

HAMILTON.

The extent to which building operations are being carried on in Hamilton at present is shown by the value of building permits issued by the borough engineer, Mr. W. H. Stevens, during April and May. The figures were:—£54,171 10s, as against £19,162 for the same months of last year, an increase of £35,009 10s.

MASTERTON.

In spite of the high cost of labour and material, building operations are still very active in Masterton, both in respect to private residences and business premises. At no time in the history of the town has such animation been shown as during the last few years. During the year 1919 no fewer than 111 permits for building were issued in the town. For the first five months of this year the average has been still greater, no fewer than seventy-one permits having been issued up till June 10. These do not include the workers' dwellings. The value of the permits issued last year, and for the first five months of this year, was as follows:—1919, £62,505; 1920 (five months), £43,778. Should the operations continue as active during the next six or seven months as they have during the first portion of the year—and several large contracts are shortly to be let—the permits for 1920 should exceed £100,000 in value. It is safe to say that during the last three years, including the environs of the town, building to the value of nearly a quarter of a million pounds have been erected. A Masterton builder stated that he estimated the value of the buildings at present under construction within a mile of the Post Office at £50,000.

WELLINGTON.

A new Catholic school, St. Catherine's High School, has been opened at Kilbirnie at a cost of £2500 (including land). It is a reinforced concrete building with four class rooms 21ft. x 20ft.

Engineering Notes.

The Thames Harbour Board is seeking permission to raise a loan of £275,000 for the purpose of constructing an outer harbour and the necessary harbour works in connection therewith.

The Lyttelton Harbour Board is also desirous of borrowing the sum of £150,000 to be used in the construction of certain harbour works as follows:—Electric capstans, additions to wharves, electric cranes, and deepening the harbour.

A poll of ratepayers in Auckland was taken last month on the proposal to raise £50,000 for electrical extensions as recommended by the Mayor, Mr. Gunson. The engineer, Mr. Wyllie, is to be sent to United States and England to buy the necessary plant.

A poll was taken early this month in the Te Awamutu power district on the proposal to raise £120,000 for reticulation. The voters were unanimously in favour of the loan, no votes being recorded against it. The materials for the work are now being landed, and operations will be commenced at an early date.

The Mayor of Waikato has received the following communication from the Minister for Public Works relative to the electric supply to the hospital and to consumers in the main street:—'It is expected that the Department will be in a position later on to undertake this work either on its own account or on behalf of the borough, as the latter may

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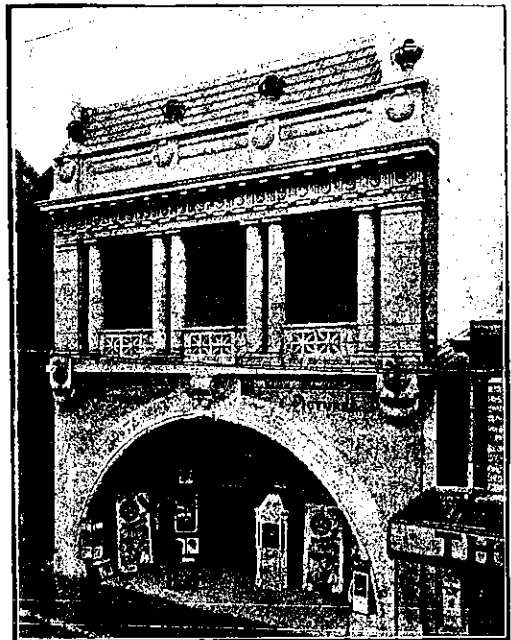
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