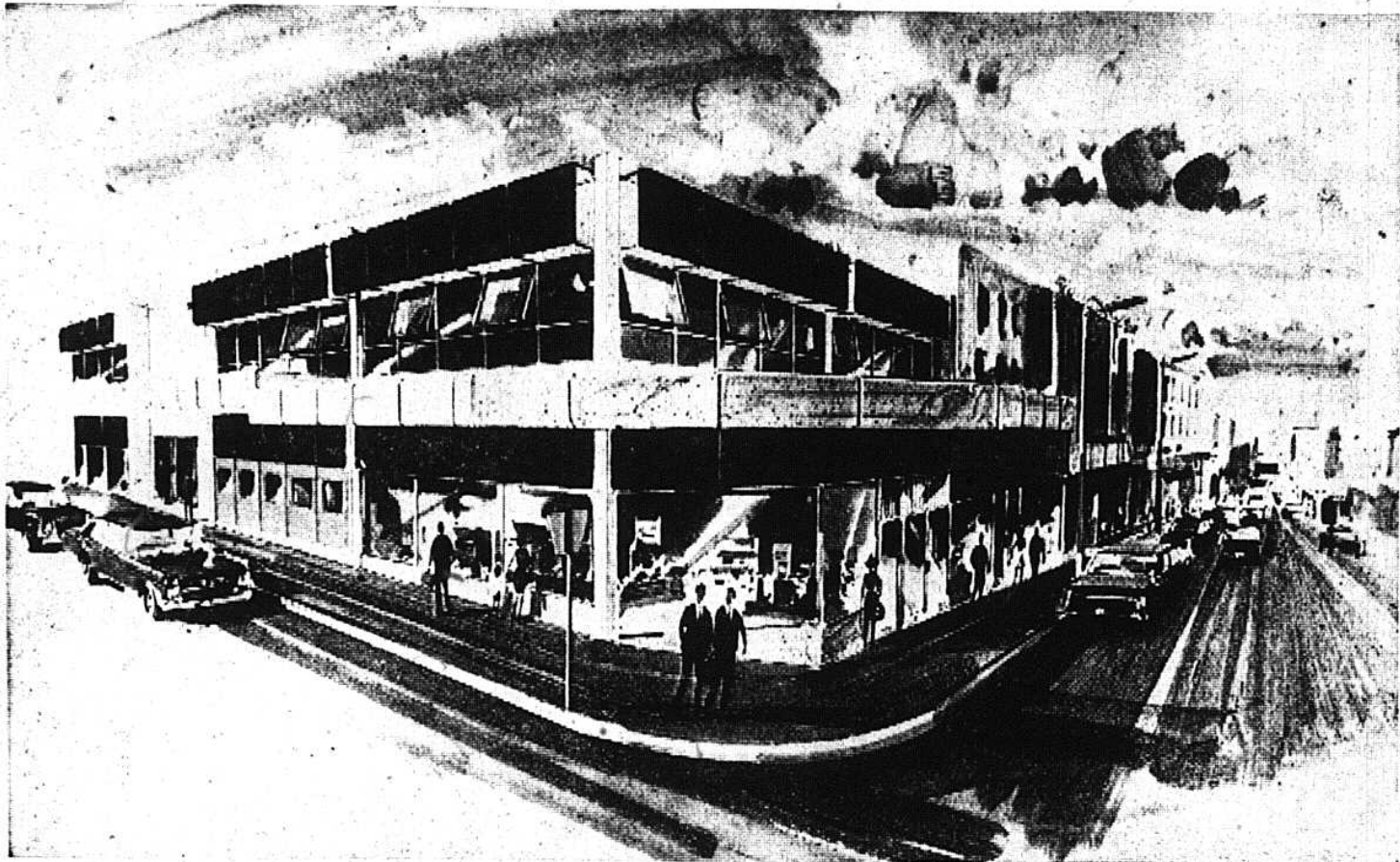


ON THE SITE OF THE IMPERIAL



TENDERS will be called for this new Imperial Building in Devon St, New Plymouth, when demolition of the old Imperial Hotel on the site is complete in about two weeks. Construction of the new building will then begin straight away.

A representative from Doyle and Cramp Ltd, the Auckland property development firm which will own the building, said today that construction should be finished by August this year. The building will be two-storeyed, with a total floor area of 4000 sq feet.

The top storey will be rented out as offices, and the ground floor let as shops.

The building has been designed by the firm's architectural division.

No estimated cost will be released until after tenders are called.

● The picture shows Devon Street on the right, and Currie St on the left.

STRIKE CAUSING PROBLEMS

CHRISTCHURCH. Today (NZPA). — A five-week-old rolling strike at a Bell Block metal extrusion factory is causing major problems for manufacturers in other cities, and has cost one Christchurch company more than \$500 a week to arrange an alternative source of supply.

The Christchurch company has been forced to buy from Australia, but is faced with paying duty of more than \$500 a week for the imported materials.

The Minister of Labour, Mr Watt, has been called in to the dispute at McKechnie Brothers Ltd, but no settlement has yet been made. The director of the Canter-

Drop in fees for hobby classes forecast

A drop in fees for hobby classes is likely in New Plymouth following the Government's decision to re-instate grants for the classes and remove the requirement for participants to contribute towards the cost of tutors' salaries.

Education officials here indicated today they thought this would be the effect of the Government's decision, which is to be considered at the next meeting of the New Plymouth High Schools Board on Monday.

Fees for classes now running at New Plymouth Boys' High School, Girls' High School and Spotswood College are \$12, a big jump from the old cost of \$2, but cheaper than some other centres.

WELCOMED
The chairman of the board, Mr W. M. Spedding, welcomed

an excellent move in the right direction. Hobby classes were a valuable way for schools to become a centre for adults in the community and definitely filled a cultural need.

The principal of New Plymouth Boys' High School, Mr G. R. Cramond, would not comment on the Government's decision, and the principal of Spotswood College, Mr A. L. McPhail, was not available for comment.

The Government move was announced yesterday by the Minister of Education, Mr Amos, giving permission for classes to be run at the same

therefore result in a substantial reduction in class fees," he said.

(Earlier story, Page 12)

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