



Architecture and Building

Public Trust Buildings, Lambton Quay.

This is, so far as we know, the only building erected in the Dominion under the system of erecting a rivetted steel frame in advance of the walls. It is, moreover, probably the first building designed in the world with a rivetted steel frame, the members of which—apart from the floor girders—have only one function, namely, that of giving tensional strength to walls of brick or stone, and binding or tying the walls to each other. The steel construction consists of

tower form, with a 22 foot dome in reinforced concrete, with copper ornamentation. There are six floors, including standard and basement. The construction is fireproof, and though timber is used for the roof, it is slate covered on the slopes, and plastered internally on metal lathing, fixed direct to purlins. The danger from fire is, it will be seen, minimised, and will be very remote. There is a height of 87ft. to the top of the parapet, and 74ft. to the crown of the large circular pediments, which are a prominent feature of the fronts, and the dome rises to 98 feet.

The fronts are faced with Tonga Bay Granite, a light coloured and coarse grained stone, more easy to work than the majority of the granites.

with staircase and lift. The Public Trust Office, thus approached, is a large room 90 feet by 31 feet, entirely free from columns.

The contractors are Messrs J. and A. Wilson, of Wellington, and the amount of their contract is £40,000. They will probably finish the work early next year.

Tonga Bay Granite.

Tonga Bay, which is situated between Motueka and Takaka, in Tasman Bay, is distant about thirty miles from Nelson, and is likely to become



GRANITE QUARRY (TONGA BAY).



WHARF (TONGA BAY).



BUILDERS' YARD (STOUT STREET)



STONECUTTERS' SHED (STOUT STREET).

stanchions built at regular intervals in the piers and walls, to which are rivetted horizontal steel members, also built into the walls, which in turn are rivetted to the ends of the main floor girders. The steel frame is thus calculated to prevent the separation of the walls of a building under the stress of earthquake shocks.

The building has a frontage to Stout street of 162 feet, and to Lambton Quay of 59 feet, and is rounded off at the angle of intersection into

The base and ground floor is wholly faced with the granite in large blocks of rusticated masonry, with round arched windows, heavily keyed. The facing of the upper stories is granite chiefly, but with pressed brick work filling the spaces between windows. To prevent the separation of the stone face and brick backing, precautions have been taken by careful jointure and "doweling."

The main entrance is by an arched doorway in the tower corner, leading to a circular vestibule,

noted in the near future on account of the extensive quarries now being opened up there for the purpose of getting granite as building stone. It has been a matter for regret that stone has been little used hitherto in New Zealand in our buildings. It might fairly be said that with the exception of a few of our public buildings, stone has been little used for building purposes, and even when it has been used it has often been imported from Australia. It is to be hoped that