

# 1YA's New Mast Gives Auckland A Big Landmark

(By Our Auckland Correspondent.)

THE 500 foot steel mast to carry the aerial at the new 1YA broadcast transmitting station at Henderson is now completed. During the past week or so hundreds of people have gone out to Henderson to look over the new building housing the transmitting plant, but more particularly the building of the giant latticed mast which has been erected by Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited.

It was this difficult job which fascinated the many sightseers. The men working on the structure appeared as mere insects viewed from the ground. It was a veritable thrill to watch Mr. G. Ward, who is supervising the erection of the mast, riding on each triangular section as it was hoisted to the top to see that no damage was done by bumping the mast on the journey heavenwards. Before the sections are hoisted on the ingenious gear, made of Oregon pine spar, laminated and supported on the inside of the mast, a jib and a long wire rope passing down inside to a winch, the pieces of mast are fabricated on the spot in 18ft. panels. These are hoisted up and bolted into place.

As each new section is completed, the pole and jib are hoisted up another 18ft. Then the cycle of operations begins all over again. As the work proceeds, stays are erected at intervals. However, the last 50 feet of mast were not stayed. The whole mast now rests upon a group of large porcelain insulators.

In order to provide a much needed rest for the workmen, inside the mast a ladder with a platform is built at every 120 feet. The trip up to the mast and down again is made by the workmen in a "boatswain's chair" on the end of a rope. As was previously stated in the "Radio Record," the aerial to be used will be of the "umbrella" type. This consists of a series of conductors radiating downwards from the mast-head to supports placed at a distance on the ground. With such an aerial a stronger wave is transmitted than by the old type suspended between two high masts.

So high is the mast that it can easily be seen from Auckland, particularly from the North Shore and Kohimarama. Last week Auckland lost a high land mark when the useless sheerlegs at Devonport were dropped, but it has now gained a much higher one.

