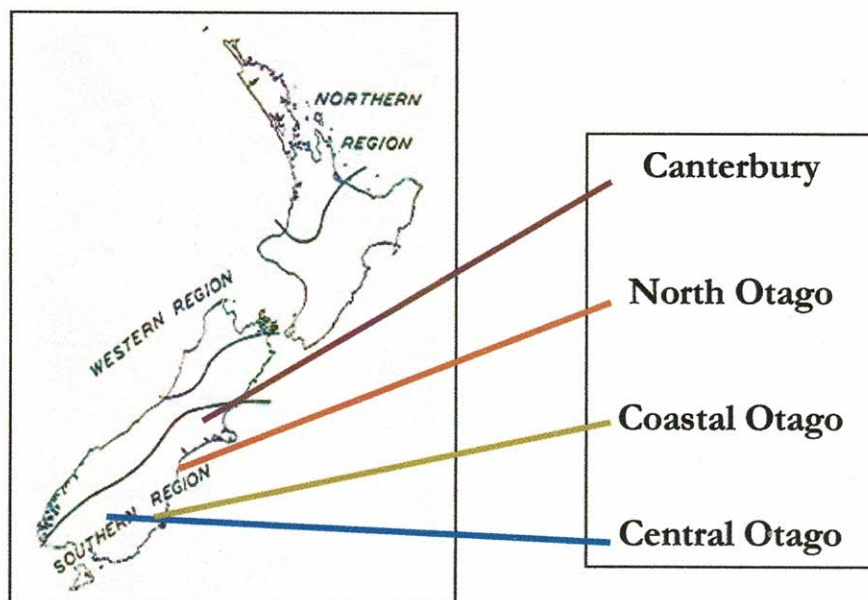


New Zealand - Otago & Canterbury Coal

New Zealand is divided into three **Geological Regions** for Coal deposits - Northern, Western and Southern. The **Southern Region** encompasses Coalfields in the Canterbury, Otago and Southland Provinces. This exhibit encompasses the Coalfields of **Canterbury** [Mount Torlesse, Malvern, Mount Somers], **North Otago** [Ngapara, Shag Point], **Coastal Otago** [Green Island] & the **Central Otago** Coalfields.



This **Otago & Canterbury Coal Exhibit** is complex as it combines many different elements - Postal History, Traditional Philately, Postal Stationery, Picture Postcards, Accounts & Invoices, Advertising, Industrial & Social History. These aspects are blended together to present the story of coal mining, the settlements and townships through postal markings. At Philatelic Exhibitions this exhibit could be in Open or Display Class or Postal History, Special Studies.

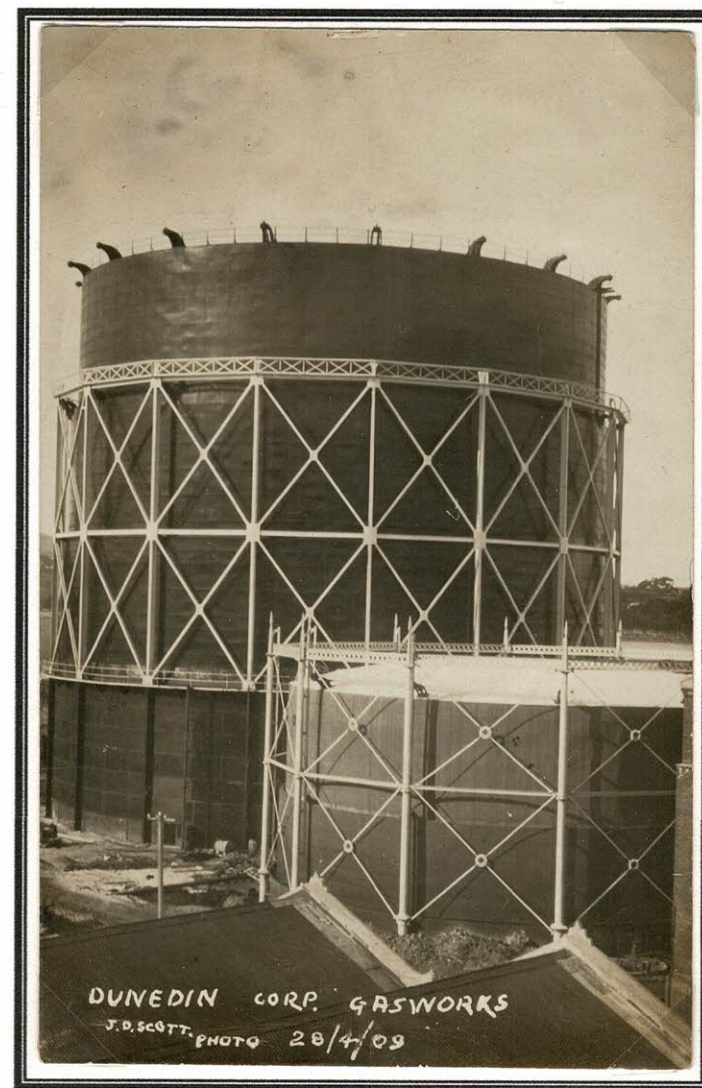
Coal was the driving force for industrialisation through the energy converted in the steam engine. It powered factories, railways, gold dredges and shipping. It provided power for expanding farming practices through traction engines. It provided heat for households - cooking and hearth fires. Coal gas provided light. Coal has been vital in the development of Society. The Canterbury coalfields contributed much to the development of Christchurch while the Green Island coalfield contributed to development of Dunedin.

The availability of philatelic material, in the widest sense, is dependent on a number of factors: the importance of the Coalfield and scale and duration of production; whether the activity was significant in the picture postcard era in the early years of the 20th century; how and where the coal was marketed and transported and especially the use of postal stationery to advise delivery by railways.

This is a unique exhibit and could never be duplicated.

Major References:

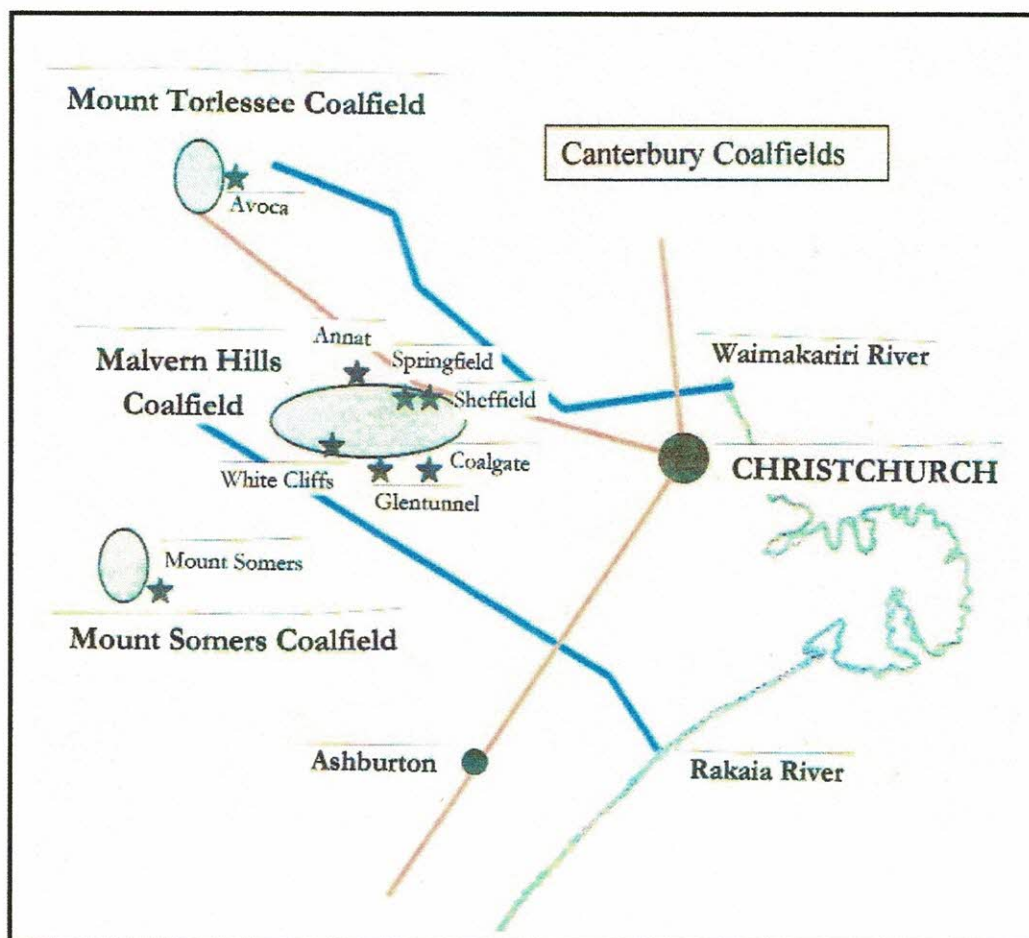
- *Mining Reports in Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives* 1876-1947
- *Economic Geology of New Zealand*. G LJ Williams, 1974
- *The Mount Somers Tramway 1886-1943*, J D Maffey, 1971
- *Coal, Class & Community*. The United Mineworkers of New Zealand 1880-1960. Len Richardson 1995



Dunedin Corp Gasworks
J D Scott Photo 28/4/09

Canterbury Coalfields

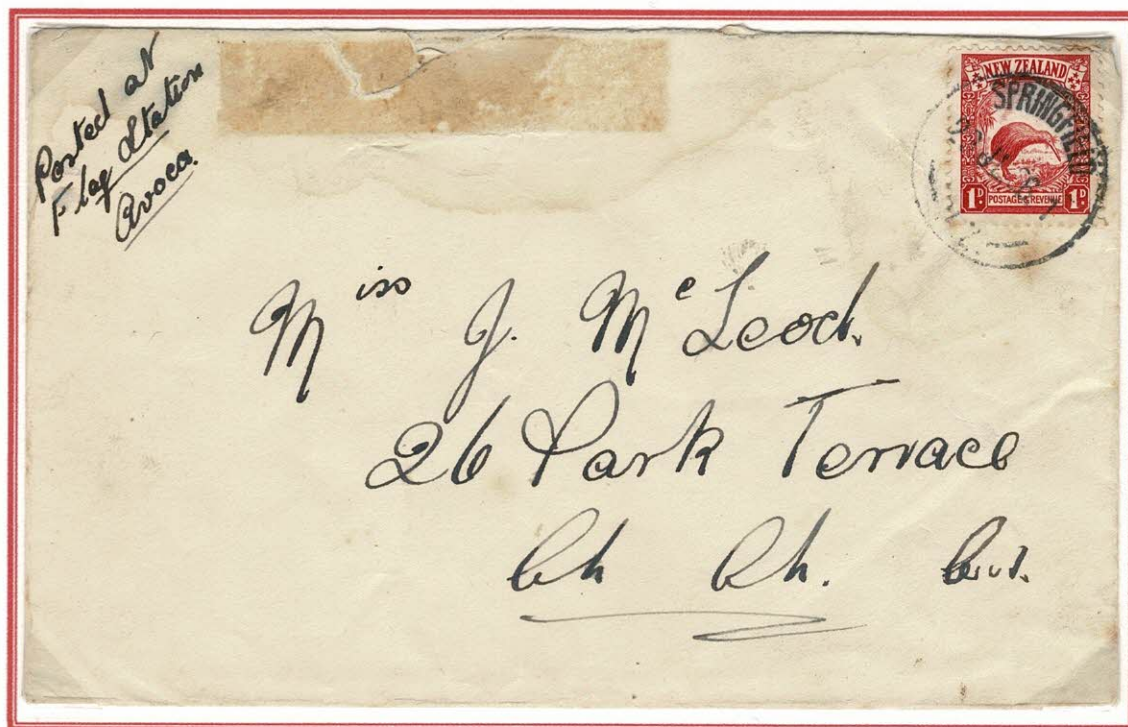
There are three separate Coalfields in the Canterbury area: **Mount Somers; Mount Torlesse; Malvern Hills**. The total production of the Canterbury coalfields to 1963 was **1,800,000 tons**. The majority of the output served Christchurch and mid-Canterbury areas. Coal had been worked in the Mount Somers field from 1860 reputed to be the third oldest in New Zealand.



Mount Torlesse Coalfield

Prospecting in this area commenced in 1907. Drilling proved a 13 foot seam of high quality coal, and by 1916 a 3½ mile railway was constructed from Avoca railway Station. A haulage tramway of 2½ miles was begun, machinery arranged and cottages built. High quality lignite and anthracite was supplied to the Christchurch market. Total production was over **74,000 tons** with the peak being **1920 with 16,000 tons** and 58 men employed. Closed 1928

The **Avoca Post Office** opened 20 May 1918, closing 9 January 1929. "J" Class datestamp used

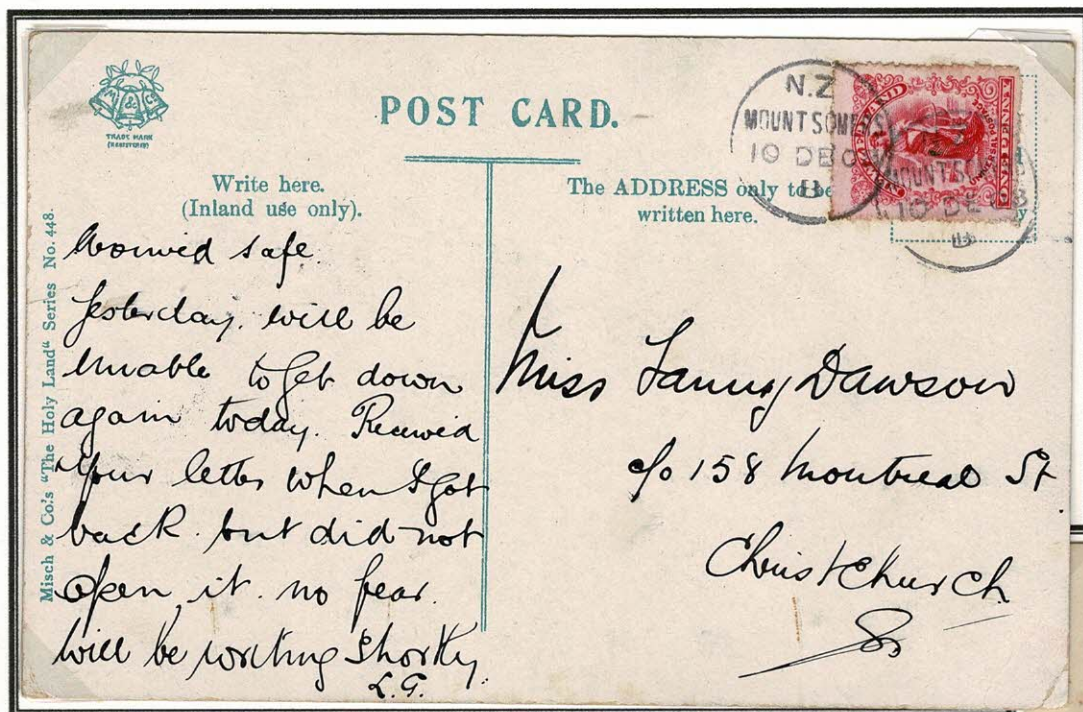


"Posted at Flag Station Avoca"
1d stamp cancelled Springfield 23 JL 38.

Flag Station mail was not regarded as "Loose Letter" is suitably endorsed

Mount Somers Coalfield

Coal had been used by settlers in the area since about 1858, A lease was bought in 1860 developing into the **Mount Somers Opencast** operated by the **Mount Somers Coal Company**. A **tramway** was constructed in 1886-87 to bring coal hoppers down to the Mount Somers Station siding, railway opened 4 October 1886, where the coal was transferred into railway wagons. The peak years were between 1901 and 1904. The Company was wound up in 1914. The **Blackburn Coal Company** became the major mine operator in the Coalfield. Total production to 1940 when the mine and tramway was closed was over **400,000 tons** - with major customers being Ashburton woollen mills, Christchurch Flour mill, Milburn Lime and cement company.



Mount Somers "A" Class 10 DE 08

"Cooks Blacksmith Shop Lyndhurst" real photo postcard mailed
Lyndhursts 9 MR 11. [Near Ashburton]
Blacksmith's used a considerable amount of local coal



Mount Somers Post Office
opened 1 July 1876 closed 1988.
Used "A" Class to 1915 then
"J" Class 25mm then
"J" Class 28mm until closed.



175 Cashel Street,
Christchurch,

191

We beg to advise having forwarded you.....
trucks number..... of.....
Coal ex..... which we hope will
turn out to your satisfaction.

Yours faithfully,
F. REDPATH & CO.

Edward VII half penny postal
card [issued 16 December 1907]
Advice card from Coal Merchant F
Redpath & Co

Stones directory confirms Redpath
as agents for **Mount Somers** as
well as imports from Australia



Malvern Hills Coalfield

Mining commenced in the Malvern Hills Coalfield in 1862. This was the major Canterbury field with more consistent coal seams and production. The coalfield supplied the local domestic market and the Christchurch domestic market. It was a major supplier to Industry such as pottery and brick works, grain processing and flour mills, freezing works, dairy industry, schools and hospitals. The **Christchurch Gas Coal and Coke Company** was a major customer and had its own mine at Springfield. The total production from over **50 separate mines 1862-1922 was 1,500,000 tons**. The peak years for most of the mines was before 1900. The major mines were at South Malvern, Springfield, White Cliffs, Sheffield, Glentunnel and Coalgate. Currently the **Coalgate Coal Mine** [owned by Bathurst] is the only mine in current production - opencast producing 100,000 tons for the dairy industry.

South Malvern; 5km NW Coalgate. Mining peaked 1884 with 21,000 tons and 63 men employed. Post Office opened 16 September 1879 and closed 9 August 1897. "A" Class datestamp used.



White Cliffs; 61 km W Christchurch. Mining peaked 1885 with 6500 tons and 35 men. The St Helen's Mine opened in 1880 and was worked out by 1913 having produced 23,312 tons. Post Office opened 1 January 1878, closed 1 January 1934. "A" Class datestamp and "J" Class

Springfield, 67 km W Christchurch. Mining peaked 1889 with 15,000 tons produced by 34 men. The Springfield Mine 1875-1914 produced 102,983 tons of coal. The Springfield Fireclay mine was owned by the **Christchurch Gas Coal and Coke Company**. Post Office opened 21 July 1879, closed 5 February 1988. Used "A" Class and "J" Class 25mm datestamps.

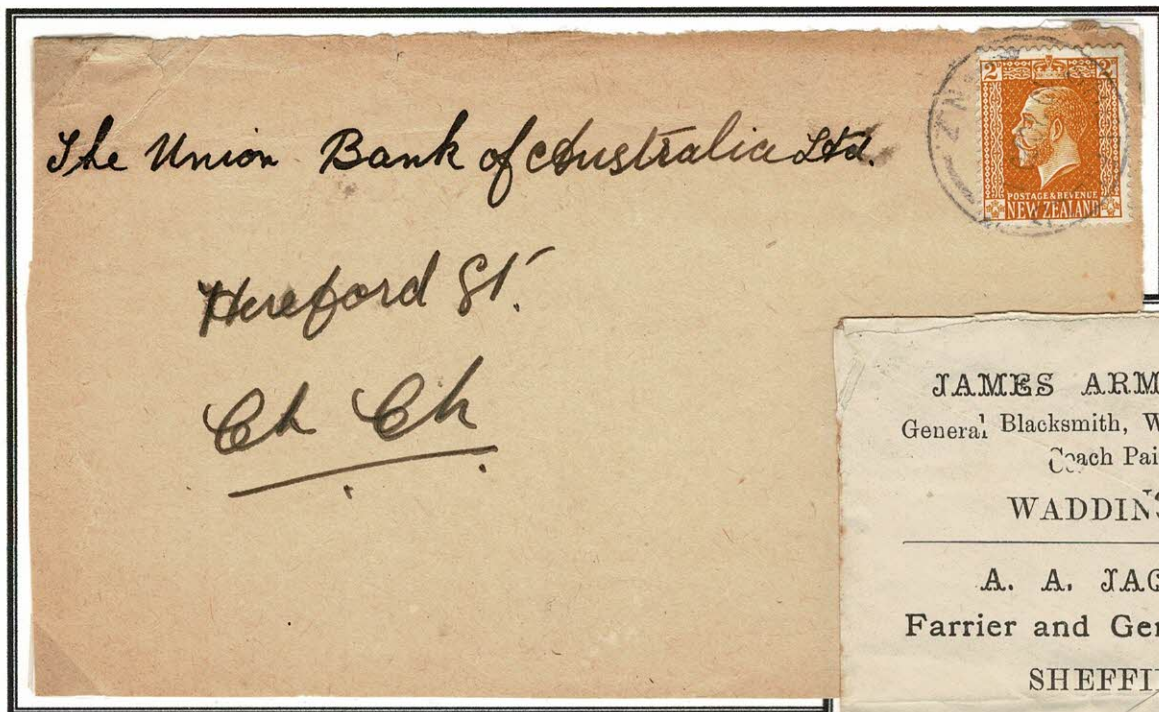


Sheffield; 6 km S Springfield. Mining peaked 1899 with 3000 tons and 12 men but all mining had ceased by 1906. Post Office name changed from Malvern 1 May 1875. Closed 5 February 1988. "A" Class and "J" Class 26mm datestamps. Closed 5 February 1988



Sheffield "A" Class 11 JL 88 received Christchurch same day
1d Brown Queen Victoria postal card issued 1886





Sheffield "J" Class 10 NO 20

Advertising envelope Springfield 10 MR 98

<p>JAMES ARMSTRONG General Blacksmith, Wheelwright, and Coach Painter WADDINGTON</p>	<p>SPRINGFIELD HOTEL Terminus for West Coast Coaches First Class Accommodation, Best Brauds of Wines and Spirits M. KEENE, Proprietor SPRINGFIELD</p>
<p>A. A. JACKSON Farrier and General Smith. SHEFFIELD</p>	<p>WILLIAM SPENCE Saddler and Harness Maker Collar-making a Speciality First-Class Workmanship Guaranteed and at Town Prices SPRINGFIELD</p>
<p>NEW ZEALAND CREDITOR'S INSTITUTE Cathedral Square, Christchurch DEBT COLLECTING DEPARTMENT No Collection. No Charge. Apply to Manager for Prospectus.</p>	<p>WEST COAST RAILWAY STORE SPRINGFIELD ROYAL STANDARD TEA only from JOHN HOGLUND General Storekeeper and Baker Our Bread is noted for its very excellent Quality</p>

Advertising Envelope: Blacksmith's were significant customers for local Coal

Annat, 7 km NE Springfield. Mining peaked 1893 with 3500 tons and 18 men. Mining ceased 1898. Post Office opened 21 September 1891, closed 29 May 1959. "A" Class and "J" Class datestamps



Homebush Coal Mine

This mine at **Glentunnel** was the largest in the Canterbury region at the time. The **Homebush** underground mine opened in 1872 on a small scale. It was bought out by McSkimming & Son in 1903 and was significant employer and regular producer between until 1922 when production waned. This was a result of the completion of the rail link to the West Coast and the availability of better quality coal from these mine for Christchurch industry. Total production was over **300,000 tons** with a **peak in 1905 of 18,000 tons** with 49 men employed.

Glentunnel Post Office, 5 km E from White Cliffs. Opened 12 October 1876 close 5 February 1988.
"A" Class and "J" Class 28mm datestamps [Proof 18 JE 28]



Coalgate GLENTUNNEL 191
14 APR 1920

We beg to advise having forwarded you
this day _____ Tons _____ Cwt
of Homebush Coal.

Consigned to *a/d*
Waggon No. *L147*
Railage *To Pay*
a/c Robt & Co

Trusting it reaches you in good order.

Yours faithfully,
HOMEBUSH BRICK & COAL CO. LTD.
Per *A. C. W.*

No. 2 13842

King Edward VII 1d postal card uprated with 1/2d KGV mailed **Glentunnel 15 AP 20** Advice printed **GLENTUNNEL** over **Coalgate** - one truck of coal **Home Bush Brick & Coal Co. Ltd.**



Glentunnel "A" Class 14 MR 95





The Homebush Coal Mine
company produced a double
advertising / order form
postcard.

Card used 9 March 1910
Christchurch to Timaru

POST CARD.

STAMP.

This space may be used for correspondence.

FOR ADDRESS ONLY.

POST CARD.

STAMP.

COAL MERCHANT,

Post this to your own
Coal Merchant.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(ORDER FORM.)



Coal Merchant,

CHRISTCHURCH.

Please deliver to the undersigned:—

..... ton Homebush Coal.

..... ton

Name.....

Address.....
(in full)

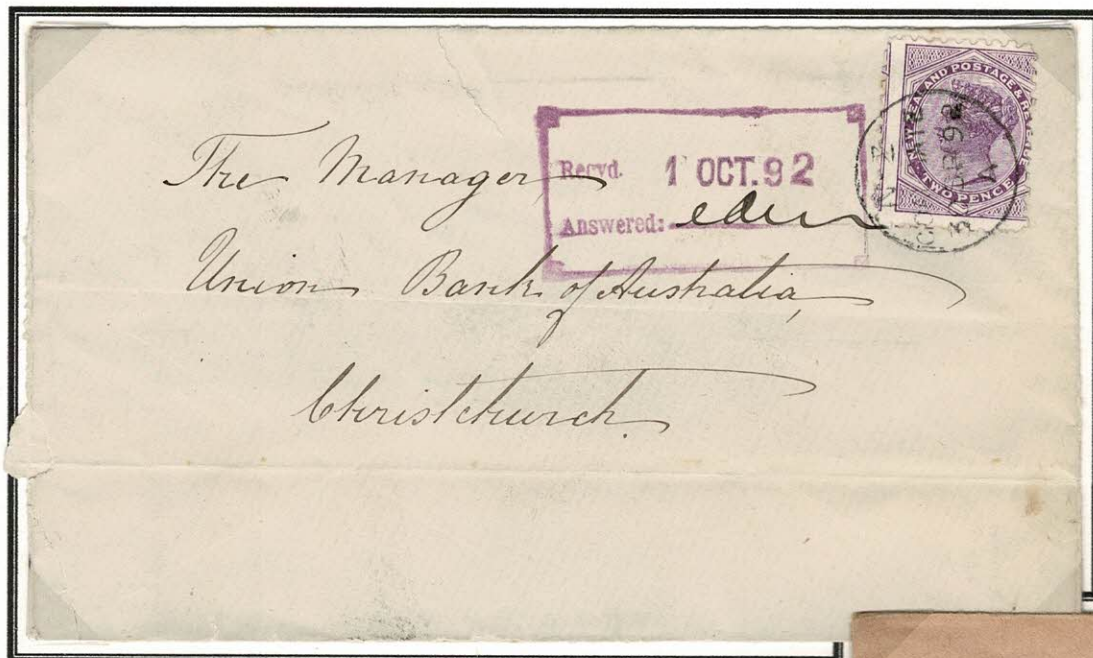
Date.....



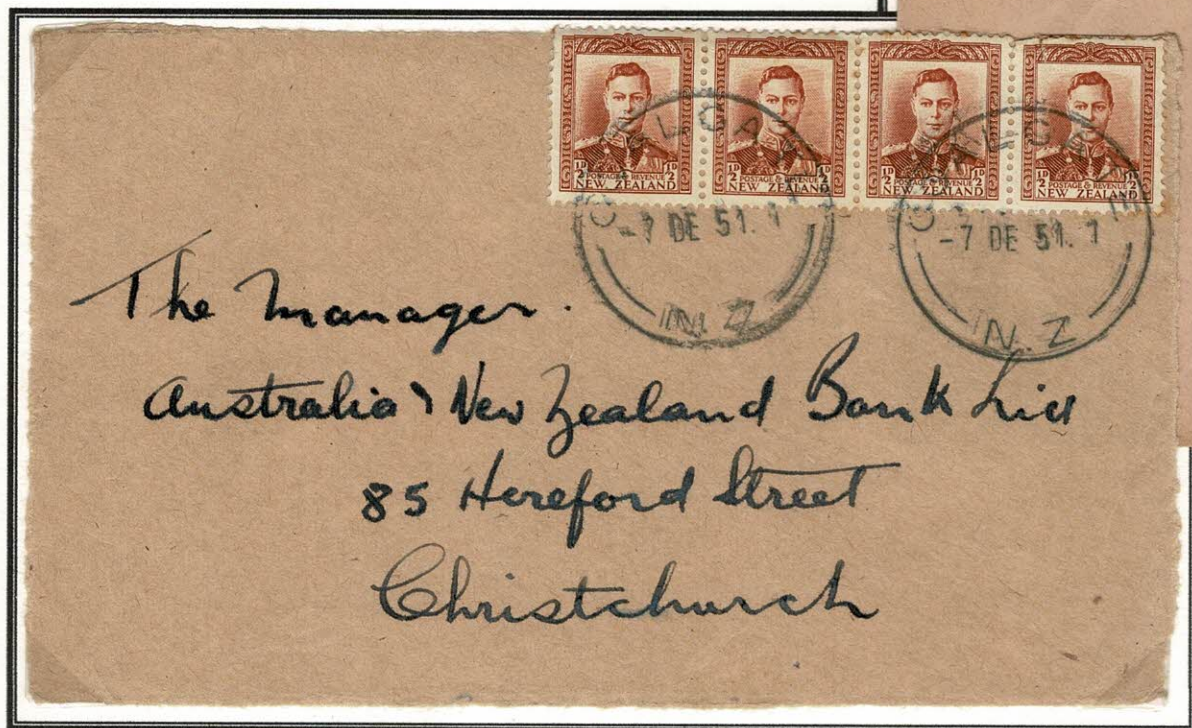
Coalgate - Bush Gully; Klondyke & Coalgate Coal Mines

This settlement was the gateway to the coal mines and settlements in the Malvern Hills Coalfield. There have been three major mines in Coalgate area. The **Bush Gully Mine** opened 1914, peak production was **1918 with 16,000 tons** and 34 men employed. It was the second biggest mine in the Canterbury area at the time behind Homebush. **Total production was 220,000 tons**. Closed by fire 1938. The **Klondyke opencast** mine was developed from 1929, closing in 1972 with a total of **335,000 tons produced**. The **Coalgate Coal opencast** mine in the Bush Gully area is working an 18 foot seam. Now owned by **Bathurst** it is producing over 100,000 annually from 1966 mainly for the dairy industry as the coal has low sulphur content and minimal ash when burnt.

Coalgate Post Office opened 1 September 1876; used "A" Class; "J" Class 25mm; "J" Class 34mm.



Coalgate "A" Class 30 SP 92



Coalgate "J" Class 25mm 26 AP 35

Coalgate "J" Class 34mm 7 DE 51

Klondyke Coal envelope with Coalgate 4 MR 64

Both to Mines Department Wellington

Coalgate Coal Co. Ltd with Coalgate 7 MR 68

KLONDYKE
CANTERBURY'S
BEST
COAL



The Under-Secretary
Mines Dept
P.O. Box. 6342
Te Aro.
Wellington



COALGATE COAL Co. Ltd.

A COAL FIRE AT ITS BEST

Under Secretary of Mines
P.O. Box 6342.
Te Aro.
Wellington.



Christchurch G128 1d Meter 5 JUL 1935

1935 much-travelled Envelope through Malvern Hills Coalfield - addressed to "Malvern Downs Glentunnel"

- Glentunnel 6 JL 35;
- Glentunnel 9 JL 35 **"Try Sheffield"**
- Sheffield 10 JL 35 **"Not" & "Back Glentunnel"**
- Glentunnel 13 JL 35 **"Try Coalgate"**
- Coalgate 15 JL 35 **"Hororata Rural"**
- Hororata 16 JL 35; **"Not Hororata Back Glentunnel"**
- Glentunnel 17 JL 35 [held 2 weeks as per regulations] **"Unclaimed"**
- Christchurch Unclaimed 5 AU 1935



Coal Receipts

TIMBER & COAL MERCHANTS			
COLOMBO AND		TUAM STREETS	
<i>M^r W. Fenwick</i>		<i>Christchurch March 1879</i>	
<i>D^o to Thos. & E. Pavitt</i>			
<i>Terms Monthly</i>		Importers of Marshall and Copeland's Celebrated Dunedin Ble	
<i>Jan 28</i>	<i>To. 2 Trucks coals.</i>	<i>12. 2-1</i>	<i>52/6 31 16 0.</i>
<i>By Cash on ac</i>			<i>30 16 -</i>
<i>Balance. £</i>			<i>1 00</i>
<i>Thos & E Pavitt</i>			

March 1879 account for January purchase "2 Trucks Coal" - most likely from mines in the **Malvern Hills Coalfield** transported on the **Midland Railway** that reached the area by 1876.

Cost of coal [over 12 ton]
Was **£1/4/4d** per ton

Stamp Duty paid issue of December 1878.
Early usage



The **Stamp Act, 1875**, effective **1 January 1876**, repealed the **1866 Stamp Duty Act** [effective January 1, 1867] and the subsequent amendments of 1867, 1869, 1870, 1871 & 1872. It did not change the amounts of the stamp duty for various transactions.

The **Stamp Duty on receipts** was set at **1d** which could be paid by impressed die or adhesive stamps. It was paid by the person issuing the receipt.

Initially long type Queen Victoria stamps were used. In June 1878 a special one penny stamp duty adhesive was issued in lilac with the same design in **blue** followed in **December 1878**, both on NZ Star watermark Perforated 11x11.5.

Coal Receipts

1916 accounts for coal, coke
and firewood

TELEPHONE 71 EASTERN COAL AND FIREWOOD DEPOT No 2134
EASTERN COAL AND FIREWOOD DEPOT
344 CASHEL STREET, 212
CHRISTCHURCH, July 1916

Messrs J. Bates & Coy

Dr. to RICHARDSON & STOKES
COAL AND FIREWOOD MERCHANTS

ALEX. WILDEY, LTD., PRINT 4347 344

REGISTERED OFFICE:
77-79 WORCESTER STREET,
GENERAL MANAGER: MR. R. C. BISHOP.
SECRETARY: MR. E. W. REED.
TELEPHONES:
432 { 8 A.M. TO 10 P.M. WEEK DAYS
10 TO 12.30 AND 4.30 P.M. TO 9 P.M. SUNDAYS.
2140 { 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. WEEK DAYS.
2529 { 8.30 A.M. TO 12.30 P.M. SATURDAYS
NOT AVAILABLE SUNDAYS OR HOLIDAYS.

P.O. Box 95.
Christchurch,
July 18^h 1924

Messrs J. Rattray Son
Lichfield St
Ch Ch

Dr. to The Christchurch Gas, Coal & Coke Company
LIMITED.

Ledger Folio 1

Ammonia Cylinder Ac

Reference Number

To Account Rendered
Cylinder Rent Ac. £ 157 10 1

WYATT & WILSON PRINTERS

Received by contra
in full settlement of Cylinder Rent ac as above

**THE CHRISTCHURCH GAS
COAL & COKE CO., LTD.**

E. W. Reed
Secretary
18 July 1924

9	✓
80	✓
40	✓
19	✓
29	✓

1924 account for "Ammonia
cylinder rent"

2d Stamps duty paid with two
impressions of a one penny
meter Number 68. Signed by
Company Secretary.

Ammonia was a by-product in
the coal gas industry and used for
manufacture of ammonia salts,
nitric acid and agricultural
fertilisers.

Coal Gas

Coal gas is a flammable gaeous fule made from Coal and supplied to the user via a piped distribution system. It is produced when Coal is heated strongly in the asence of air. Orioriginally created as a by-product of the coking process for industry, its use developed in the late 19th and early 20th century for urban use. Coal Gas manufactures required a steady and reliable source of coal, the process produced its own coke for the heating required and a large storage capacity - a **gasworks**.. Marketing and distributing the gas required **gas-fitters** and also gas light and stove manufactures.

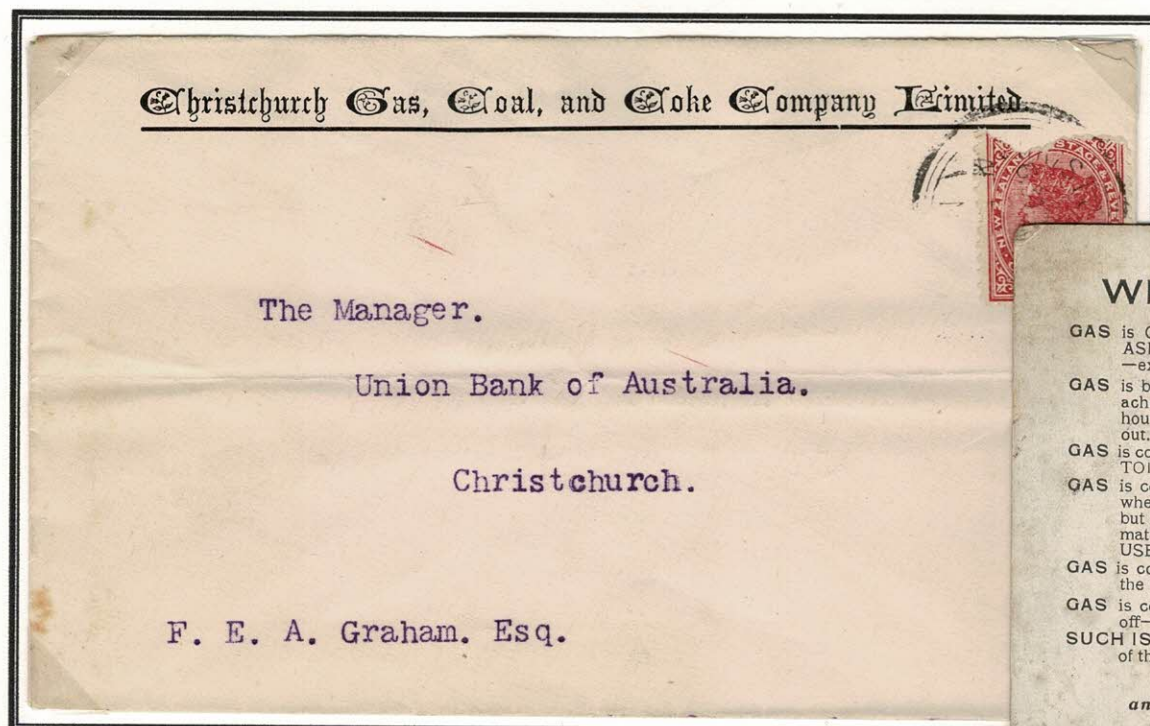
Christchurch Gas, Coal, and Coke Company Limited

This Company was formed in 1862 when it announced in the local Press "The City of Christchurch attained such dimensions and density, that it appears capable of supporting a Gas factory. The initial share issue was **1000 shares at £10 - a capital of £10,000**. There were to be two later issues of shares in 1868 and 1874 as the Company expanded. The first properties were using gas for lighting in 1864 and the mains were extended to many areas of the city. Used for lighting, heating and cooking. With the advent of electricity, the City lighting contract was lost in 1898. Suppliers to businesses and homes for heating and cooking continued.



IN the Supreme Court of New Zealand—Canterbury District—In the matter of "The Debtors' and Creditors' Act 1876" "The Debtors' and Creditors' Act Amendment 1878" "The Debtors' and Creditors' Act Amendment Act 1879" and in the matter of the Bankruptcy of JOSEPH PERKS of Christchurch in the said district gasfitter a debtor—This is to notify that JOSEPH PERKS of Christchurch in the said district gasfitter has this day filed a statement that he is unable to meet his engagements with his creditors. The first meeting of creditors to be held at the Supreme Courthouse Christchurch on Wednesday the 16th day of August at the hour of eleven in the forenoon. —Dated this 9th day of August 1882.
A. R. BLOXAM,
Registrar.

Gasfitter in Court for Debt. Notice attached to back of 1d postal card Christchurch 10 AU 82



Embossed Promotional Postcard. [No print details but USA]

Christchurch Gas, Coal, and Coke Company Limited envelope

WHAT IS GAS?

GAS is COAL, with the objectionable DUST, ASHES and SMOKE—that spoils everything—extracted by the Gas Company.

GAS is black, heavy, coal—that makes your arms ache filling the scuttle and carrying it into the house—with the WEIGHT and WORK taken out.

GAS is coal—which makes cooking a toil—with the TOIL taken out.

GAS is coal—not the kind that tries your temper when lighting the fire—but that which requires but the turning of a tap and the striking of a match, to be INSTANTLY READY FOR USE, day or night.

GAS is coal in its purest state—nothing but heat—the ONE THING NECESSARY.

GAS is coal—with a portion of the PRICE taken off—therefore economical.

SUCH IS GAS—the greatest Cooking convenience of the day.

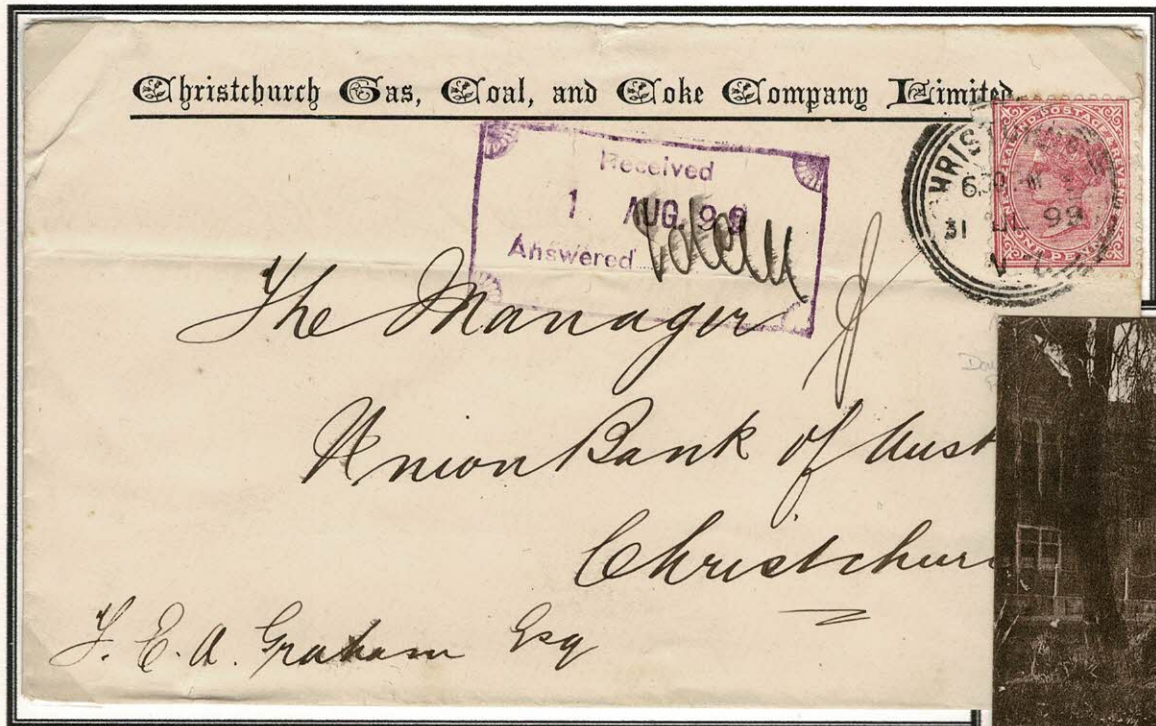
*USE A GAS COOKER
and you will find it has other
ADVANTAGES*

**CHRISTCHURCH GAS, COAL
AND COKE CO., LTD.,**
158-160 WORCESTER STREET.

COPYRIGHT 1905 BY WOODWARD & LOEHLER PRINTING CO. ST. LOUIS, MO.

MAMMA'S CADDIE

Christchurch Gas, Coal, and Coke Company Limited

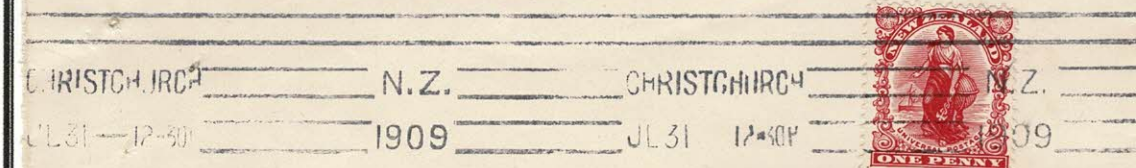


Christchurch Gas, Coal and Coke Company Limited. Envelope used Christchurch 31 JL 99

River Avon from Cambridge Terrace with "Ch.Ch. Gas Co,'s Offices." Gold Medal Series, Wrigglesworth & Binns Photo, Christchurch. Used Leeston 12 MY 13

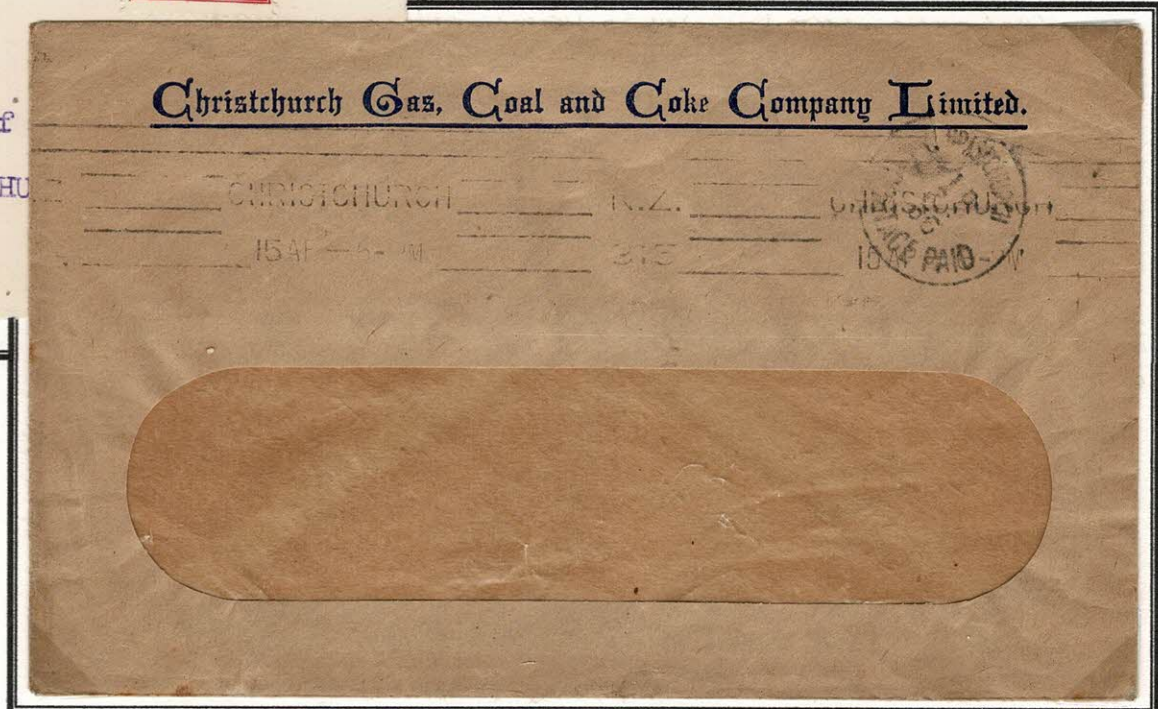


Christchurch Gas, Coal and Coke Company Limited.

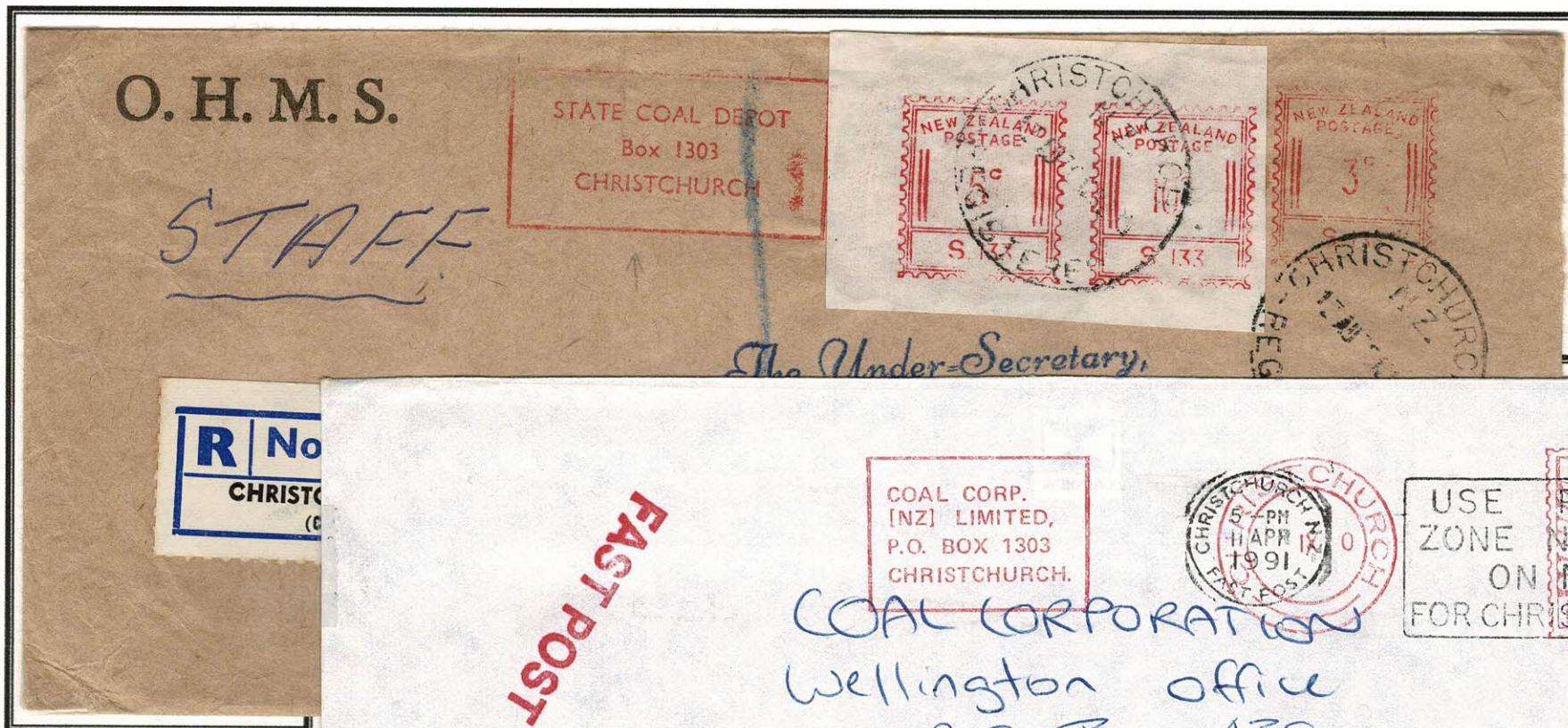


Company envelope with Moss "4" No.66. meter Christchurch 15 AU 1915 - continuous machine cancellation

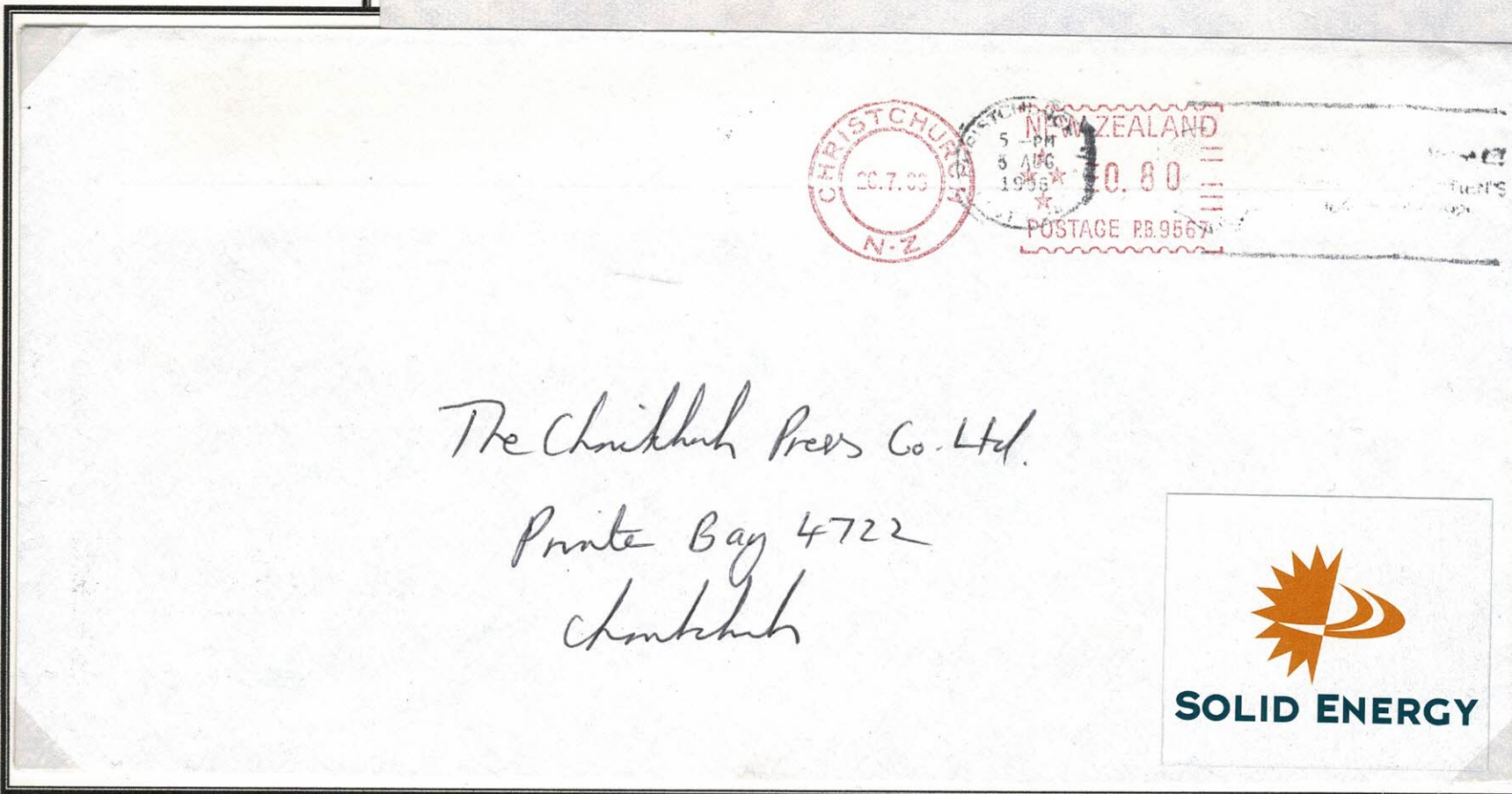
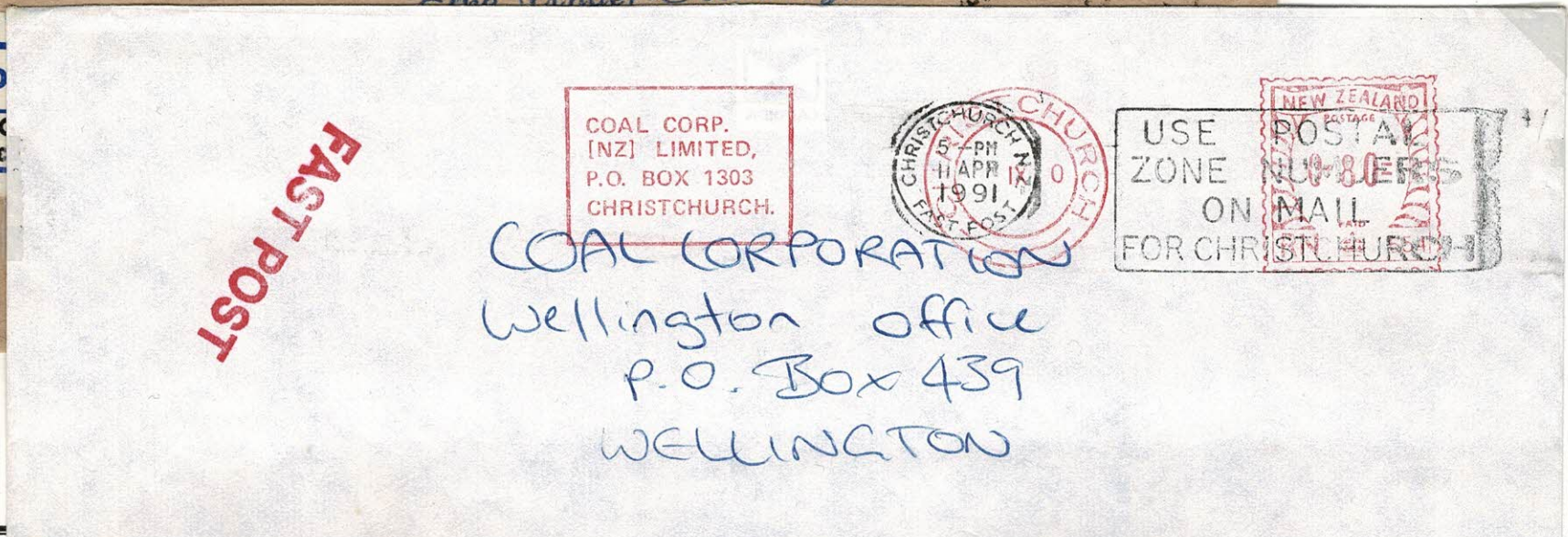
Company envelope 1d Universal Christchurch JL 31 1909 - continuous machine cancellation



State Coal Mines had no mines in Canterbury - activity was related to West Coals Coal railed to Lyttleton.
State Coal Mines became Coal Corp in 1987 and re-branded as Solid Energy in 1995



State Coal
Depot
Simplex S 133
meter
Christchurch
17 AU 70



Coal Corp

Christchurch
11 APR 1991

Solid Energy

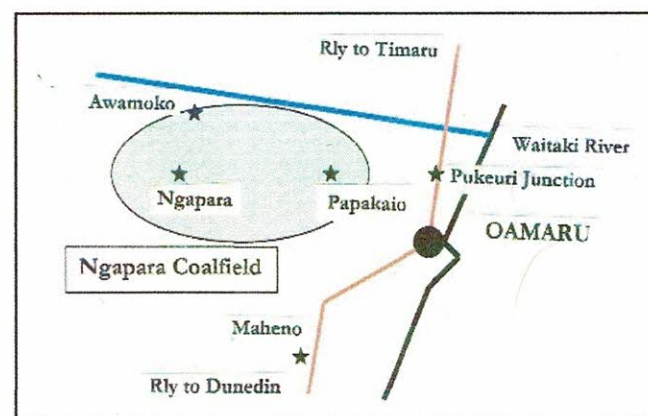
Christchurch
5 AUG 1996

North Otago Coalfields

There are two significant Coalfield in the North Otago area. **Ngapara Coalfield**, inland North from Oamaru and **Shag Point Coalfield**, on the coast to the South

Ngapara Coalfield:

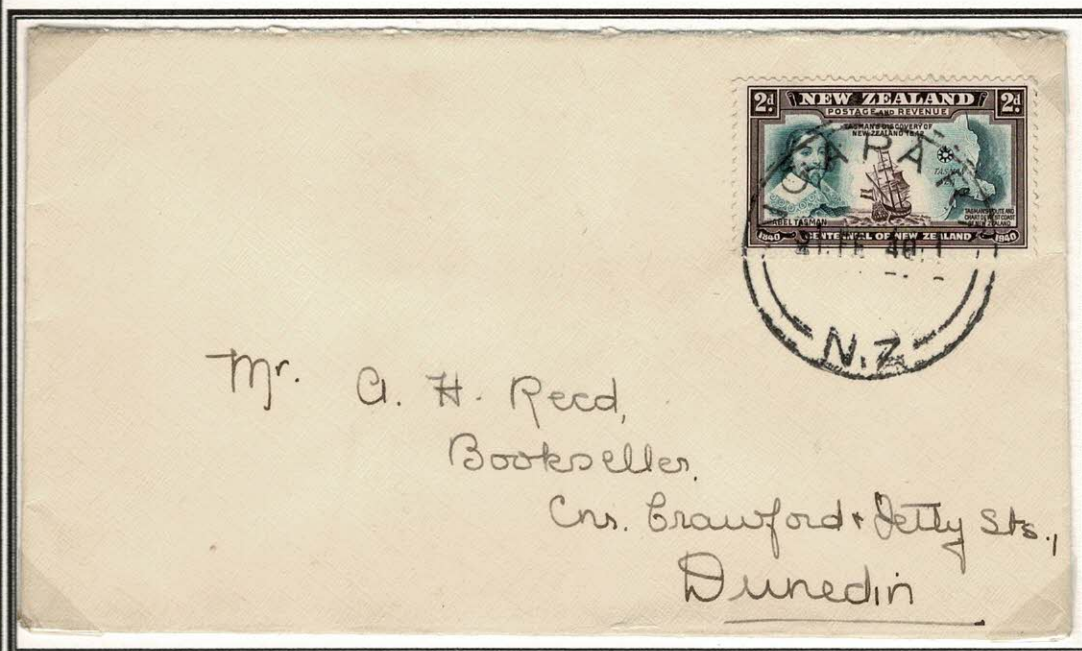
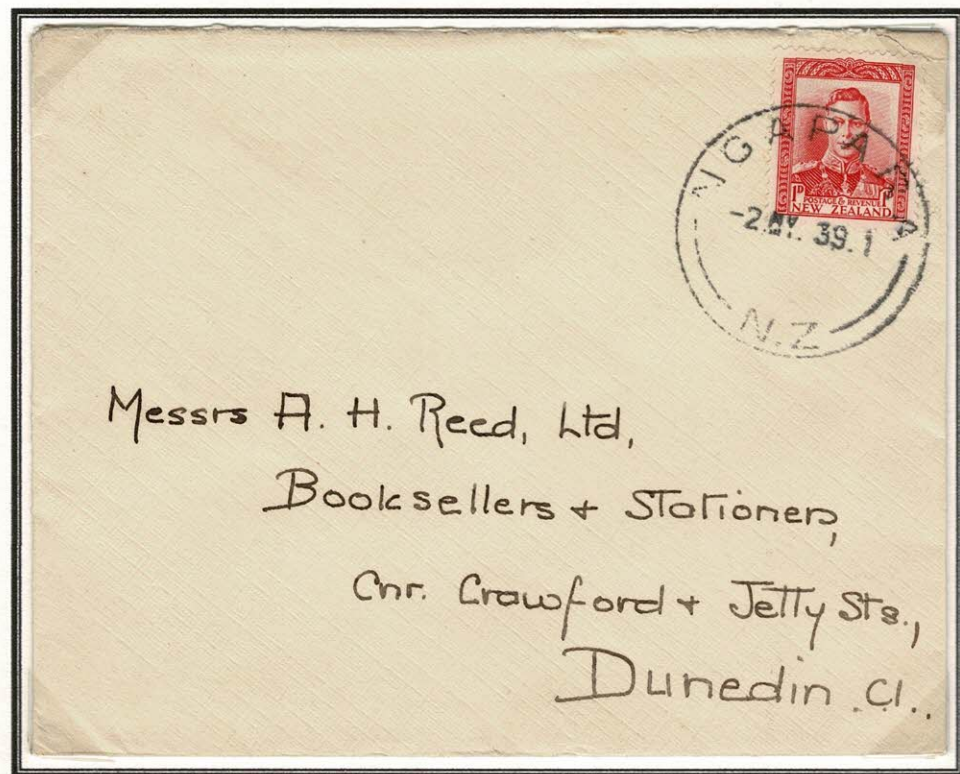
This is 11-24 Km north-west from Oamaru, south of the Waitaki River. This has produced about **500,000 tons of lignite coal**, mainly for the Oamaru Domestic market and the Pukeuri Freezing Works. There are three main areas and small settlements formed in support - Ngapara; Papakaio and Awamoko. These were underground mines producing from **1869 to 1953** when the last was closed. The major mines were St Andrews [Smiths]; Prince Alfred; St Andrews [Willets] Ngapara, Bellvue and Rochdale. The **peak years were between 1897 and 1904** when the combined output of the Coalfield was around 15,000 tons with 42 men employed.



Ngapara Post Office. 26 km N Oamaru opened 23 August 1877 to 31 January 1959 - "A" class and 2 "J" Class datestamps used.

Papakaio Post Office 11 km N Oamaru opened 1 July 1868 closed 28 July 1972. "A" Class and "J" Class

Awamoko Post Office 22km NW Oamaru opened 1 March 1869 closed 30 June 1936. "A" Class



COAL AND WOOD YARDS

NEXT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH. Corner of HUMBER AND COQUET STREETS.

Oamaru, *September* 1900

M. Maddigan

Dr. to William Jardine,

AND FIREWOOD MERCHANT.



Real Photo postcard Collins & Son. Maheno Blacksmiths

	10 -
	16
	1 - 6 -

please
100
advice

REGAL POST CARD CO'S SERIES, SYDNEY.

Post Card.

This space as well as the back may be used for Correspondence.

THE ADDRESS ONLY to be Written on this Side

Have you had Christmas yet? It is very much gone. I hope you had a good one. I have not had time to write lately? may not get a week or two as our exam is on 3/24. I am what with holidays, floods, weather, maddie we have practically done nothing for six weeks, we still have to write for the next

Mr. R. G. Paterson
Box 450
Wellington

POST CARD

This side may have a message written upon it but the right hand side must be reserved for address and stamp only.

The Address to be written on this side.

Wishing you a Merry Xmas & a happy New Year. from P.M.

Miss J. Shepherd.
Op R Buchanan Esq
Tapanui

Pukeuri Junction [of Main South Railway and railway inland.]
Freezing Works - Coal powered - largest single customer for Napara Coal

"H" Class 19 AU 08 and 19 DE 11

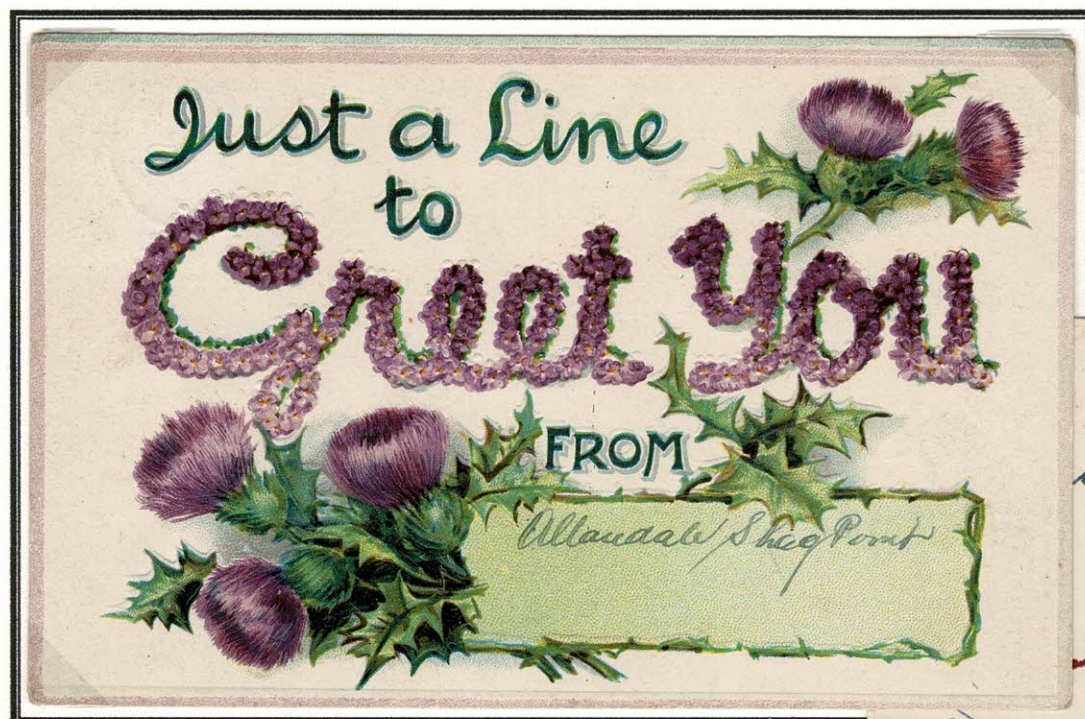
Shag Point Coalfield

The Shag Point or Allandale settlement is 45km south from Oamaru and 65km north-east from Dunedin on the coast. Coal mining began here in 1842 supplying the whaling station at Waikouaiti, 24km south. The Shag Point Coalfield was in regular production from **1862 until worked out in 1939**. The total production from the three underground mines was **1,750,000 tons**. Production quickly increased after the Railway was completed between Dunedin and Christchurch in 1878 opening new markets.

Mine	Opened	Closed	Peak year	Peak tonnage	Peak employed
Shag Point Colliery	1862	1903	1883	24,000	103
Allandale Coal Company	1887	1915	1894	19,000	72
Shag point Company	1909	1939	1928	28,000	67

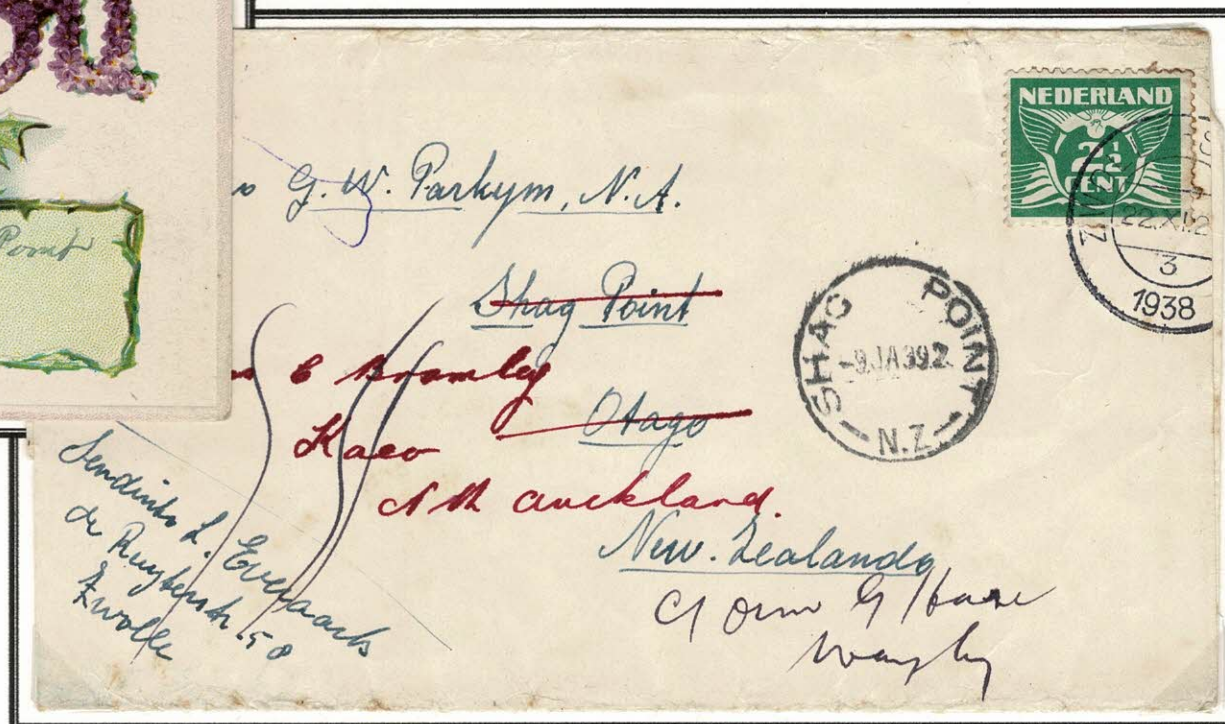
In **May 1890**, after the miners at Shag Point had joined the Union, the owners, **Ross & Glendining**, dismissed the two most prominent union officials. The union went on strike and they were evicted from the Company houses. A month later the dispute was handed to the Maritime Council. This called for a complete boycott of the owners' many commercial enterprise and threatened the Union Steam Ship Company not to carry and of Ross & Glendining's good or shipping would cease. The owners capitulated - the first "victory" by the coalminers union.

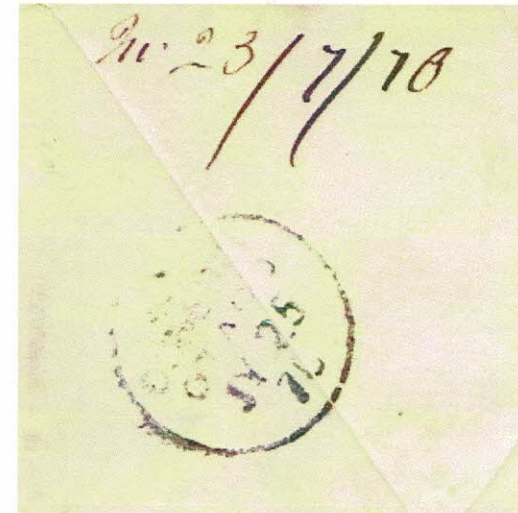
The Post Office opened as Puke-Iviti 16 December 1878 becoming **Shag Point Junction** 2 March 1880 and **Shag Point** from 1 July 1892. Closed 15 July 1950.



Glitter Greetings card "Allandale Shag Point" mailed Shag Point "A" Class 20 De 10 to Bannockburn, Otago.

Wrapper Netherlands 22 XI 1938 to Shag Point, received "J" Class 9 JA 39 with another strike on back 16 JA 39 redirected to Kaeo





Part envelope back 125%

1870 envelope addressed to Robert Glendining, **Ross & Glendining**, Dunedin - owners of the **Shag Point Colliery**. Manuscript "X" in 1d and 3d adhesives, with OTAGO obliterator, "M" "23/7/20" on reverse. Only Otago post offices with "M" without datestamps were Mangatua, Merton or Murrayville. Dunedin JY 25 70



1d Postal card [May 1890] used by **Allandale Coal Company** 12 February 1897, mailed **13 FE 97** cancelled **Shag Point Jn.**

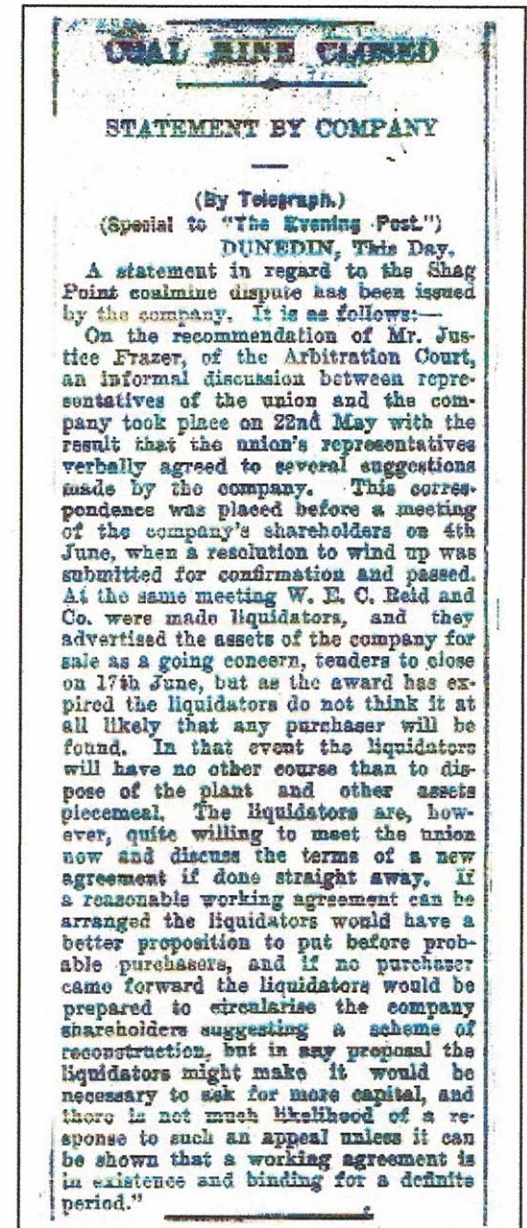
To Oamaru with Palmerston S 13 FE 97 and RPO DNN 13 Fe 97. Put on southbound train, then on northbound at Palmerston.

The message says that the Trucks for the coal were coming from Oamaru to be loaded and sent back. **Two trucks with over 11 tons of coal**

"Evening Post" 14 June 1933 [original in Exhibitor's possession]

- Owners proposed a wage cut
- Miners on strike 8 May 1933
- Company resolved to close
- Mine closed 3 July 1933
- Miners evicted
- Opened as "Cooperative" 7 July
- Company store, workshops etc destroyed by fire 30 July 1933
- No Unemployment Relief until November 1933.

ALLANDALE COLLIERY
 No 10th 1897
 Oamaru
 13 FEB 97
 Mr. G. Pyke
 Coal Merchant
 Oamaru
 Your order for trucks of coal to go to W. Bay dated 10th did not leave Oamaru until 11th and only reached us this afternoon - a truck will leave tomorrow Saturday morning
 Yours truly
 W. E. C. Reid
 3/6/97
 6.4.0
 THE ALLANDALE COAL COMPANY, LIMITED.
 W. E. C. Reid



Central Otago Coalfields

There are extensive seams of lignite in the Central Otago area. These have been worked from the 1860's for domestic use by gold miners and local settlers and later provided for a large fleet of Gold Dredges on the Clutha River, especially from 1900. The peak year was **1905 with about 55,000 tons from some 32 mines, mostly open pits, employing 125 men.** Total estimated **1,350,000 tons.** In 1963 only 2 mines were operating producing 2469 tons.

- **Nevis Valley:** worked from 1874 for domestic and later gold dredges
- **Cromwell Depression:** The major mine was **Shepherd's Creek** underground at Bannockburn 1878-1952 over 160,000 tons with peak years between 1901-1909 averaging 12,000 tons with 59 men employed
- **Manuherikia Depression:** There were 14 opencast pits in operation in 1900 The underground mines were **Dairy Creek** near Clyde, peaked 1902 with 8000 tons and 16 men. **Alexandra Coal Company Molyneux Mine** peaked 1903-1904 with 20,000 tons and 60 men.
- **Roxburgh Depression:** This area produced 350,000 to 1963. The major mine was **Coal Creek Pit** 1870-1951 peaking in 1903-1906 with 12,5000 tons and 25 men.
- **Ida Valley Depression:** Small amounts of coal from 3 opencast mines - local use
- **Maniototo Depression:** Two mines have worked seams 6-12 feet thick for local use



"Coal Creek Flat, Roxburgh" Real Photo Post Card, P Jeffery, Chemist, Photographer, Roxburgh

Alexandra Coal Company Molyneux Mine Fire 14 July 1906

Original Report in **Alexandra Herald July 14 1906.** It was reproduced in the Alexandra centennial newspaper in 1965. 4 men were rescued after a rescue described as "Heroic" The Fire as investigated by Inspector of Mines but the cause was never confirmed - the likely cause was the accidental contact between the naked flame used by one of the miners and the dry hessian sealing side tunnels.

FIRE IN A COAL MINE.

FOUR MEN ENTOMBED.

ALL RESCUED ALIVE.

GALLANT WORK BY THE RESCUERS

THE RESCUED MEN INTERVIEWED.

AN EXCITING DAY AT ALEXANDRA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALEXANDRA SOUTH, July 14.

The day has been one of great excitement in Alexandra, the cause being an outbreak of fire in the Molyneux Company's coal mine when four men were working in the mine. For some time their chances of being rescued appeared slight, but, thanks to the pluck and determination of the residents of the district, who flocked in from all quarters when it became known that the mine was on fire, the task was accomplished successfully.

The fire broke out between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, there being four men in the mine at the time—namely, William King, Samuel Churchill, Michael Kane, and Archibald Bruce. All but Churchill were single men. Churchill is married, and has a family. The fire was discovered by P. Burgess, the engine-driver, who at once shut off steam as a warning to the men working below. Receiving no response he aroused his brother, who was sleeping in a hut near the mine, and the latter made an attempt to descend the shaft, but the smoke and fumes rendered his attempt a failure. Mr James Pollock, the mine manager, was sent for. On his arrival he found smoke and flames pouring out of the shaft, and the flames spreading to the poppet-head. Seeing that the position was serious, and would require energetic efforts, a messenger was sent to Alexandra and the firebell rung. The entombed men were signalling by this time, and the fact that some, if not all, of them were alive spurred on those who were arriving on the scene to assist in rescue work to greater efforts.

RAGLAN BICYCLES.—A number of these Famed Mounts (Ladies' and Gentlemen's), from £17 upwards.—W. Melville.

PPRINTING, Retouching, Developing, etc.; new goods just to hand.—N.Z. Camera Company, Octagon, Dunedin. 21ja

Green Island Coalfield

The **Green Island Coalfield** was discovered in 1849 but mining did not commence until 1860 at Saddle Hill. All were underground mines and all were closed by 1950. The **total production was over 3,800,00 tons** of brown lignite coal. The **peak production was in 1910 when over 140,000 tons** was mined and **198 men** employed. The coalfield had 6 seams but only the lower was mined, this averaged 16 feet in depth. Because of its proximity to Dunedin City, this coal was able to compete with the better quality coal from Kaitangata and provide the steam for Dunedin industry and households. Production declined from 1920 due to exhaustion of the seam, availability of better grade coal, the spread of housing and the availability of electricity from Waipori Hydro from 1907.

Mining Settlements:

Abbotsford: 8 km south from Dunedin; **Freeman's Mine and Fernhill Mines** peaked 1912 with 25,000 tons and 54 men. Total production was **534,000 tons** from 1872-1917. **Post Office** opened 1 October 1889, closed 1 March 1912. "A" Class datestamp

Green Island: 6km south from Dunedin; **Samson's Mine** peaked 1884 with 45,000 tons and 104 men, Closed 1901. Post Office opened 15 February 1862. "010" obliterator in bars, "A" Class; "J" Class datestamps. Closed

Saddle Hill: 11km south from Dunedin; 4 mines - **Christies 1 & 2; Saddle Hill 1 & 2;** Peak production was 1908 with 60,000 tons and 83 men employed. Total production [1874-1924] was 685,000 tons. Post Office open 1 September 1885 to 31 December 1921. "A": Class datestamp

Mosgiel: 16 km south from Dunedin; **Sneddon's Mine** peaked in 1891 with 11 men employed and 6000 tons produced - operated 1878-1895 - total production 38,000 tons. Post Office opened 21 May 1866. "A" Class; "H" Class; "J" Class



Abbotsford



Green Island



Green Island



Green Island



Green Island



Saddle Hill



Mosgiel

Fairfield: 11 km south from Dunedin. Alternate name Walton. The **Walton Park Mine** [1863-1903] was the largest in the Coalfield employing around 50 men through its life and producing over **700,000 tons** with peak years being 1887-1890. the **Jubilee Mine** [1898-1943] was the second largest mine producing over **675,000 tons** with average employment of 34 men with peak production in 1910 with 78,000 tons and 136 men employed. Fairfield Post Office opened 1 March 1872. It used an "A" Class datestamp from 1887 and two examples are known, both shown, of manuscript cancellations. Closed 5 February 1988.



"Fairfield 26/11/72" on envelope "26/11/72" on 2d stamps with "O" obliterator of Dunedin. Addressed to "**Burton Brothers Photographer**" in Dunedin - one of best 19th century New Zealand photographers - Business later became **Muir & Moodie** who used the images for postcards until 1918.

Postcard addressed to **Abbotsford** from Invercargill, with Fairfield "A" Class 4 JA 07



Fairfield



Fairfield Post Office - Walton

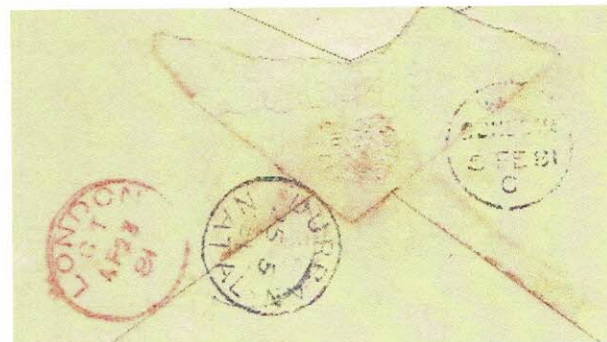
The official name for this Post Office, which was opened 1 March 1872, was "Fairfield" but was known as "Walton" after the Walton Park Mine that was the reason for the settlement. The Fairfield datestamp was not issued until October 1887. "Walton" manuscript markings are known on stamps and **one cover is known**. The postal services at Walton started about 1870 with a collection centre at Loudon's store with mail being carried to the Saddle Hill school for residents to collect.



Part envelope Dunedin 7 OC 79 addressed "Walton Park" "P O Walton"



"Walton 5.2.81" on each of 4 stamps - making a postage rate of 11d. Each cancelled with "O" in bars of Dunedin. Addressed to Natal South Africa and endorsed "via 'Frisco & England'"

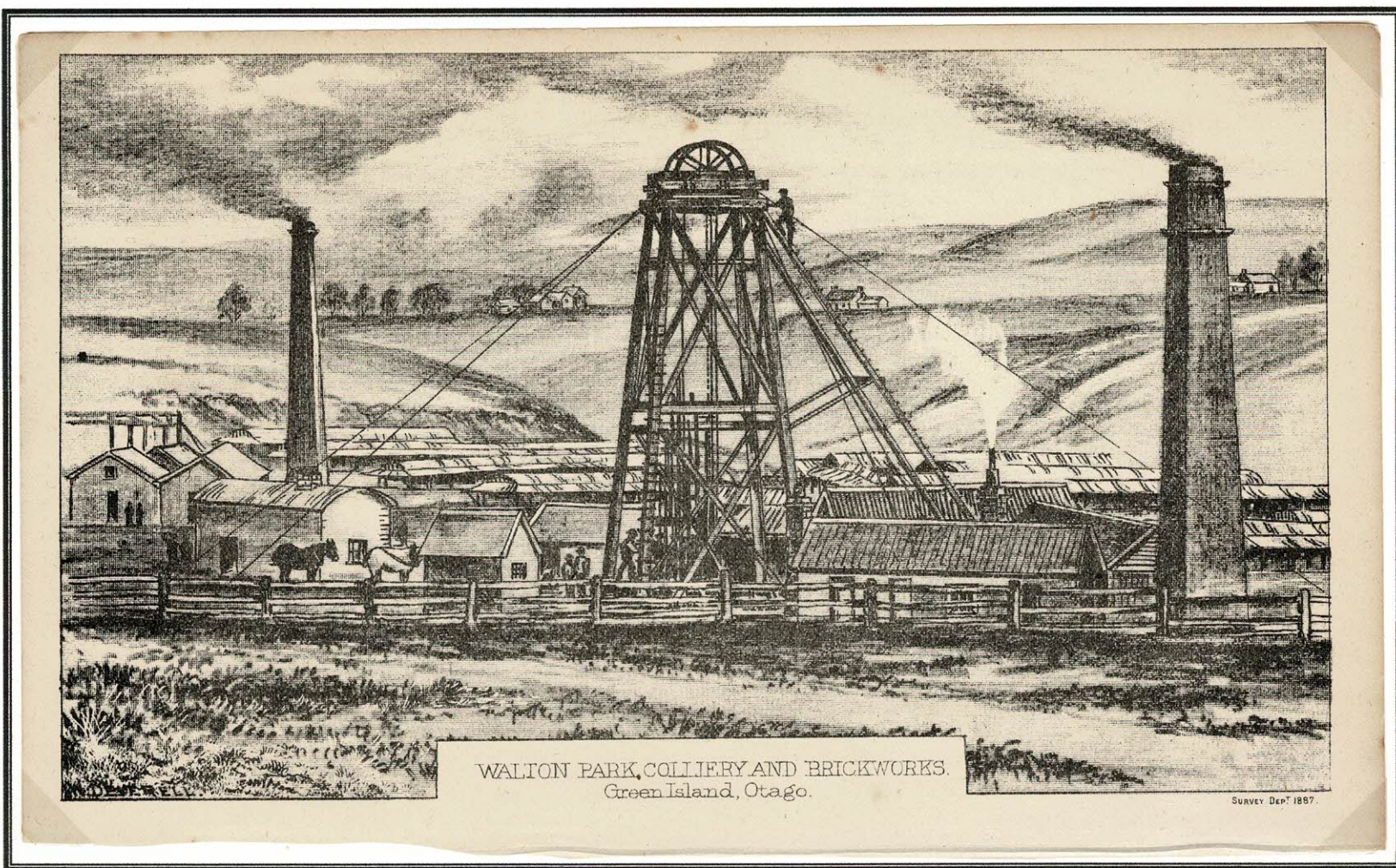


Part of back

Transit: **Dunedin 5 FE 81 London AP 23 81**
Durban 25 5 81
118 days in transit

Walton Park Colliery and Brickworks Green Island, Otago

Source - Mines Report for 1888 [Survey Dept 1887]



1d Green Queen Victoria postal card [24 November 1899]
used Dunedin North duplex obliterator 28 OC 01 to Coal

Merchant with message:

"Please send 1/2 ton Walton Park Coal at earliest convenience."

Part reverse

Dunedin Coal Merchant Invoices

Invoice dated **October 21, 1889,**
Paid "**By cash 11.1.89**"

← COKE. → TELEPHONE No. 359. CHARCOAL.

VOGEL STREET,
Dunedin, *7/11/89* 18*89*

Messrs John & Co.

Dr. to JAMES GIBSON & CO.,
Wood and Coal Merchants, Wharf Carters, &c.

1888

317 39, PRINCES STREET SOUTH,
TELEPHONE No. 198.
Dunedin, *Sept. 1st* 1886

M^r J Reid London St

Dr. to George Latimer,
(Successor to THOMAS TOMLINSON),
COAL AND WOOD MERCHANT.

1886 FIREWOOD CUT TO ANY LENGTH.

ALL KINDS OF COAL KEPT IN STOCK.

<i>Augt: 2</i>	<i>To Mr Reid</i>		<i>192</i>		
<i>21</i>	<i>" 11. 2. 0 Newcastle</i>	<i>34.</i>	<i>186</i>		
<i>28</i>	<i>" 1. 3. 0. 0 Kait. nuts</i>	<i>18.</i>	<i>194</i>		
				<i>385</i>	
				<i>411</i>	
				<i>366</i>	

Latimer
20/9/86
George Latimer
Wharf Carters

J. Reid

<i>£ 15</i>
<i>- 26</i>
<i>22</i>

sq.

2 Invoices paid 20/9/86" with
1d paying stamp duty

Orders July 2 Kaitangata
Coal at 24/- a ton
1t 2cwt 2qr at £1-9-2

Orders August 21 "Newcastle"
Coal at 32/- a ton
11 cwt 2 q at 18/6

Orders August 28 "Kaitn nuts"
at 18/1 a ton
1t 3 cwt £1/0/9

State Coal Mines Dunedin

State Coal Mines operated no mines in the **Green Island Coalfield** but an office was set up in Dunedin to administer the State Mines in the **Kaitangata Coalfield**. State Coal Mines became a State Owned Enterprise in 1987 as Coal Corp and later was re-branded at Solid Energy. Examples from 1986

O.H.M.S.

NEW ZEALAND
STATE COAL MINES
P.O. BOX 390
DUNEDIN



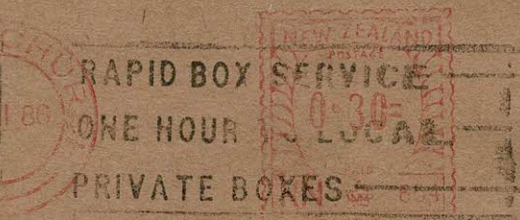
O.H.M.S.

NEW ZEALAND
STATE COAL MINES
P.O. BOX 390
DUNEDIN



O.H.M.S.

STATE COAL
DEPOT...
P.O. Box 1303
CHRISTCHURCH



Order

State Coal
P.O. Box 390
Dunedin.