

New St. Andrew's Hall Opened And Dedicated

Congratulations on behalf of the city, New Plymouth ministers and members of the Taranaki Presbytery were given to the members of the St. Andrew's Presbyterian parish when the St. Andrew's Hall in Courtenay Street, New Plymouth, was opened and dedicated on Saturday by the Rt. Rev. J. L. Gray, Moderator of the General Assembly.

The ceremony began with a service in St. Andrew's Church after which the congregation of more than 500, proceeded to the hall where the Moderator was handed the keys to open the door by Mrs. J. Blundell. The congregation entered the hall singing the 100th Psalm. The act of dedication was conducted by the Moderator.

New Plymouth needed such halls for the training of its youth, said the Mayor, Mr. E. O. E. Hill, when he congratulated the whole church on behalf of the city, for combining its resources to build the hall. He looked forward to the time when St. Andrew's Hall and other church halls combined in one Christian work.

The hall was a step in leading to the true welfare of the city, said Mr. E. P. Aderman, M.P., in his congratulatory speech. It was impossible for the Government to provide true welfare for the people 24 hours a day, it had to come from the individual or an individual organisation.

The hall alongside the church was an inspiring partnership, he continued, and he hoped that the principles from the church would seep into the hearts of the youth that used the hall, for those principles were higher than any needed by the law of the land and therefore the children would have a higher standard than the law required. That was the answer to delinquency.

It was a great step in the strengthening of the church's forces for youth work, the Moderator of the Taranaki Presbytery, Mr. J. C. Young, stated. Youth work was one of co-operation from everybody, especially the family, he continued, and not only the church. Although many accused the church of ramming its teachings down children's throats, it should be remembered that the church saw a child for perhaps one hour a week, only three weeks in the whole of its life.

The president of the New Plymouth Ministers' Association, Mr. M. N. Richards, hoped that through the hall the church would enter the life of the city's youth. Nowadays youth was shy of the church and it was through social gatherings that they could be influenced.