

away the water to the present level of the workings. There is plenty of fall at hand to allow of the coal being worked back for some distance at a small outlay of labour.

81. *Evans's Pit, Wendon*.—(15/10/95): The last hewing done is on the south side of the paddock, where the stripping is from 10ft. to 20ft., and nearly all of it hard shale. The depth of coal at this particular spot is only from 2ft. to 5ft., and apparently on a high ledge. The stripping is neatly done and safe.

82. *McDonald's Pit, Greenville*.—(15/10/95): An open-cast in the bed of a small gully and stream, where the coal is hewn to the level of a very long open drain to same. Some coal was taken out below that level to the floor of the seam, but in consequence of the floor proving to be soft clay, the opening was filled and the bottom not touched since. A certain thickness of coal is now left underfoot to carry the teams up to the face of coal which is from 8ft. to 9ft. thick. The average stripping is about 7ft.

83. *Middlemiss's Pit, Greenville*.—(15/10/95): I learned that the owner was from home, and that the pit was filled up.

84. *Hunter's, Otama*.—(28/10/95): Hunter has again started in his old pit to get coal for his own use only. The stripping is from 16ft. to 20ft. for 2ft. of coal.

85. *Graham's Pit, Otama*.—(21/10/95): This is my first visit to this pit, an open-cast, which I found filled completely by a large land-slip of recent date. There are several places on this man's land showing where coal has been procured for many years past and the farmers in the locality supplied. Mr. Graham was from home at the time of my visit. The stripping, I think, must have been very deep. I therefore think it was a mistake not to have mined the coal out, assuming, of course, that there is a sufficient thickness of seam to conveniently work and leave a strong coal-roof. It would not require much labour and timber to open the mine in a new place, and work it in the way suggested.

86. *Mrs. Cross's Pit, Otama*.—(21/10/95): My first visit to this out-of-the-way place enabled me to add this and another new pit to my list. This pit is on the adjoining farm to Graham's and on the same side of the main road to the Otama Station, probably ten miles from Riversdale. The pit is an open-cast in the face of a terrace, where coal has evidently been hewn out for some years past. The stripping is about 15ft., and the thickness of coal about 10ft., including a band of 4ft. of rubbish in the centre. The rubbish has to be carted away. The pit is on a rising ground very handily situated for drainage, mining, and tipping into the drays at a very small outlay of labour. I think it more than likely that stripping will be discontinued, and the coal mined out at an early date.

87. *H. J. Marshall's Pit, Otama*.—(28/10/95): This pit is opposite and quite handy to the Otama Station, and is the third pit in the locality. It is like the others, an open-cast, and has been opened about three years and worked on a small scale, judging by the opening made to date. The coal is a clean seam 6ft. thick. The stripping will average 10ft. at present, and increase rapidly as the work advances into the hill. Marshall's man was working in the pit at the time of my visit. I understand that some of the coal now removed is sold.

88. *Maslin's Pit, Wendon*.—(28/10/95): The open cutting on the north side of the gully where stripping was going on at the time of my previous visit collapsed some time ago. A fresh start is now being made to open the pit at a higher level—the seam is vertical—but without timber the open cutting will again close in in the winter-time. The old workings on the east side of the gully are now closed.

89. *Perseverance Mine, Waikaia*.—(24/10/95): The water-wheel that was being fixed in position to do the pumping at the time of my previous visit was completed, but is not now working. They found there was not sufficient water in the summer-time to drive the wheel when it was most needed. An open drain fully 6 chains long from the river is now nearly completed to the coal-face. The drain starts at probably 6ft. above the ordinary water-level, which will admit of being deepened at any time if required. The deepest cutting—a chain or more in length near the coal—is 12ft. in places, in very hard compact sand that stands well. The coal-face is almost flush with a nearly perpendicular face 50ft. or 60ft. high, where sluicing operations were at one time carried on to uncover the coal. The coal dips slightly into the terrace, but the present level of the drain will, it is said, drain a considerable area of coal-floor. There are several sets of timber fixed at the head of the drain, and up to the coal-face, to keep the *débris* from the high face filling up the drain. There is already a tunnel 20ft. long by 10ft. wide made into the coal, which is in future to be mined out. There is at the face a 3ft. band of stone on top of 8ft. or 9ft. of clean coal. The stone band should make a splendid roof to mine under. There are 2ft. of coal on top of the stone.

90. *McIvor's Pit, Waikaia*.—(24/10/95): Scarcely anything has been done to get out coal since my last visit. The open-face is little altered. McIvor is at present looking for gold only a few yards from his coal-pit.

91. *Northcote's Pit, Waikaia*.—(24/10/95): The tunnel into the face of coal, by which the mine was inspected last year, is now completely buried with loose *débris* from a large slip from the high and nearly perpendicular face which was lately flush with the coal-face. The slip came down at the time of the last heavy fall of snow. Mr. Hill purposes at an early date sluicing most of this slip away, by which, no doubt, Mr. Northcote, with a little labour may get into his mine again.

92. *Hill's Pit, Waikaia*.—(24/10/95): The very high terrace-face of gravel at pit crumbled down considerably during last winter, and thus filled up the old opening very much above the level of the coal. It now looks a rather formidable undertaking for one man to clean out the old pit again. Mr. Hill, however, thinks he may do so after he has had time "to think over the amount of labour required to do the work." In the meantime he is stripping, by sluicing a quantity of *débris* off some coal, at another place on the north side of Northcote's old workings, where already a considerable amount of work has been done for very little coal. A good body of coal is said to exist handy to where sluicing operations are now being carried on.