

Old Folks' Club Rooms Are First Of Kind In N.Z.

Effort praised by Minister at opening.

Social Security.

Mr. Parry continued to outline the benefits given elderly people by social security, the inauguration of the scheme and the changes made in benefits to elderly people during the last 15 years. Social security benefits were not pensions; everything received by the elderly people had been earned by them and they were entitled to it because of what they had created in the past, he said.

The Old Folks' Association had achieved an objective which would be a great contribution to the future of their lives and it would be an extension to their lives, said Mr. Aderman. Companionship would add materially to the length of life. He was sure the public of New Plymouth would respond 100 per cent. to provide the needs of the club, to furnish it and to liquidate the debt on the building.

Mr. Stainton, who is a junior member of the club, said the old folk might be in the autumn in years but were in the spring of their lives as far as spirit was concerned.

At the conclusion of the opening addresses a birthday cake given by Mrs. C. Webster was cut by Mrs. Parry and a flag presented to the association by Mr. H. Weinberg was flown over the entrance to the building. During the afternoon a musical programme was held and in the evening a social and dance.

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The first building of its kind in New Zealand, the clubrooms of the New Plymouth Old Folks' Association, were officially opened by the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. W. E. Parry, on the sixth birthday of the club on Saturday.

Many members of the association gathered in the new rooms, almost filling the hall, and the Taranaki Regimental-New Plymouth Municipal Band played in the street outside the club. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Parry, the official gathering included the mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, Mr. E. P. Aderman, M.P., and Mrs. Aderman, Mr. J. P. Hughson, mayor of Waitara, and Mrs. Hughson, Mr. P. E. Stainton, chairman of the New Plymouth Savings Bank and the Taranaki Hospital Board, and Dr. G. H. Thomson, president of the New Plymouth Returned Services Association. The president of the Old Folks' Association, Mr. G. Roberts, officially welcomed the guests.

Youthfulness of Spirit.

"Whatever you do, live as young as you can," said Dr. Thomson. "Age is not a question of bones and flesh, but of the spirit."

Dr. Thomson had said something that he had always agreed with, said Mr. Parry in his address. Social medicine was better than any medicine which came out of a bottle. Social contact among fellow men was one of the greatest things for the wellbeing of mankind.

"Old age brings in its train many difficulties, not the least of which is a feeling of loneliness, but if the means are provided for elderly people to get together in suitable surroundings, the evening of their days may be spent in happy association with song and suitable recreation," Mr. Parry said. "It is most pleasing to me to see the determination of the older people to help themselves and the effort made by your association is not only a great credit to you but is a shining example to younger people of what can be done in the way of mutual assistance.

"At the gatherings I have attended I have been impressed with the oneness of our people when they come together for social and recreational purposes and where all are friends with no class distinctions of any kind. You are certainly living up to your slogan of 'Let's grow old together.'"

Social Security.