

# N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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Architecture, Building, Engineering and Industries

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## Editorial Comment

### An Educative Conference

The first New Zealand Town Planning Conference may be regarded as a thorough educational success. As we have had no practical general town planning operations in New Zealand, there was naturally a lack of interesting exchanges of views regarding methods, but no dearth of enthusiasts to urge the importance and the advantages of town planning. The papers were all up to a good level, and if there was too much idealism, as some critics pointed out, this was only a corroboration of the plea incessantly put forward that it was time New Zealand stirred itself to do something. Nine-tenths of the delegates, representing local bodies and associations concerned in civic welfare, came to the conference to learn, and for this reason care was taken to secure a discussion of all the papers by those who understood the principles of town planning, and could visualise their application to New Zealand conditions. This method of arranging for "selected speakers" did not meet with entire approval, but the principle was good, and we hope that it will be followed in a modified way at any future conferences, otherwise the discussions will fall into irrelevant side-issues, and result in no real profit. As for the results of the conference, it can be confidently said that they were valuable. Not only were many local body representatives convinced of the practical nature of town planning, but they carried away from the conference, and especially from the exhibition, many good ideas for town improvement which will gradually come into being over a wide area of the Dominion. Even without the stimulus of a central Town Planning Board and local organisations for town planning and housing schemes, some good practical work is likely to eventuate through the raising of ideals and the pointing of a practical way to achievement.

### Work Done

The real work of the conference had to be done in committee, and it is no secret that the Hon. G. W. Russell, Minister-in-charge of the Town Planning Bill, is grateful to the large committee which considered it thoroughly and made some important recommendations