

# New Plymouth to have most modern department store in New Zealand

CONSTRUCTION of the largest commercial building to be erected in New Plymouth is scheduled to commence early next year for the Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society of New Zealand Limited. The building, which will stand close to the centre of the city, is planned to be the most modern department store in New Zealand.

The store will be built between Devon Street and Gill Street, the building is planned as part of the eventual redevelopment of the whole site extending 236 feet down Gill Street. When completed it will enable the transfer of the present department store, retail business and offices from the present site in Frederick Street, which is no longer capable of entering for the expanding business.

Preliminary work in Gill Street has already started and the society intends to concentrate all its activities on the new site in the final development.

Tenders are now being called by the architects, Messrs. Porter and Martin, of Wellington, who are to use advanced methods of design and construction.

## THREE FLOORS

With a depth from street to street of 276 feet the structure will have a frontage of 83 feet in Devon and Gill streets. Each of the three floors planned covers half an acre, giving a total area of about 70,000 square feet.

In Devon Street only two floors will show, as Gill Street is a floor height lower. The change of level will allow vehicular access to the basement at Gill Street level.

To give greater emphasis to the main street front a canopy is to be constructed on the roof, covering a large sign on a metal frame. The building will be floodlit at night and a beacon 70 feet above Gill Street will act as a landmark.

Included in the basement will be a small display area at the Gill Street end and storage and loading bays. There will be a general sales area on the Devon Street level, and on the first floor offices for the society and an extension of the sales area.

With special attention being paid to the design and layout of the retail area, emphasis is to be placed on customer convenience and attractive display. The departments will include grocery, household appliances, crockery and china, hardware, refrigeration, horticulture, farm clothing, produce, seeds and fertilizer.

To stop 16 feet short of the Gill Street face, the main floor will open up to a large display space for large machinery on the floor below at the

Gill Street level. The main retail floor can be approached from Gill Street by way of the display space and two symmetrical flights of stairs will lead from it to the main floor.

Of the sales floor a feature will be the main staircase to the storey above. This stair, in two flights, is to be constructed in fully cantilevered concrete with one flight suspended from the top slab and the lower flight springing from the lower floor slab. Supported on a single beam, the treads will be only two inches thick.

Modelled on American lines, heating, ventilation and lighting systems, which are claimed to be the finest of their kind in New Zealand, will give the highest standards of comfort to customers and staff. Generally, built-in fluorescent lights will be used though many specialised fittings are being designed for the job.

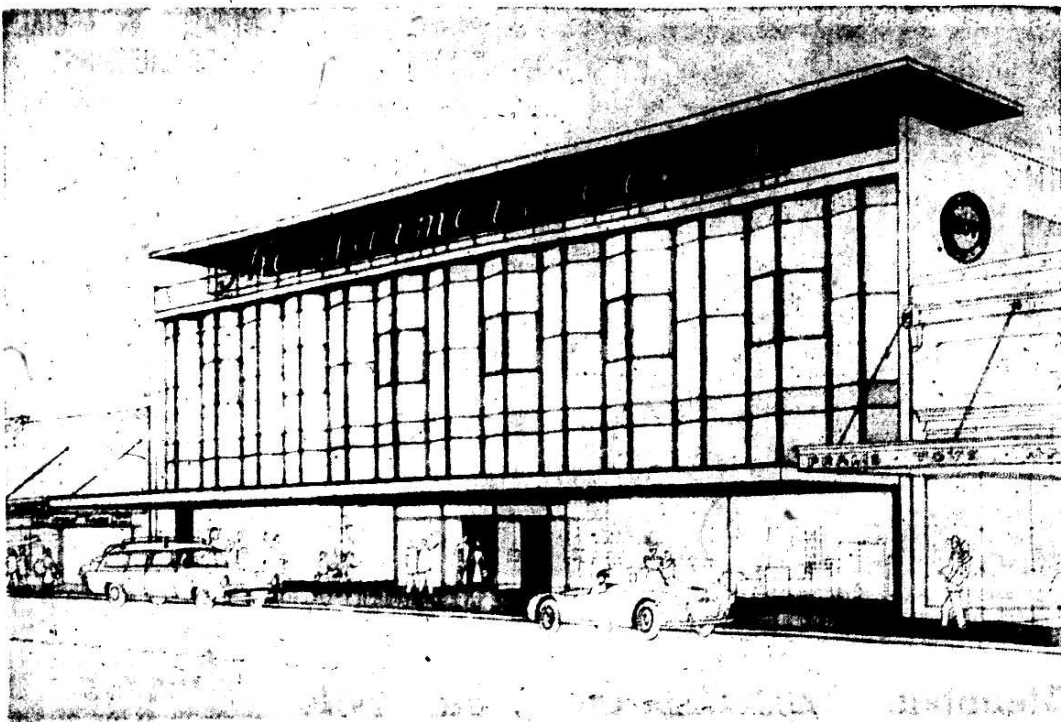
Lifts and hoists will give quick service to the upper floors from the basement which will be used mainly for storage. Loading bays for 10 trucks are open to a turning area so that there will be no manoeuvring of trucks in Gill Street. A ramp at present under construction will give access to further truck docks at the sales floor for loading parcels delivery trucks.

Messrs. Don Bruce-Smith and Associates of Wellington are structural engineering consultants for the building which will be constructed of reinforced concrete with large span beams and with columns resting on a bored pile foundation about 27 feet deep. Adequate strength has been allowed for the construction of a further floor.

Special glues will allow mullions to be used externally in great lengths without fear of movement on the Devon and Gill Street frontages. Aluminium framed windows are to be fixed to the mullions and glass with clear or obscure coloured glass.

Extensive use will be made of laminated timber for mullions, removable partitioning and fitted ceilings. New techniques will allow office partitioning to be erected without nailing or screwing so that units may be moved without damage to the floor and ceiling.

To allow for complete flexibility, heating and lighting units, electric power and telephone outlets are



ARCHITECTS' DRAWING of the Devon Street frontage of the new department store planned for New Plymouth by the Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society of New Zealand, Ltd. The building, which is to extend through to Gill Street, has been designed to be the most modern store in New Zealand.

## OVERSEAS ASSOCIATION TAKES HONOURS

All the sporting honours went to the New Plymouth Overseas Association when they met the Wellington New Settlers' Club in a number of team games on Saturday. The series began with a women's soccer match and ended with indoor games at night.

Scores were: Women's soccer 3-nil; men's soccer 6-1; indoor bowls 19-4; darts 3-nil; table tennis 11-1.

## NEW PLYMOUTH DOG'S SUCCESS

First placings in the limit and junior classes and the non-sporting junior stakes, and second place in the Colonial-bred class, were obtained by "Glenmark Bright" (Princess), owned by Mrs. M. R. Mitchell, New Plymouth, at the Hawke's Bay dog show in Hastings last week. The judge was Lieutenant Colonel H. F. Whitehead, of Scotland, who is visiting New Zealand.

planned on a standardised grid so that all building services will be available to any possible re-subdivision on the areas.

## CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT

CHRISTCHURCH, Sunday. (P.A.)—The seat which the Mayor of Timaru, Mr. R. E. White, took on the Lyttelton-Christchurch steamer train collapsed under him.

A few hours later, at a meeting of the executive of the South Island Local Bodies' Association, he described the train as the most dilapidated he had ever seen.

For thousands of people that train was their first introduction to the South Island, and he felt that it gave them the worst impression possible, said Mr. White.

"We've been fighting a lone battle on this for years," said the Mayor of Lyttelton, Mr. F. G. Briggs. The centennial train, the "Spirit of Progress," was formed of 60-year-old cars from the Hutt Valley, and even that had been taken off the run.

It was the best-paying line in New Zealand, said Mr. Briggs, and yet it was equipped with shocking carriages.

## Hamilton team wins shooting trophy

Bad weather affected performances on Saturday and no possibilities were shot in the two main matches of the New Plymouth Gun Club's two-day shoot during the weekend, but conditions were better yesterday. Competitors from many parts of the North Island took part.

The teams match for the major trophy, the Egmont Shield, and medallions was won by Hamilton, with a score of 97.

Results:—

Eye-opener (10 birds): Possibles were shot by R. Cavanagh (Rotorua), J. Hammond (Mangotaki), R. James (Auckland), E. Benton (Te Awamutu), W. Simson (Waverley), Coronation Cup (25 birds, off 18 yards): B. Mitchell (Ohaupo), C. Darroll (Morrinsville), E. Benton (Te Awamutu), all shot 24; shoot-off, B. Mitchell 1, C. Darroll 2, £100 open (25 birds): A. Corbett (Eltham), 29 points, 1; W. R. Robinson (Hastings), R. James (Auckland), D. Mitchell (Ohaupo), I. Brogden (Hawera), 28 equal, 2; £1 sweepstake (15 birds): Possibles, W. R. Robinson (Hastings), R. James (Auckland), E. Benton (Te Awamutu), C. Hudspeth (Kaikohe),

## Rae equals record

AUCKLAND, Sunday (P.A.)—The New Zealand 100 and 200 metres Olympic games contender, M. L. Rae, equalled his national 100 yards record recent of 9.7s and ran 75 yards in 7.55s in his first competitive outing for the season at an open athletic meeting at Kumeu yesterday.

N. Scott, Olympic nominee for the 1500 metres, won first place on handicap and gained fastest time in the 2 1/2 mile steeplechase with an even-paced 10m 19s.

Miss B. Weigel, Olympic broad jump nominee, finished third in the 75 yards and 100 yards events off short marks.

I. Brogden (Hawera), B. Donald (Wanganui), Eye-opener (10 birds): 17 possibles, £100 open (30 birds): M. Otway (Te Awamutu), R. Cavanagh (Rotorua), N. Hanson (Palmerston North), possibles, £75 trophy: M. Otway (Te Awamutu), A. Byrne (Auckland), C. Hudspeth (Kaikohe), J. Tecofsky (Hawera), A. Uttinger (Cambridge), possibles; shoot-off, A. Uttinger 1, C. Hudspeth 2, A. Byrne 3. Double rise (10 pairs): R. Cavanagh (Rotorua), E. Benton (Te Awamutu), C. Lane (Marton), 18 breaks.