

N.Z. BUILDING PROGRESS

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

Official Journal of the Dominion Federated Sawmillers' Association (Incorp.)

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

CHAS. E. WHEELER - Editor

PRICE 9d. per Copy; 8s. 6d. per annum post free.

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

WELLINGTON, AUCKLAND, CHRISTCHURCH, AND DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND, JULY, 1919.

Contents for July.

	Page
Directory	538
Publisher's Announcements	539
Editorial	541
The Aesthetic Aspect of Concrete Construction	543
Our New Houses—By Sir Edwin L. Lutyens. A.R.A.	546
Borough of Dargaville	548
Model Houses Competition	549
A Woman's House	549
Bitumen as Street Dressing	550
Concrete Houses	551
New Flooring Material	551
Sawmilling Section—Editor's Notes	552
Forestry Legislation	553
Workers' Dwellings	553
Pumice Country	554
Correspondence	555
Maeterlinck and the War	555
Patents of Interest to Builders	556
Building Notes	558

Editorial Comment

Building Trade Busy From Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland come satisfactory reports of activity in the building industry. Things are reviving under the stimulus which is provided by relief from the distraction of war conditions, and the return of thousands of our men, most of them fit for work. The assistance given by the Government in the purchase of farms for returned soldiers has caused a mild land boom, especially in the Auckland province, and it is evident from the extent to which large firms in the principal cities are proceeding with long-delayed building programmes that they anticipate a quick return to good business conditions. One hears little of a possible slump after the war, and we are glad that this is so, for New Zealand has really profited materially by the war demand for its chief products, and the bank returns show no signs of a weakness in finance now that the struggle is over. The tremendous increase in national debt means a liability in interest to be shouldered by the taxpayer, a liability which can only be met by increased production. The fact that large firms are spending money on extension of their premises is a clear indication that these well-informed concerns do not fear any slump, but on the contrary are making ready for more business in near future. The Wellington Harbour Board is spending a large sum in wharf extension, which is another indication of how the future is viewed with optimism. Though it cannot be said that building material is appreciably cheaper to-day, the reduction in the price of corrugated iron to £55 per ton, and a drop in the price of nails are good signs. The Labour Department is hoping to provide about two hundred new workers' dwellings in various parts of the country, but it remains to be seen whether the tenders will come within the limit of price imposed under this scheme. Housing problems are not likely to be solved by the workers' dwellings system, for it is not comprehensive enough, and is run under such severe financial limitations that we doubt if it will serve to appreciably ease the situation. What is wanted is a comprehensive system such as that proposed by the Town Planning Conference, described in our last issue, and apparently approved in a general way by some