

Subsidy to Builders in England.

The great building programme foreshadowed by the English Government by which 100,000 houses were to be built by the end of last year has not materialized. The English Government is much perturbed, and a special meeting of Cabinet was held in December to deal with the matter, which appointed a Cabinet Committee to devise new measures for dealing with the most urgent domestic problems.

Dr. Addison is chairman of the Committee, which includes Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Sir L. Worthington-Evans, Mr. Munro, and Sir Tudor Walters. The Cabinet clearly regard the situation which the Committee has to face as a serious one. When Ministers

than usual, progress would in any case have been slow in the next few months.

As 30 per cent. of the trade is engaged in the building or extension of industrial and commercial premises, only 10 per cent. is left for the provision of new houses. This balance must be redressed before any real progress can be made.

The third head under which the Cabinet Committee is pursuing its inquiry is the paramount question of finance. The only local authorities who have got to work on housing schemes are those which have been able to raise the necessary money. A subsidy of £150 per house has been proposed to builders.

New methods of house construction, involving the extensive use of concrete and timber, have been approved by the Ministry of Health.

A number of firms have submitted proposals for the provision of houses largely constructed of concrete. The houses are in each case to consist of a living-room, scullery, bath-room, and three bedrooms, and the Ministry's plans for north and south aspects are complied with, and the proposed period of loan in each case is 60 years.

Proposals have also been approved for timber-framed bungalows, each to be built according to the Ministry of Health plan, providing for a living-room, scullery, bath-room, and three bedrooms. The period of loan in each case is 40 years.

It is now possible to order a standardized wooden house by post, have it delivered on the site in sections, and erected ready for occupation in a month.



Type of Wooden House proposed to be erected in England.

took the matter into their own hands they were gravely disturbed at finding that only 180 of the 500,000 houses to be built under the national programme were actually occupied. The number of houses in course of erection is 10,000, which, according to the estimate of the Ministry of Health, will have been increased to 100,000 by next May or June.

The Cabinet have at last recognized that in this matter time is not on their side. They are now confronted not only with the original problem, but with two new factors of a serious character. The first is that, with every week that passes, the deficiency in housing accommodation becomes more acute. The position, in fact, is much worse to-day than it was 12 months ago. In the second place, building is a seasonal trade, and, with winter setting in earlier

Durie Hill Garden Suburb Scheme, Wanganui.

We regret that in the article published in our November issue dealing with the Durie Hill Garden Suburb scheme at Wanganui, which covers an area of 65 acres—the first Garden Suburb scheme in New Zealand—Mr. Hurst Seagar, F.R.I.B.A., is stated merely to have reported on the scheme. The fact was, as was generally known at the time, that Mr. Seagar was the author of and solely responsible for the scheme and the planning and the lay-out of the suburb, including the roads, and that his report as set out in our article, was the detailed description and explanation of his scheme, and the plan that accompanied the article. Mr. Seagar's name appeared in the margin of the original plan as its author, but in the preparation of the block that margin was cut off, and the plan as supplied to us unfortunately did not bear his name.

Mr. Seagar is doing excellent work in England in connection with the Town Planning movement, and read a paper at the International Garden Cities Conference on "The Garden City as an Industrial Unit," a good part of which appears on another page in this issue. He has prepared and dispatched to the New Zealand Government a fine collection of photographs and copies of the best War Memorials in England, and is now engaged in the preparation of a permanent collection of Town Planning Exhibits for the Dominion.