

overcome the principal obstacles to exploration in New Zealand in that he "could walk barefoot through the bush, and live on fern-root." At the end of his journeys his digestive apparatus probably matched the soles of his feet. He discovered coal in those momentous days, and suspected gold.

In 1857 Mackay made the perilous journey along the coast from Cape Farewell to the Buller and on to the Grey. His reports led to the journeys in 1859 of the intrepid surveyor Rochfort, who completed the first detailed survey of the district. Rochfort discovered coal-seams near the mountain which bears his name and gold in many places, but did not let the latter detain him (or his assistants) from the surveying. He says, "The royal mineral was lying glistening in the sun and in such quantities as induced rather a mutinous spirit; my hands having a greater preference for the golden prospects before them than for the sterner duties of surveying." Yet they did not halt even for one day. Rochfort was duty incarnate—and how appropriately named. Does this turning of the back on fabulous wealth seem improbable? It happened! Haast made his way into the district in 1860. He discovered coal at a place he named "Coal-brook-dale" and gold in most of the rivers. He completed the survey of the area, made an excellent report on its geology, and added riders on botany and zoology. A man of parts evidently.

In 1860, too, some Maoris from the Buller showed Rueben Waite, store-keeper of Collingwood, samples of gold. He left at once for the Buller. Until 1862 the discoveries were rather overshadowed by those in Otago. **Then the rush was on!**

For a few years the diggings flourished, and Charleston, Addisons, and the Lyell were names to conjure with. Fortunes were made and lost. Now these romantic

places are memories—names—a large cemetery in a ghost town is all that tells of the golden days.

The visitor has the option of reaching Westport by service car from Nelson via the Hope Saddle; from Blenheim by following the Buller from its source in Lake Roto-iti; from Christchurch via the Lewis Pass; or from Greymouth by way of the "coast road." The scenic beauty of all these routes is well known. On the recently completed Buller Gorge railway, at Redman's Creek, is a bow-string arch bridge—one of the most beautiful in New Zealand. By whatever route the visitor reaches Westport he will arrive at the south end of the main street in which, as is typical of New Zealand small towns, all the business part of the community is concentrated. The streets are named after prominent statesmen, rather as Christchurch runs to bishoprics. Thus we have Palmerston Street (the main street) Bright, Cobden, Gladstone, Disraeli, Peel, Russell, and Derby (pronounced as spelt). New Zealand is represented by Ballance, Stout, Domett, and Stafford.

In Palmerston Street is one of the three major examples of civic enterprise, for it is magnificently lit by mercury arc lights. Another example is the splendid Borough Chambers—characteristically unfinished. The municipality runs its own toy hydro-electricity plant from its own private toy lake, but as the supply is not adequate extra power

must be obtained from the mine-plant at Denniston. In Palmerston Street are the town's two new motion-picture theatres, one of which opens only on Fridays and Saturdays. But a much more significant thing is that one of the two local breweries has gone into liquidation.

Practically every bank trading in New

