

T.H. 5/7/1958

Post Office ready in a few weeks

NEW PLYMOUTH'S new £265,000 chief post office should be completed within a few weeks. The contractors, the W. Williamson Construction Co. Ltd. are now working on the completion of the ground floor, after having finished work on the two upper floors.

Most of the furniture and equipment required for the biggest Government building in Taranaki is being assembled at New Plymouth and it should be possible for the Post and Telegraph Department to commence installation within a matter of days.

The architect for the building, Mr. R. A. Syme, said today that the contract was due for completion by August 31. Work started in February, 1956.

Workmen are now putting the finishing touches to the ground floor—erecting the public desks, counters, and other ground floor fittings, and fitting out of the mail-room. These fittings, which have been prefabricated mainly in Christchurch, are being assembled on the job.

Tiling of the main entrance and steps has been completed, and the wide strips of concrete between the footpath in Currie Street and the frontage of the building have been laid. Along the Gill Street frontage, the footpath area will be sealed to the building walls.

UNUSUAL FEATURE

A feature of unusual interest in the main business section of the ground floor is the pastel-tinted lay-light ceiling. Sandblasted and

with acid etching, it depicts a Maori snaring the sun with a rope made of his sister's hair. Designed in Auckland, it is set under a perspex covering which, while allowing ample light into the ground floor, gives protection against the weather.

On the ground floor, linoleum has yet to be laid, but all floor covering and tiles have been laid on the first and second floors. The basement is also nearly completed. The work of lagging the hot water pipes is now in progress and the heating system is being run in ready for the opening day.

The New Zealand crest, which will dominate the entrance to the building is expected to arrive from the makers in the South Island within a few days.

EQUIPMENT ARRIVES

For the past three days truckloads of office desks, chairs, and other furniture such as filing cabinets and cupboards, have been unloaded in the former New Zealand Railway Road Services building in Devon Street East now used by the Post and Telegraph Department.

Mr. Syme said he could give no indication of the date on which the building would be occupied. He expected the builders to be finished by the end of August.

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