

MODERATOR TO OPEN PRESBYTERIAN HALL

DEDICATION SERVICE ON SATURDAY

The new St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall in Courtenay Street, New Plymouth, is to be opened on Saturday afternoon by the Rt. Rev. J. L. Gray, of Napier, Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly. The hall will be brought into use immediately.

The opening ceremony will start with a service in the church and there will be a procession to the new hall, where the Moderator will be handed the keys to open the door. A dedication service will be held in the hall.

The Rev. R. Byers, minister of St. Andrew's, said today that there would be a series of social functions in the hall during the week following the opening ceremony. The hall was practically completed, but there was still some inside plastering work to be done and until everything was finished Sunday School classes would not be held there.

Referring to the use of the hall by outside organisations, he said that they would be quite welcome to use it if they wanted it for a suitable purpose and if the hall was available. He thought, however, that the church had such a large number of its own organisations that would want to use the hall that it would not often be available to others.

HIGHER COST EXPECTED

The construction of the new hall was started just over a year ago. The main hall itself is about 40 feet by 50 feet. The walls are panelled with heart rimu half-way up.

When the hall was started it was estimated that the cost would be about £22,000, said Mr. Byers. Since then there had been a general wage increase and that price would probably be higher.

The church had funds amounting to £16,500 in hand. It was hoped to raise another £2000 by the end of the year, mainly from a fair in November, which last year realised £1000. A loan would have to be raised for the rest of the money.

The Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. E. O. E. Hill, Mr. E. P. Aderman, M.P., and Major C. H. Morley, president of the New Plymouth Ministers' Association, will be present at the opening ceremony.

Opposite the Presbyterian Hall, the building of another hall, the Whiteley Methodist Youth Centre, is expected to start shortly. Plans have been completed and tenders will be called at the end of this month. The centre, which will have a main hall with seating capacity for about 350, a basement, classrooms and a sundeck, will be built in Courtenay Street behind the Whiteley Methodist Church, with the entrance from Lizardet Street. The present old wooden hall will be demolished to make way for the centre, a parking area and three new shops facing Lizardet Street.

Mr. H. Moon First Life

Member of N.B.