

ROTORUA.

Tenders were called early this month for the erection in wood of two hospital wards, officers' and orderlies' quarters, bath-house, workshops, etc., at Pukekura Hill, Rotorua, for the Defence Department. Plans and specifications may be seen at the Defence offices, Auckland and Palmerston North, Tourist office, Rotorua, and the office of the Director of Works, Railways Head Office, Wellington.

THAMES.

Tenders were invited early this month for alterations and additions to the Thames Police station.

TIMARU.

The Timaru Presbytery have purchased for £3,000 Mr. E. A. Le Cren's property in North street, for the purpose of a Presbyterian orphanage for South Canterbury. The section contains 1½ acres of land, beautifully laid out in lawn and garden, and on it is an almost new brick house of 10 rooms. The purchase was made after the property had been inspected by the Rev. Frank Rule, of Christchurch, who pronounced it ideal for orphanage purposes.

WAIKARA.

A project is afoot for the erection of a Casualty ward and Maternity Home for Waipara.

WELLINGTON.

Tenders are being called for the erection in brick and concrete of a new factory for Hamilton's New Zealand Welling Co. in Waterloo Quay.

Tenders are being called by the Public Works Department for a police station at Island Bay.

The new Five Brigade Station in Constable street is now likely to become a reality. A tender has been let to Messrs. Trevor Bros. for the erection of the station building, and it is hoped by this time next year the station will be fully equipped.

Large office and factory premises are being erected in Dixon street, for the Christchurch firm of Messrs. H. Berry and Co., salt and spice merchants. The front of the building will consist of three storeys and a basement, and the back building (the factory) with two storeys in height. The contract price is about £9,000.

Recently tenders were invited by the Labour Department for the building of six houses for workers on the Marama Flat, Kibbirua. After Cabinet had authorised the expenditure, a contractor whose tender had been approved asked for an increase of about £60 on each house over the amount that he had quoted in March last (about a 10 per cent. increase). He stated that this request was due wholly to the rise in cost of materials, and that his profit would be the same as it would have been on the original basis, if materials had been available at the prices in his estimates. The Department declined the request. Negotiations are now in progress with another builder.

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