



The old fire station at New Plymouth.

Decision Soon On Old Fire Station

The New Plymouth Fire Board is still awaiting the result of an application to the Fire Services Council to take possession officially of the old New Plymouth fire station.

The board secretary, Mr R. J. Grey, said yesterday he expected the application to be discussed at the next meeting of the council, sometime next week. He said he hoped its decision would be in the

hands of the board before the end of the month.

The chairman of the board, Mr F. S. Grayling, was unavailable for comment, and Mr Grey was reluctant to disclose any plans the board held for the idle building.

The land and building are owned by the board but permission is necessary, to use the land or building for purposes completely divorced from fire brigade activities.

Since the new station was opened in September, 1965, the former headquarters, on the opposite corner of Liardet and Courtenay streets, have been leased to a number of firms and organisations for short terms only.

The board was limited to short leases because of the likelihood of a nearly reply from Wellington, said Mr Grey.

It was used as headquarters for the New Plymouth Lions Club for one month during an appeal, and briefly as a storage space for new cars belonging to a city motor retailer.

Its most recent task was

the housing of several ancient fire appliances seen on display in the brigade's centenary parade in Devon St., New Plymouth.

The station was constructed during the early years of the First World War and officially opened on July 13, 1915.

Polynesian Studies

P.A. Auckland. Two archaeological expeditions financed by the Bishop Museum of Howick will leave Auckland in December and January for Tonga and Western Samoa.

They are part of a co-operative venture in which the Bishop Museum, the Fiji Museum, Auckland University and the New York State University are taking part.

Their aim is to undertake linguistic and archaeological research into Polynesian races.

Two lecturers from Auckland University's Department of Anthropology, Mr F. W. Shawcross and Mr L. Groube, will head the 13 Auckland and Otago University students going to Tonga.

Dr R. C. Green, associate professor of anthropology, will be in charge of the expedition to Samoa.

Telephone Demand Growing

P.A. Auckland.

The demand for telephones in New Zealand was growing three times faster than the total population increase, the Postmaster-General, Mr W. J. Scott, said yesterday, when laying the foundation stone for the new £419,000 Henderson automatic telephone exchange due for completion in three years.

"We have reached the stage where the telephone is regarded as an essential in virtually every home in New Zealand," he said.

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