbane conference, as in other years, has come a mass of valuable material showing the practice of the art of proper planning. We will give publicity to a good deal of this material in future issues, for the Australian experience is almost directly applicable to our own problems. New South Wales has followed South Australia's example in setting up a State Department of Town Planning, and we hope to see the same thing done in New Zealand within a year. Another important step in advance has developed recently in Wellington, where representa-