

# *Demolition Crew Uncovers Rusted Iron Cannon-ball*

*Likely souvenir from  
old naval base.*

The odd chance of finding some long-forgotten antique, preferably valuable, hidden away in the framework of old and historic buildings, is always present in the minds of wrecking crews engaged in demolishing them. Although of no intrinsic value, a cannon ball found by the workmen at present demolishing the Young Street residence of the late Mr. Richard Brown, one of New Plymouth's earliest merchants, draws attention to the town's turbulent past.

The rusted ball,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and weighing approximately 6lb, is the crude forerunner of today's high-velocity, high-explosive shell. A small hole, approximately half an inch in diameter, gives access to the cavity in which was stored the explosive core.

New Plymouth has never suffered the devastation of an artillery bombardment, and in the opinion of Mr. W. H. Skinner the shot was probably "souvenired" from the old naval base on Mount Eliot, a hill at New Plymouth long since excavated, which used to stand in the vicinity of the new Egmont Street bus terminus.