

ATKINSON BUILDING CEREMONY RETIRING MP'S SERVICE PRAISED

The long service of Mr E. P. Aderman, retiring MP for New Plymouth, was praised at the laying of the foundation stone yesterday afternoon for the Atkinson Building, the city's £425,000 Government departmental building.

Before he laid the stone Mr Aderman said the building would be of great benefit to the city in many ways. It would also become a very significant landmark in the town.

The district architect for the Ministry of Works, Mr N. N. Carnel said the scheduled date for completion of the six-storey building was August 17, 1968.

"This is really a red-letter day for me in my capacity as chairman of the Government Office Accommodation Board," said Mr L. A. Atkinson, who is also chairman of the State Services Commission.

"I don't know when I have been so well placed in seeing new Government buildings on both sides of me.

"This problem of accommodation has been with us since World War II. In New Plymouth we have very nearly solved it.

"In the next five years we will see our office accommodation programme outside Wellington largely achieved."

Mr Atkinson said he was due to retire soon. He was not singing a swan song but a swan duet with Mr Aderman.

Mr A. L. Herdman, representing the Mayor, Mr A. G. Honnor, said that when the new building was finished and Robe St was widened, a considerable parking area would be provided.

Anyone who had an idea for the future of the Old Post Office clock could inform the city council,

who would willingly consider it.

Mr Aderman's long service deserved great praise. His door was always open to anyone with a problem to discuss.

"His Parliamentary career illustrates that politics, in its highest form, can be Christianity applied," he added.

Mr Aderman recalled that the Ministry of Works had planned 21 years ago to demolish the Old Post Office clock tower, and only his intervention with the Minister of Broadcasting, the late Mr Jones, prevented this.

Mr K. Roebuck, a director of the Roebuck Construction Co. Ltd, the contracting firm for the building, made a presentation to Mr Aderman.