

BELL TOWER FOR WESTOWN SCHOOL AFTER SIX YEARS

A bell tower to house a bell sent to the Westown school, New Plymouth, from Plymouth, England, is to be constructed as soon as suitable bricks are obtained. The bell has been stored for six years.

The Taranaki Education Board's architect, Mr. M. G. B. Harvey, was instructed by the board at its meeting to arrange for the board's staff to erect the tower in conjunction with the Westown School Committee. The board decided this after a deputation from the committee had been heard.

The chairman of the Westown Home and School Association, Mr. R. B. Jones, said that the association wished to start the work as soon as possible. A total of £200 had been collected in a house-to-house canvass some years ago, but the work had been delayed. Residents wanted to know when something would be done. Altogether the association had £400 available to meet the cost of the building.

Mr. Jones added that the association could not proceed with the provision of other amenities at the school until the tower was built. He sought the co-operation of the board to construct the building at the expense of the association. The job could be done for less cost by the board's workmen than if it were done by contract.

The chairman of the school committee, Mr. R. D. Yates, said that the tower was not eligible for a Government subsidy, although it would be a memorial to former pupils who were killed in the Second World War.

The deputation was told by Mr. Harvey that arrangements to obtain suitable bricks for the building had been in progress for a long time. A load sent to the board had been damaged, and in any case had not been of the right type. Mr. Harvey added that he was trying to obtain bricks from a Wellington firm.

It was agreed that ground improvements sought by the deputation would be done.
