



THE REMAINS of the old Imperial Hotel as they were when the demolition contractor left the site today. The two open doorways provided access from Devon St to lavatories.

DEMOLITION COMPLETED

Demolition men moved off the site of the Imperial Hotel in central New Plymouth today with one major regret — they had not found a bottle of coins and information buried among the foundations by the original builder.

The existence of the bottle was confirmed by the builder's son today in a telephone conversation from his home in Whakatane.

Mr E. W. Bond (68) said his father, Mr R. W. Bond, had told him of burying a bottle of jar containing old coins and some written material under the original Devon St entrance to the hotel.

Mr Bond senior had asked his son to contact any firm working on the hotel in later years and tell him of the bottle.

"It's a pity they have not found it," Mr E. Bond said today. "The old place has been knocked about a bit in the past, and it is possible it has already been found."

THIRD STOREY

He was not sure of the date the hotel was built, but could remember his father's firm removing the original third storey when he was about four years old.

The reason was not clear, but he thought it might have been a bit heavy for its foundations and presenting too large an area to the wind.

His father built the three-storey hotel for £5000. An 1908 edition of the Encyclopaedia of New Zealand dealing with Taranaki, Hawke's Bay and Wellington confirmed that a Robert William Bond had built the Imperial Hotel and mentions specifically the fact it had a large party brick wall.

NO DATE

No date for the work is given, but it does say Mr Bond established his business as

the New Plymouth City Council engineer, Mr N. G. Harris, said his department would be inspecting the wall

Other buildings constructed by him included the Patea Freezing Works, the first brick structure in New Plymouth, the New Zealand Express Co's building; Messrs J. B. MacEwan and Co's

Such an inspection would be made after the council received an application for a building permit.

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MR R. W. BOND, builder of the Imperial Hotel.

building and the Technical School. He employed about 10 men and specialised in brick-work.

BRICK WALL

However, not all of Mr Bond's handiwork has gone. Much of the old party wall mentioned in the encyclopaedia still stands, and today no one could give a firm indication of its future.

The structure is partly free standing, partly the wall of the building next door.

Ownership is apparently shared between the owners of the Imperial Site, Doyle and Cramp Ltd, Auckland, and the owners of next-door building which houses Deares Ltd.

The brick wall is broken by boarded-up and open doorways, windows and ventilation holes.

In one section nearest to Devon St a large area is still sheathed in wall paper, and the back of a second storey fire place can be clearly seen above.

TENDERS

A spokesman for Doyle and Cramp said tenders for the two-storey replacement shop and office block would close on March 30, and building would start immediately.

He was not sure why would be done with the brick wall, but said it might be attached to the new structure.

He was sure the wall had been inspected by his firm's engineers and was quite safe. "It will all be covered up in the very near future," he said.

Tahiti re-elects reformist

(NZPA Reuter—Copyright) PAPEETE (Tahiti), Monday. — Francis Sanford leader of the Autonomous Reformist (centrist) Party, was re-elected to the French Parliament for the South Pacific Polynesian Islands, defeating the Gaullist candidate, Gaston Fosse, by 2366 votes. It was announced today. AFP reported.

Mr Sanford's re-election in the second round of the elections yesterday means that the Reformist movement now has 396 Members in the French National Assembly, and can become a full-fledged parliamentary group. With the Polynesian result now in, the elections for the 490 seat National Assembly, in which the Government majority maintains its control, is now over.

Mr K at pr

WELLINGTON, Today. — swift Government action was the Prime Minister, Mr Kirk,

At his Press conference this morning, Mr Kirk had been asked to comment on reported remarks by the president of the Manufacturers' Federation, Mr F. Turnovsky. Mr Kirk said that as Mr Turnovsky knew, the Government did not set prices, and not all price rises were merited.

What was needed was some restraint all round. It needed a determined effort to hold costs and absorb them.

Mr Kirk said the Government had prepared its price proposals and was close to announcing them.

ING WORKS UTE STUCK

Today, (NZPA). — Both sides in the deadlocked remained firm today, and the issue appears to be complete shut-down of the industry tomorrow night.

At the executive office of the Meat Industry Employers' Association, Mr J. Murray, says the employers are not prepared to bow down to such direct action tactics by the union.

He said the employers were prepared to go to conciliation any time, but during

September

guerrilla movement travelling in Europe, they said.

Their arrest on Saturday followed the arrest last Thursday in the French Alps of two Arabs driving a car carrying explosives.

Police said they seized a number of documents which might throw light on the Black September network in France.

Police said the two people arrested on Saturday, were believed to have been waiting for the arrival in Paris of the two Arabs arrested in the Alps who told police they had been planning to attack the Israeli or Jordanian Embassy here.

Boys sentenced for mugging

(NZPA Reuter—Copyright) BIRMINGHAM (England), Monday. — A Judge today ordered a 16-year-old to be detained for 20 years and two 15-year-old boys for 10 years each for a mugging attack on a man last November.

The eldest boy, Paul Storey, had pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of Robert Keegan (31) and robbing him of five cigarettes, 30 pence and a bunch of keys.

The other two boys, Mustafa Fuat and Joseph Duignan, pleaded guilty to wounding Mr Keegan with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Prosecutor Mr Patrick Bennett said the boys had agreed to "roll" Mr Keegan and that it all started as a bit of fun.

MINISTER OF EUROPE

Gave up fortune



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