

£4500 RAISED IN A DAY

Manaia hall appeal may reach £6000 goal

Less than six days after the Manaia town hall was partially destroyed by fire, and only 12 hours after collections began, £4528 had been subscribed at 8.30 last night.

This was all voluntary donations, including unsolicited sums from outside the Manaia district. The cash in hand last night did not include promised money still to come to hand.

The appeal committee last night expressed appreciation of the interest shown by people outside the district and by ex-residents of the town.

"The appeal was a civic matter and the manner in which it was conducted was in accordance with the high standard set in civic affairs," said a spokesman for the committee. The appeal had been confined to Manaia and the Waimate district, but sums had been received from as far afield as Wanganui, Taumarunui and Waitara.

Keeping Up Tempo

That the final total was £1500 short of the sum named at the public meeting as an objective for the appeal was due to the country area having been systematically canvassed by recent queen carnivals. Every penny raised in the Manaia appeal had been donated, not invested with the hope of some return.

The committee emphasised that the tempo at which the appeal had been launched would be maintained. "We will get the hall built as fast as we raise the money," said one committee member.

The cost of the appeal and the operation of the committee is estimated to be only 1d in every £100. All necessary work is being done by volunteers.

When asked about the possibility of a Government subsidy, committee members replied that no further official word had been received. The committee's attitude, however, was that the hall was going to be rebuilt in better form than previously and as soon as possible.

Indicative of the support the appeal received from outside districts was a letter from a Hawera businessman. It read: "Your committee is worthy of the highest commendation for their enterprise and high civic standard in confining the appeal to a one-day effort in your own district, without resorting to devious means of raising the necessary funds." The letter contained a cheque, as did many other letters congratulating the committee on its prompt action.