

PORT NELSON NEWS.

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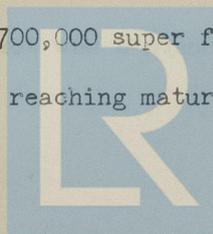
We can look back with pride and satisfaction on the completion of another very successful fruit season in 1953. By the increase in the Board's fleet of Fork Lift Trucks; and with the co-operation of the Marketing Department, the transport operators, the fruitgrowers and the waterside workers, the palletisation of the whole crop was made possible. Under this process the cases of fruit were not handled individually from the time of leaving the growers' sheds until reaching the vessels' holds. The consequent improvement in turn-round of both land and sea transport, the avoidance of congestion on the wharves, the ability to use storage space to the utmost advantage, and the loading of fruit in the best possible condition, gave the feeling of achievement in a job well done.



M.V. "PORT JACKSON" at NELSON MAY 1953

The overseas vessels "Darro", "Columbia Star", "Nelson Star", "Port Jackson" and "Gloucester" loaded 440,961 cases of fruit as well as 1766 tons of meat etc., a total direct shipment for the season of 19,404 tons. Coastal vessels lifted 236,975 cases of fruit, while at the outport of Mapua the Board handled 474,500 cases, all of this was in addition to the normal general cargo trade.

The first timber shipment to Australia is scheduled in June with the "Basra" loading approximately 700,000 super feet of softwoods. With Nelson's vast timber resources now reaching maturity, this trade will become increasingly important.



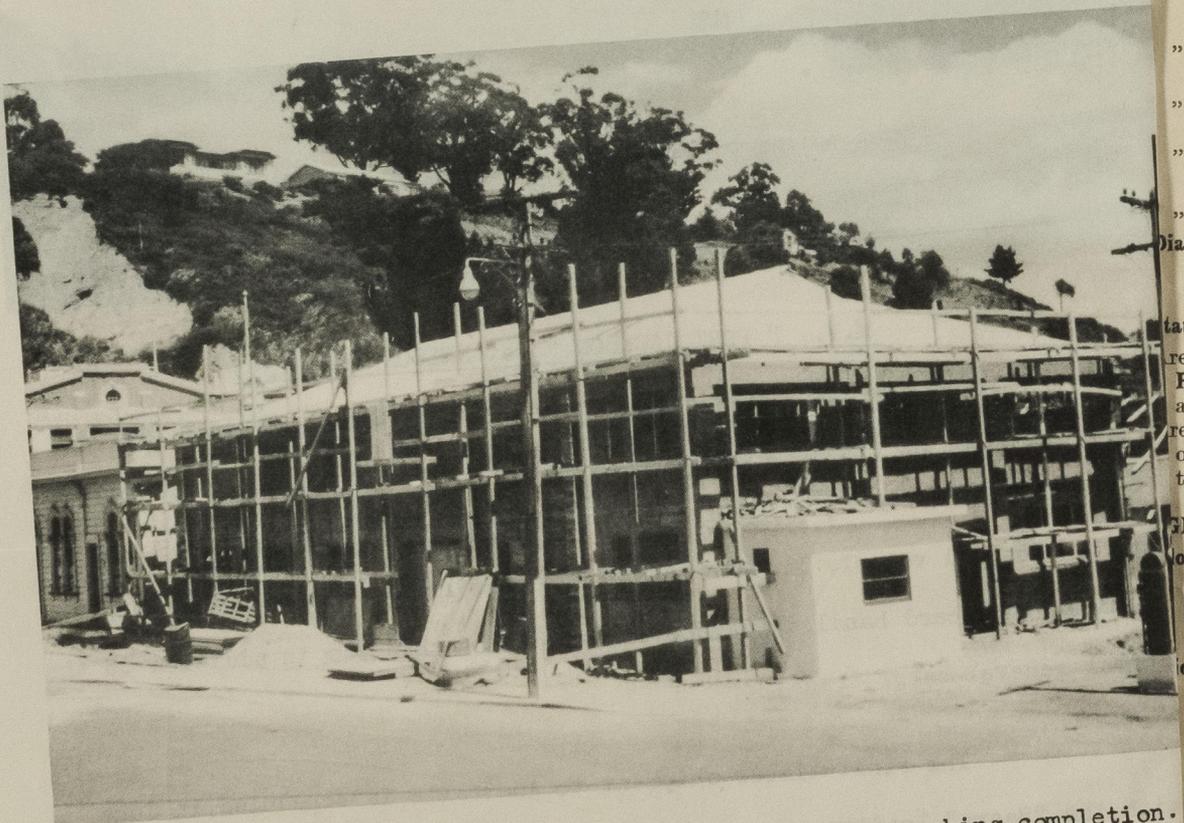
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Named "Karitea" by Mrs A.R. Kingsford, the Board's Suction Dredger was launched on 17th March 1953. The "Karitea" is now being fitted out in preparation for operations expected to commence shortly. This Dredger will widen and lengthen the swinging basin and at the same time reclaim over 100 acres of mudflat to the north of Haven Road. Progress reports on this work will be featured in the "Port Nelson News" from time to time.



The Board's new Workshop Block is now reaching completion.



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