

MANGOREI MEMORIAL HALL OPENED

400 people attend ceremony.

The new Mangorei memorial hall, the result of seven years of voluntary effort by the Mangorei community headed by the Mangorei Combined Districts Memorial Hall Society, and built on land donated by the late Mr. G. T. Mace, was officially opened yesterday afternoon by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. W. A. Bodkin.

The weather was unfavourable, but the large hall was packed by about 400 people.

The gathering was doing more than merely opening a public hall, said Mr. Bodkin. Most important in the ceremony was the dedication of the memorial to servicemen who had sacrificed their lives. He felt the most valuable contribution towards the memorial had been the voluntary service rendered by the men and women of Mangorei who had worked hard to bring the building into being.

Plaque, Roll of Honour

Unveiling of a memorial plaque and a roll of honour, bearing the names of Mangorei servicemen who lost their lives in both world wars, was performed by the Minister of Lands, Mr. E. B. Corbett, the Rev. Canon W. E. W. Hurst making the dedication.

It was his privilege to link a utilitarian hall with the humanitarian sacrifice made by the men who had lost their lives in their country's service, Mr. Corbett said. "We are living in an age when vandals of various kinds are about. I trust that this magnificent building will never be desecrated by those who have been protected by the men who made the supreme sacrifice."

As Mr. Corbett unveiled the roll and the plaque, Mr. Hurst dedicated the hall "To the glory of God and those whose names appear on these plaques."

"Intense Satisfaction"

The president of the New Plymouth R.S.A., Mr. R. D. Jamieson, expressed his association's intense satisfaction at the form the memorial had taken. "Nothing can take the place of the local hall in the life of a country community," he said.

It was the focal point of all community activity and it was most fitting that the memorial should be associated with a building which was to fill such a vital place in the lives of the Mangorei people.

The Mangorei community was congratulated by the mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, on behalf of the city of New Plymouth. "You have shown us a good example—we will have to follow you," he said.

Other Speakers

Representing the Taranaki County Council, the acting-chairman, Mr. A. Hall, spoke and Mr. E. P. Aderman, member of Parliament for New Plymouth, gave a brief address.

A short resume of the hall society's activities was given by its chairman, Mr. N. M. Ross, when he gave an address of welcome.

A prayer was conducted by the Rev. A. Ashwin and a reading, given by the Rev. E. T. Olds. Hymns were sung to the accompaniment of the New Plymouth City Band.