

Another company is about erecting a 5-stamper battery at a reef about five miles distant from the Golden Ridge, with every appearance that the enterprise will ultimately prove a financial success.

A company formed in Wellington are now working a seam of coal situate on the Native land on the western shore of the inlet. The seam is about 5 feet 6 inches thick, with a tendency to increase, and the coal is of excellent quality for household purposes. A small annual supply has been obtained from the district and sold in the Nelson market for many years past; but it is only now that any practical attempt has been made to develop the seam, and the present company have succeeded in proving beyond doubt that an extensive coal field exists in the locality, capable of supplying to a considerable extent the whole colony with a first-class household coal.

Coal abounds in other parts of the district, chiefly in inaccessible localities.

The total population of the district on the 3rd March last was 31.

I enclose herewith the statistical returns in accordance with your circular letter No. 217, of the 14th June.

I have, &c.,

ALEXANDER MACKAY,
Warden.

The Under Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.
