



At Stockton electric locomotives haul the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton "tubs" of coal from the mines to the "bins."

Zealand has a branch in this same street—a reminder, no doubt, of the days when the district was an important gold-mining area, and Charleston, now a one hotel "ghost town," had fourteen thousand inhabitants and nearly a hundred pubs. None of the banks have rebuilt for many years. This is significant too. The "good old days" are over, but "old identities" sitting on the window-sills of shops and, contemplating the rain, dream of them. No more do roistering miners from the "diggings" bring with them all the glamour of quick wealth. The coal-miners are paid fortnightly, and on "pay Saturday" Westport becomes very animated indeed. The difference on "back Saturday" is very marked. The completion of the Buller Gorge, railway, by removing Westport's sense of isolation, has shed the harsh light of reality upon the romantic dreams of the "Golden West." The search for gold is now a prosaic matter of dredging, an enterprise requiring large capital, and there are few dredges in the district.

Architecturally, Westport differs very little from other towns of approximately four thousand inhabitants save that most of its buildings are older. In the main street are new public buildings such as the County Chambers and the post-office, rebuilt after the Murchison earthquake of 1929, when the town was

severely damaged. The Buller Hospital is large but rambling, and the best architecture is in the technical high school, on the outskirts of the town. The local library is centrally housed in a solid, if rather depressing, brick structure. It is in need of almost everything but so far the alertness and vigilance of the rate-conscious folk have prevented the Country Library Service doing anything about it.

The town, as a whole, is flat and well planned. All the streets are wide, recently tar-sealed, and they intersect at right angles. There are few blind streets, but there is little attempt at beautifying a town which lends itself so admirably to that purpose. The esplanade, with the possibility of being one of the finest river-side walks in New Zealand, is overgrown and neglected, a children's playground is still under consideration, and the domain at the south end of the town is not a frequent resort of citizens. Yet it is a little gem of unspoiled native bush.

Westport is a town of young people, perhaps because mining is the essential of essential industries. So the dances at Westport, although "over-girled," do not reveal that fierce competition for men that is seen elsewhere. These young men, too, are the present holders of the Seddon Shield, emblem of superiority in football for the districts