

The statistical returns show that there are 490 water-races, of an aggregate length of 379½ miles, registered to carry 1,307½ heads of water, valued at £41,075; 250 tail-races at £13,248; 550 dams and reservoirs at £18,030; and 135 ground-sluiques at £7,500. These, taken together with the mining plant and machinery, estimated at £17,000, show the total value of mining property in the district to be £96,853 sterling.

Sittings of the Courts have been held regularly every three weeks at Westport, Charleston, and Lyell, and every six weeks the Court is appointed to sit at Murchison, but if there is no business to transact the Court is adjourned by the Receiver of Gold Revenue, who attends regularly every three weeks to transact business with the miners from the Matakitaiki, Owen, and other portions of the district in that locality.

I attach herewith return showing the total population, the cases disposed of in the Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts, the number of miners' rights, licenses, and registrations, &c., issued, the revenue collected at each office, and the estimated yield of gold.

The following is the return of cases in the Resident Magistrate's and Warden's Courts for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1884:—

—	Resident Magistrate's Court.		Warden's Court.	Totals.
	Civil.	Criminal.		
Westport ... ..	155	131	5	291
Charleston ... ..	12	12	11	35
Lyell ... ..	83	19	7	109
Murchison ... ..	13	2	1	16
Totals ... ..	263	164	24	451

The following is the return of revenue for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1884:—

—	Westport.	Charleston.	Lyell.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Warden's Department, Gold Fields ...	1,201 14 3	563 10 3	956 1 3	2,721 5 9
Ditto, Colliery Reserve ...	505 15 0	...	...	505 15 0
Resident Magistrate's Department ...	177 7 6	7 0 0	72 11 0	256 18 6
Totals ... ..	1,884 16 9	570 10 3	1,028 12 3	3,483 19 3

The following is the return of miners' rights, licenses, registrations, &c., issued during the twelve months ending 31st March, 1884:—

—	Westport.	Charleston.	Lyell.	Totals.
Miners' rights ... ..	188	275	166	629
Business licenses, £5 ... ..	1	...	2	3
Business licenses, £3 ... ..	2	...	5	7
Water-race licenses, 5s. ... ..	...	3	...	3
Water-race licenses, 2s. 6d. ... ..	71	202	89	362
Registrations, 10s. ... ..	10	3	11	24
Registrations, 1s. ... ..	95	610	47	752
Mining applications ... ..	49	217	80	346
Applications for gold-mining leases ...	9	2	1	12
Gold-mining leases granted ... ..	12	1	3	16

The following is the estimated yield of gold: Westport, 4,123oz. 13dwt. 4gr.; Charleston, 4,752oz.; Lyell, 3,400oz.: total, 12,275oz. 13dwt. 4gr.

The following is the estimated population: Westport, 2,832 Europeans; 11 Chinese: total, 2,843. Charleston, 831 Europeans. Lyell, 550 Europeans; 11 Chinese: total, 561. Murchison, 400 Europeans. Total population, 4,613 Europeans; 22 Chinese: total, 4,635.

I have, &c.,

W. H. REVELL,  
Warden.

The Under-Secretary for Gold Fields, Wellington.