



Using bridge

Traffic used New Plymouth's new Waiwakaiho Bridge today for the first time, while work begins on relocating services under the old bridge carriageway. A Works and Development Ministry spokesman said the diversion, which began about 8 a.m. would last several weeks. Kerbing work was also being done on the old bridge. The new bridge should be available for permanent use from mid-April. A date for the official opening had still to be confirmed.

Defendant recalls paddock incident

In a signed statement taken on January 6 and read by Detective-Sergeant L. J. Shanks in the Supreme Court at New Plymouth today, Ian John O'Brien admitted his sole purpose in taking a girl (13) to a paddock at Eltham was to have sexual intercourse.

O'Brien's statement said complainant initially strug-

O'Brien, an Eltham cheesehand (31) is accused of taking advantage of a mentally retarded girl on January 5 and raping her.

O'Brien has denied the charge of rape but has admitted a charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

Mr J. A. Laurensen appears for the Crown and Mr R. J. Somerville and Mrs J. H. Talbot represent O'Brien. Mr Justice Barker is on

Yesterday the complainant told the court how she had been visiting her aunt and uncle in Eltham.

One evening O'Brien had visited and had asked her to meet him outside. She did so and they walked down a road into a paddock.

She asked him where he was taking her but he didn't answer.

Said nothing

O'Brien is then alleged to

around his neck. She didn't call out for help or scream.

However, when he had intercourse she "did not like him."

The girl's mother told the court that at the New Year's Eve party O'Brien had asked her daughter to have a drink. She told him her daughter was only 13.

Today Mr Shanks, Hawera, said O'Brien's statement denied asking complainant if she would

Seeking standard medical

Medical tests for permanent and volunteer firemen in the New Plymouth Fire Brigade's area differ little Deputy Chief Fire Officer F. H. Bishop said today.

He was commenting on a NZPA report that the New Zealand Fire Service's principal medical officer, Dr V. J. Treadwell, has advocated a standard medical fitness test for both types of firemen throughout the country.

Dr Treadwell outlined the proposal at the united fi-