

These tests of resistance under crushing strain are regarded as most important in building materials, where the strain is mostly that of dead-weight. It is estimated by the designer of Parliament Buildings that the heaviest crushing strain will be in the twelve Ionic pillars on the front elevation. There the strain will range from 15 to 20 tons per cubic foot, so that Kairuru marble, with its crushing resistance of 760 to 830 tons, provides an enormous margin of safety beyond the usual one required by architects, that of ten times actual strain.

caps of the columns of Parliament Buildings out of four-ton blocks, and they give the marble high professional praise when they say it "cuts to a fine arris."

As to the weathering quality of New Zealand marble, this has to be proved. However, the aspect of the stone in situ provides reassuring evidence, so that there is no reason to believe that the material will disappoint remote generations of posterity who will gaze on their national building. It is well known that certain qualities of Italian mar-



A four-foot rule stands against the centre stone. This photograph shows the beautiful grey marbling of the stones, which will be greatly heightened when they are polished.

KAIRURU MARBLE DESCRIBED.

Kairuru marble is coarse-grained, highly crystalline, and bears a strong resemblance to the marble obtained by the Greeks from the famous quarries of Naxos and Paros islands in the Aegean Sea. From this material the glorious buildings of ancient Greece were constructed, and but for the ruthless hand of the spoiler, they would be standing intact to-day. Is it anything more than a coincidence that the vandals of those days were Turks, allies of our modern Huns from Prussia?

Coarse grain is a quality of value. The finer the grain, the more dead the polished surface. Kairuru marble, with its coarse crystals, gives a beautiful lustrous polish of a creamy depth. The stone works well. Carvers have already commenced to chisel the

ble have stood well in a sulphur-laden atmosphere, in fact the beautiful national memorial to Queen Victoria erected in London, contains 1,000 tons of Italian marble. It was, however, selected with the greatest care, only 25 per cent. of the quantity cut being used in the memorial.

DISAPPOINTING OUTCROPS.

Anyone who climbs the endless spurs of the mountains back of Sandy Bay would gain a general impression of boundless supplies of marble, only waiting to be quarried. But the history of Sandy Bay marble has proved that it is difficult to find a patch of the valuable material sufficiently free from shattering to warrant its use in building. I have before me in writing the photograph of one of the