

# Purangi Bridge Opened

## MR. GOOSMAN ON ROADS BOARD AID

WITHOUT assistance from the National Roads Board, there would be many local bodies today without any future whatever, said the Minister of Works and chairman of the board, Mr. Goosman, speaking at the opening of the Purangi bridge, 33 miles inland from New Plymouth, yesterday afternoon.

Many local bodies would have gone further downhill and their roads would have deteriorated more and more, he said.

The Minister cited the case of the Kawhia county, where the valuation was so low only £60 a mile was collected for roadwork. Of this £65 was taken up in administrative charges, leaving only £15 a mile for actual work.

"They had no future," he said, "and it is great to think that today we are able to go in and say we will rehabilitate their roads and fix up their outlets within a five-year period."

Mr. Goosman predicted there would be a queue for that type of work and it was liable to be a very long one before much longer.

The Inglewood and Stratford counties had found about £5000 towards the £38,000 Purangi bridge, which was quite a large sum to find out of rates. The roads board had contributed a high subsidy and they would be keen to continue them for bridges in similar circumstances.

### A HATER OF DUST

The Minister paid a tribute to the sealing work being done by the Inglewood county between Purangi and Inglewood. As a hater of dusty roads, he fully supported the principle that the sealing of roads should be placed before their reconstruction, even if it did not provide the perfect road. Dust was damaging and dangerous, it was as easy to pull up a sealed road as a metalled one and the cost of sealing would be amply recovered from its increased use.

Before the roads board was formed, 180 miles of main and State highway sealing were done in a year. Last year the board sealed 402 miles. Southland county, who had never done any sealing, covered 50 miles last year and would cover another 50 next year.

Mr. R. Hutchins, Stratford county chairman, said the new bridge was a vital link for the people of Purangi, and was in line with efforts to re-establish roads in the Whangamomona area.

The bridge strengthened the road

as a link between New Plymouth and Taumarunui, said Mr. A. J. Webb, councillor for the Inglewood county's east riding. Purangi was now only eight miles from a sealed road right to New Plymouth and only eight miles from the highway from Stratford to Taumarunui and the bridge was destined to carry a heavy volume of traffic.

Mr. O. Grant, Inglewood county clerk, told the gathering that in five years, £94,000 had been spent on bridges between Purangi and Inglewood. Other bridges were Tarata (£39,000 including £32,500 subsidy) and Manganui (£18,500, including £12,375 subsidy) and the total subsidy was about £77,000.

### SWING OF PENDULUM

In his early Parliamentary days, all the criticism had been directed at the fact that too little money was spent on roading in New Zealand, said Mr. E. P. Aderman, M.P. for New Plymouth. Now the pendulum had swung the other way; it had recently been said that the Minister and the roads board were spending too much on roads and bridges.

Mr. Goosman interrupted: I can put up with that.

Road transport was still the most vital and cheapest form of transport in the country, said Mr. L. A. Alexander, Clifton county chairman. This was particularly so in the delivery of fertilizers to such places as Purangi for aerial top-dressing work.

Other speakers at the ceremony, attended by nearly 300 people and held in the middle of the bridge, were Mr. W. N. Bertrand, Ngaitaru riding of Stratford county, Mr. N. H. Moss, national roads board member, Mr. N. F. Little, Automobile Association (Taranaki) president, and the chairman, Mr. F. Laurence, Inglewood county chairman.

Photographs of the new bridge were presented to the supervising engineer of the construction job, Mr. E. H. M. Adams, and the contractors, Messrs. McMullan and Julian. Mr. Laurence cut the ribbon across the bridge after the Minister had declared it officially open.



**BRIDGE OPENING:** The picturesque bush setting of the new Purangi bridge, opened yesterday afternoon, is shown in the top picture. Top right is Mrs. F. Laurence, wife of the chairman of the Inglewood County Council, cutting the ribbon during the ceremony and, bottom, is the Minister of Works and chairman of the National Roads Board, Mr. Goosman, speaking to the large gathering which attended the opening.

**Annoying:** People who shelter their feet while sheltering from the rain irritate a Nottingham shopkeeper. He has put up the notice: "If you use this doorway as a shelter please keep your feet still. If your nerves are so bad you cannot stand still see a doctor."



### AVERY CUP BOWLING

Results of Avery Cup Bowling matches played in New Plymouth are:—

Fitzroy v. West End B (Fitzroy names first): Boyle, Hamond, Coward, Barton 19 v. Hall, Hulbert, Rogers, J. Lobb 20; Loesch, Guthrie Farquhar, Summerell 12 v. Wilson, Kirk, Furby, Heslop 22; McHardie, Bevan, Sampson, Bunde 20 v. Adams, Creaves, Turnbull Kyle 14; Tuson, Kilpatrick, Cran, Williams 28 v. Evans, Morris, Patrick, Lord 12.

Fitzroy 19; West End B 68.  
West End A v. New Plymouth  
West End names first: Skelton, P. Knight, Cawthray, McCowatt 14 v. Birch, Davis, Des Forges, Marsh 17; G. Knight, Keating, Pavitt, Adlam 18 v. Morthead, Hatcher, Corrigan, Holland 18; Smith, Curtis, Willis, Casey 20 v. Insull, Exley, Menzies, Johnson 21; Gilbert, Lee, Billing, Hall, 10 v. Burkitt, Rutherford, Black, Norris 27.

West End A 62; New Plymouth 83.

### MR. HOLLAND TO MEET EMPEROR

**WELLINGTON, Thursday (P.A.).**—The Prime Minister, Mr. Holland, is to have an audience with Emperor Hirohito of Japan on June 1 and will later be the Emperor's guest at Ise-ken.

The meeting with the Emperor will take place on the third day of Mr. Holland's seven-day visit to Japan.

The invitation for him to make the visit was conveyed to Mr. Holland by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Ichiro Hatoyama, last year and it will be made during the New Zealand Prime Minister's journey to the London conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers.

Mr. Holland is to leave New Zealand on May 25, his last public engagement before departure being the unveiling of the parliamentary centennial memorial at Auckland the previous day. Members of Parliament are to be guests of Auckland local bodies for this occasion.

The Prime Minister will go to Japan by way of Australia and