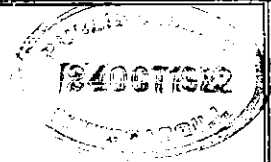


· N · Z · BUILDING ·

# PROGRESS



## HONOUR TO NEW ZEALAND ARCHITECTS.

Our heartiest congratulations to the architects of New Zealand who made so splendid a showing in the world competition for the Auckland War Memorial Building. For New Zealanders to head the list among over seventy competitors is no unworthy achievement, and this should completely convince the general public of the Dominion that the architectural profession in this country is on a high plane. It will be remembered that a New Zealand architect won the prize for New Zealand's principal national building, Parliament House, some years ago. One may almost hope from these evidences that the Dominion is entering upon that happy era when taste in design of its public buildings is to become a paramount consideration with public bodies. It might be added that there is a similar responsibility resting upon the larger private institutions of the country in respect to their buildings, and there are ample signs that they have begun to realise the value of good architecture. The day of ornate and pretentious shams is departing. Auckland is setting a further good example in the generous response of its citizens to the appeal for funds with which to erect a permanent memorial to the most glorious achievements of this young nation. Of the £200,000 required for the war memorial, all but £78,000 has been secured, and from what we know of Auckland's public spiritedness in the past, there is little need of anxiety on the part of its Citizens' Committee in respect to the balance. Christchurch has its war memorial of more modest planning under weigh, but Wellington, alas, seems under the spell of the Government grant, and has nothing to show in the way of a war memorial. A vote of £100,000 was placed on the Consolidated Estimates some years ago for the purpose of a national war memorial to be erected in Wellington, but under the stress of present conditions, there is no hope of practical work being done for some time. Meanwhile Auckland has magnificently eclipsed the capital city in the extent of its ambitions, and the amount of its accomplishment. The competition gave a great stimulus to the architects of New Zealand. Though many must be disappointed that they did not quite reach the great goal, they have

the satisfaction of knowing that the general level of attainment was high, therefore it was no disgrace to miss the mark. We sincerely hope that the Government will not long delay in giving the profession a further opportunity of proving its mettle on big things.

## TENDERING METHODS.

It is quite evident that some members of the building trade have not quickly adapted themselves to the changed conditions of the times. We are convinced of this by the plain evidence of a series of different classes of building tenders recently brought under our notice. The general experience of owners just at present is that while possibly one-half of the contractors show, by their prices, a careful calculation of the probable cost of the work, others have taken a less systematic way of bringing out their final figure, and have made up for loose methods by ample allowances for contingencies. The result of rule-of-thumb methods in tendering under existing conditions is that the only man who gets a chance is the one who has knowledge of costing on a sound basis. Intending clients of the building industry need not fear that the rule-of-thumb builders are getting their high prices, for there is a substantial majority of contractors thoroughly alive to the position, and submitting tenders which show on the face of things, a desire to do the work for the real cost and a fair profit. However, in the general interests of the industry we deemed it our duty to draw attention to tendering methods through the medium of a special article, published in another part of this issue, which has been written in a spirit of critical helpfulness by one well qualified to deal with the subject. Our hope is that the information will bring more builders into line with the spirit of the times, and thus hasten the day when the industry will reach a condition of normal activity.

## THE STATE ADVANCES SYSTEM.

Two millions of fresh money are promised by the Minister of Finance for the State Advances Department, which has been running under short sail