

**Westland and Nelson Coal Fields Administration Act 1877**  
Archives NZ Wellington Reference ADZF 18355 LS-N45/3/16 – Miscellaneous papers  
A partial listing and transcription of the contents of this file

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No.312/78 Thomas Mackay, Agent for the Crown, Government Buildings, Wellington 16 Mar 1878 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson re Westland & Nelson Coalfields Administration Act 1877. Sir, I am directed by the Hon. the Minister of Lands to refer you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> clause of the above Act, and to inform you that the Government now desire to take over from the Nelson Land Board all the past transactions connected with the Nelson-Grey and Buller Coal Fields Reserves viz:- those comprised in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> schedules to the Act; and that the functions of the Board in respect of these Reserves for the future will be confined to the reception and consideration of all fresh proposals under Clauses 8, 9, 10 & 11 respecting Coal mining, Agricultural or Timber Leases and the minuting and transmission of same for the approval of the Government, on which latter will then devolve all subsequent dealings concerning such proposals. The Receiver of Land Revenue at Nelson will continue to receive the Rents & Royalties of these Reserves as heretofore. On my return to Nelson I will make the necessary arrangements with you regarding these matters.

L83/2190 No.89 Memorandum Thomas Mackay, Crown Lands Office, Nelson 21 Nov 1883 to A. Greenfield, Agent for the Crown re Sir George Grey's proposed Bill with regard to terms of Leases on the Colliery Reserve, Westport. Herewith is my File in the above matter. It will be needed next Session.

Folder: Coal Reserve Mokihinui & Township

[1] No.503/82 Local Land Office, Westport 04 Nov 1882 to Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson re Town Sections at Mokihinui. I think it desirable to inform you that no less than eight applications under clause 64 part 13 of the Regulations under the Mines Act 1877 have been received at the Warden's office at Westport for surveyed sections in the Township of Mokihinui and set down for hearing on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst., viz Sections 86, 26, 52, 47, 81, 27, 1 & 32.

[2] No.177/83 Local Land Office, Westport 02 Feb 1883 to Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson re Land Sale. Herewith I forward you a letter addressed to you by Z. C. Horne on behalf of Lewis Sweet of Mokihinui regarding some sections in the Town of Mokihinui he wishes to put up to auction. I forwarded a somewhat similar application on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 1882.

[3] Lewis Street by his Agent Zoffany C. Horne, Westport 02 Feb 1883 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson. Dear Sir, I have the honor to request that you will submit to Public Auction at the next Land sale to be held at Westport Sections Nos 24 and 25 Burnett Street, Mokihinui. These sections have been held by during the past 15 years under business license. I value my improvements consisting of hotel, store, stabling &c at the sum of £350.

[4] No.183/83 Local Land Office, Westport 02 Feb 1883 to Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson Herewith I enclose you an application addressed to me by C. Lempfert, John Gilmer, F. Ray and Fritz Norman asking to have certain Town Sections at Mokihinui put up to auction at the next land sale.

[5] C. Lempfert, John Gilmer, F. Ray & Fritz Norman, Westport 02 Feb 1883 to C. H. W. Bowen, Receiver of Land Revenue, Westport. Dear Sir, We the undersigned beg to make application to have the following sections situated at Mokihinui township placed under offer for sale by auction viz Nos. 120, 121, 132, 133, 126, 127, 27, 28, 81, 86, 1, 32, 47, 52, 152 & 151. Those sections included in the above which are now held under Business License will be sold we presume subject to a refund of the cost of such license.

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No.1668/82 Memorandum 1025 Oliver Wakefield, Undersecretary for Mines, Wellington 22 Sep 1882 to Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson. With further reference to your memorandum No.1270 of the 4<sup>th</sup> ultimo, I have to inform you that Mr Inspector Binns has now been directed to see that all the mines held under lease under "The Westland and Nelson Coal Fields Administration Act, 1877" are properly worked in accordance with the leases, and I have to request that you will be so good as to send me certified copies of all these leases, in order that they may be supplied to Mr Binns, and a record of them retained here.

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No.250/2 Memorandum General Crown Lands Office, Wellington 07 Apr 1884 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. I have to inform you that a Bank Receipt was sent to you from the Treasury on the 3<sup>rd</sup> instant for the sum of £2,977 16s 8d which the Secretary of the Westport Coal Company at Dunedin, states is the amount due for rents on the Ngakawau Leases as adjusted to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1884 between the General Manager of the Company at Westport and yourself. Not having any statement of the account to refer to I am unable to ascertain how the sum which has been paid by the Company has been arrived at. In my Memo of the 31<sup>st</sup> of January you were informed that the Government agreed to the concession applied for by the General Manager of the Company, which would leave the sum due on account of rent to the end of the year 1883 as £2,236 14s 2d. This sum together with the rent due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1884, £738, computes to £2,974 14s 2d. Perhaps you can explain the difference of £3 2s 6d overpaid by the Company.

Mr Rolleston has now approved of the lease to the Company of the Ngakawau or Cable Drummond area and I herewith return the lease with the approval noted thereon. The Chairman of the Board of Directors states that the Company will pay whatever amount may be due on the Waimangaroa Lease as soon as it is made known to him and that he will also pay on the Wallsend lease when an account is rendered. The Chairman further states that he had no knowledge of what amounts were due by the Company as no application for payment had been rendered until Mr Rolleston telegraphed to him a few days before the amount due on the Ngakawau lease was paid.

Will you please transmit to me a statement of account shewing how the Company stood on the 31<sup>st</sup> March last, with respect to rents and royalties at that date, and also state whether any application had been made by you for payment of the sums due on each of the leases held by the Company, and the dates upon which such applications were made and to whom. In future it will be desirable for you to keep the Company at Dunedin as well as the General Manager at Westport fully informed from time to time of the sums due on account of rents and royalties. Will you please state whether you have obtained an acquittance from the Company for the sums detained by the Government from the Coal accounts as previously advised.

Mr Rolleston has approved of the selection of Land at Wallsend which the Company desire to purchase as indicated on the tracing transmitted with your Memo of the 12<sup>th</sup> March last No.259. Will you please take the necessary steps to have this transaction completed. The Chairman of Directors has been informed that it will be convenient for future correspondence to be conducted as heretofore between the General Manager of the Company and Yourself.

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No.584/84 Telegram W. Hay Dickson to A. Greenfield, Nelson [not easy to read]

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No.1484/84 Telegram Elliott, Wellington 24 Oct 1884 to Commissioner Crown Lands Nelson  
If the reserve comes within the meaning under the Public Reserves Act you have the jurisdiction as Commissioner of Crown Lands in terms of section 26 of that Act but if as I presume the Railway Department contend with regard to this as they do in the cases of other reserves along Railway lines that it has control then this Department advise the Railway Manager.

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No.127/2 Memorandum General Crown Lands Office Wellington 17 Feb 1885 to A. Greenfield, Agent for the Crown Nelson. The Minister of Lands has approved the issue of a lease to Mr Samuel Manson for the construction of a tramway upon the Grey Coal Reserve. The Commissioner of Crown Lands at Hokitika (through whom the application was received) has been informed.

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No.415/85 Courtenay Smith & Co., Auctioneers, Greymouth 10 Apr 1885 to Commissioner of Crown Lands  
Re lease of section at Cobden... I hold copy of lease with modifications endorsed thereon, but present holders have not been and are not likely to be successful in forming a company, hence my application...

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Telegram Kilgour, Schofield, Halcrow, Greymouth, 24 Jun 1885 to A. Greenfield, Commissioner Nelson  
Our applications for coal leases were marked off on northeast by Blackball Creek and the areas to be taken from that boundary southwest. We are the first and only application to wish to have the ground marked off as above. We have prospected the ground and floated a company in England on such representations. We trust the board will grant our request. We have surveyor Montgomerie to wait.

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No.585/2 Memorandum General Crown Lands Office Wellington 13 Jul 1885 to A. Greenfield, Agent for the Crown Nelson. I forward for your information copies of correspondence granting the Westport Coal Company authority to allow Messrs Kilgour & Wickes permission to work a portion of the Eastern side of the Wallsend lease on tribute.

No. 572/2 H. J. H. Elliott, Wellington 10 Jul 1885 to W. Hay Dickson, General Manager, Westport Coal Co. Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> July applying for permission for Messrs Kilgour and Wickes to work a portion of the Eastern side of the Wallsend Lease on tribute and to inform you the Minister of Lands has approved the application.

L85/2044 (Land Department) W. Hay Dickson, General Manager, Westport Coal Company (Limited), Occidental Hotel, Wellington 08 Jul 1885 Letter of application – includes a line drawing

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Copy of Public Works Department Map 7409 dated 14 Dec 1885 showing the Westport-Ngakawau Railway – Wellington, Coalmining Company's Branch Waimangaroa. Scale: Horizontal 30 feet = 1 inch; Vertical 3 chains = 1 inch. The part coloured pink is on Crown Land and is the part referred to in Draft Gazette Notice No.1. The part coloured Brown in on Buller Coal Reserve and is the part referred to in Draft Order in Council No.2. The map shows: Waimangaroa River; Mt Rochfort Railway to Ngakawau; Boundary of Buller Coal Reserve; structures on the Buller Coal Reserve named to Lang, Colligan, Young, Beaton, Syron, Lester, Moore, Morris, Brown, Buck, Hartshorn, Mulligan, Alexander, Thompson (KCC), Moore, Fox?, McFarland, Alexander, Calnon, Watson, Hill, Catchpole, Harrison, Lempfert, Finch, Suisted, Colvin, Beaton, Stone; Wellington Company's Drive; Horse bridge; N. Hector Drive

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No.939/86 Memorandum Richard Nancarrow, Secretary Coal Pit Heath Coal Mining Company, Greymouth 17 Jul 1886 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. Sir, the bearer,... Joseph Taylor, a Director of this Company has been authorised to proceed to Nelson to interview the... Board in respect to applications that have been previously made for a lease of a portion of the Railway Reserve upon which the Company's... stands and for the... under the Reserve. If granted an interview... Taylor will urge the claims of... Company for these concessions which I trust will meet with the favourable consideration of the Board.

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No.1/87 Waimangaroa & Westport Vigilance Committee re closing the Koranui Coal Mine 04 Jan 1887

[1] Newspaper item: To the Hon. Minister of Mines. Hon, Sir, We the inhabitants of Waimangaroa and Denniston desire to draw your attention to the present aspect of affairs in the Buller district, caused by the projected stoppage of work at the Koranui Coal Mine... Thomas A. Cato (Chairman), Thomas Dollman, William Marris, Ed. Haylock, J. Milligan, J. Judd and E. Dudley.

[2] Thomas Donovan, Secretary of the Waimangaroa Vigilance Committee, Waimangaroa 24 Dec 1886 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands Office, Nelson. Sir, At a public meeting here on Monday last to discuss the question involved (re closing of the Koranui Coal Mine) the following resolution was carried:- "That the Commissioner of Crown Land be requested to use his influence with the Government in the matter of the Memorial to the Minister of Mines. I enclose herewith a printed copy of the Memorial referred to in the above resolution.

[3] John Marshall, Hon. Secretary, Westport Vigilance Committee, Westport 31 Dec 1886 to the Chairman, Waste Lands Board, Nelson. Sir, I am instructed by the Westport Vigilance Committee to forward you the enclosed copy of memorial to the the Minister of Mines re closing of Koranui Coal Mine &c.

[4] John Hughes, Mayor, Westport 31 Dec 1886 to the Minister of Mines, Wellington  
Mentions (a) Stoppage of Koranui Coal Mine, (b) Position of the Harbour works, (c) enforcement of lease conditions, (d) fear of amalgamation of leases held by the Westport Coal Company with those by the Union Steamship Company, (e) that of the existing leases that at least two be actively employed in producing coal

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No.58/2 Memorandum General Crown Lands Office Wellington 21 Jan 1886 to A. Greenfield, Agent for the Crown Nelson. In reply to your memo No.55 of the 15<sup>th</sup> January I am directed to inform you that the Minister of Lands has decided that the subdivision of Dobson sections is to be allowed. Leasing to be only direct from the Crown. In all cases of subdivision the existing lease will have to be surrendered and new leases for the subdivisions issued. The Commissioner Crown Lands at Hokitika has been informed.

Memorandum Crown Lands Office, Hokitika 07 Jan 1885 to Alfred Greenfield re assigning and subletting part of Dobson... Sections.

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No.882/87 Jonathan Harrison, Brunnerton, Greymouth 21 Jul 1887 to A. Greenfield, Esq.  
Dear Sir, I see by the Local Paper of Mondays issue July 19<sup>th</sup> that J. Kilgour & Party are applying for a Prospecting Coal License. I beg to remind you that the Coal Reserve against 2A is a part of that Lease which I have been waiting for over two years and as I have told you before that I could commence work tomorrow on that Lease if that part of the Crown Land could be allotted to me. You are aware that I have spent over £50 on prospecting the same besides my expenses in Nelson and Wellington besides waiting here two years and done nothing. I have also had an application sent to the Honorable J. Balance, Minister of Lands, Wellington for over a year by his order, also promised by him that my application should be first considered. I therefore trust you will reserve that part of the Coal reserve on the north boundary of the Coal Creek lease and on the West of the Brunner Lease and allow the same to be reserved for me with the Crown Land so soon as the East and West Coast Railway Company have settled or selected their land and kindly tell the party that the part has already been applied for. I have sent to the Minister of Lands who no doubt will communicate with you. Trusting to your kindness in this matter as I shall consider it a great hardship after working over two years and spending money over it to have it taken away from me as I would have had... of the Railway Company had settled their land.  
Enclosure: A plan of Jonathan Harrison's application for 640 acres.

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No.871/87 Telegram James Mills, Dunedin 06 Aug 1887 to A. Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Land, Nelson  
Regret oversight Koranui royalties, am instructing Wellington remit at once.

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No.1000/87 Ollivier, Brown & Pennefather, Wellington 09 Sep 1887 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. Sir, Re Coal Pit Heath. We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your telegram of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. with reference to this matter. We asked again because your former telegram had been accidentally mislaid. We enclose herewith a cheque signed by Captain W. R. Williams for £211 15s. The lease of the surface is also being assigned, but the consent of the Crown to the assignment is not necessary. Please return the lease of the mine to us as soon as the consent to the assignment has been obtained.

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No.1152/87 Memorandum 1082 Mines Department, Wellington 03 Nov 1887 to Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson. A Return has been asked for in the House relative to the leases issued for Coal Mining purposes on the Buller Coal Reserves. Will you be good enough to supply this information under the different headings in the enclosed form.

#### Form

Return of Leases issued for Coal Mining purposes on Buller Coal Reserve showing date of issue, names of lessees, conditions of lease, whether conditions have been complied with and whether leases have been amalgamated or forfeited.

Name of Lessee; Date of Issue of Lease; Locality; Extent of ground held under lease; Term of lease in years; Rent per annum; If rent in arrear state amount; Conditions of lease; Whether conditions complied with, if not state reason why; State whether any leases have been amalgamated; State whether any leases have been forfeited and date of forfeiture

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Alfred Greenfield, Crown Agent, Nelson 30 Dec 1887 to the Commissioner of Crown Lands Hokitika  
1261 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. reporting the decision of the Land Board with regard to the conditions of the Wallsend Lease and I regret that the board did not see their way to agree to the terms submitted, as their not having done so will cause considerable delay and much correspondence without any material improvement. I refer of course to the required output. By the correspondence forwarded to you it was plain the Mines Department and the Company had agreed that the combined output of the Wallsend & Coal Pit Heath Mines should be as under:- For the first 11 years – 50,000 tons per annum; For the next 21 years – 75,000 tons per annum; Remainder of term – 100,000 tons per annum

And in my letter to you of the 23<sup>rd</sup> September last I gave the conditions agreed to by the Nelson Land Board for the Coal Pit Heath Mine as under:- For the first 8 years – 25,000 tons; next 21 years – 30,000 tons; remainder of term – 50,000 tons. This would leave the output for the Wallsend Mine as under viz:- First 8 years – 25,000 tons per annum; next 21 years, 45,000 tons per annum; remainder of term 50,000 tons per annum.

I submit that it is not advisable to \_ the will if possible keep pace with the demand and if more than 100,000 tons should be required it will if possible be obtained so that there is really no need for stipulating for anything beyond a reasonable output. With regard to increasing Royalty I may inform you that it was a condition of the original Brunner and Coal Pit Heath Leases and fixed by Act that the Lessees should be entitled to a renewal after the first 21 years at double rents and Royalties. The Company have agreed to the condition and I fail to see why the Land Board should demur to receiving an increased Royalty if the Company is willing to pay it. In conclusion I have to ask that your Board will reconsider its decision as to the annual output and agree to the output for the Wallsend Mine given above. Eight years were substituted for 11 years as original Lease term.

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No.499/88 Memorandum General Crown Lands Office, Wellington 08 May 1888 to Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson. In reply to your Memo 373 of the 23<sup>d</sup> ultimo, with application from the Chairman of the Mokihinui Coal Company for an extension of the term of lease to 99 years. I am directed to inform you that the Minister of Lands considers that the term originally fixed upon viz 42 years should be adhered to.

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No.905/88 Telegram George Joachim, Dunedin 03 Aug 1888 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. Will send you statement of output next week. Lease still under consideration of my board.

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No.965/88 Telegram George Joachim, Dunedin 16 Aug 1888 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. Coal Pit Heath lease has not yet been considered pending a settlement of question of Royalty in new lease. We can only pay the rent of existing lease.

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No.966/88 Telegram George Joachim, Dunedin 16 Aug 1888 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. The words similar provisions have been accepted in another case were quoted from letter from Mines Department of 15<sup>th</sup> August 1887. I cannot tell what case was referred to.

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Newspaper cutting from the Colonist 24 Aug 1888 Nelson Land Board (2 copies)

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No.1010/88 Telegram Gerhard Mueller, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Hokitika 29 Aug 1888 to Alfred Greenfield, Agent, Nelson re Westport Company's new lease. Posted the conditions to Mr Joachim, Dunedin on the ninth of February. See my memo of that date to you.

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No.1076/88 Memorandum General Crown Lands Office, Wellington 13 Sep 1888 to Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson. In reply to your Memo 88 of the 7<sup>th</sup> September I am instructed by the Hon. the Minister of Lands to return herewith the undermentioned Licenses which cannot be approved, as their issue would only tend to hamper the working of the coal field. The Minister has decided not to approve any more prospecting Licenses. E. Haylock, 320 acres, Kawatiri; T. J. Waters, 640 acres Kawatiri; J. McGill, 640 acres, Kawatiri; T. Brown, 640 acres, Kawatiri; A. Jamieson, 640 acres, Kawatiri.

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Newspaper cutting from the Nelson Evening Mail 20 Sep 1888 Land Board  
Newspaper cutting from the Colonist 21 Sep 1888 Nelson Land Board

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Undated newspaper article "Our Coal Mines" refers to the Newcastle strike and the doubling of West Coast coal production in response. [a very similar article titled "Our Coal Mines" was published in the Poverty Bay Herald 12 Oct 1888]

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No.1210/88 Memorandum General Crown Lands Office Wellington 13 Oct 1888 to Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson. In reply to your Memos of the 3<sup>d</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> inst., with correspondence re Westport Coal Company, I am directed by the Hon. Minister of Lands to state that your license embodies what was agreed to at the recent interview you had with him. Will you be good enough to write to the Westport Coal Company accordingly. I return your papers herewith.

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L88/2753 Memorandum 908/2 General Crown Lands Office, Wellington 30 Oct 1888 to Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson. In reply to your Memo 987 of the 10<sup>th</sup> October I am instructed by the Hon. Minister of Lands to inform you that the question of Mr Hamilton's application for a coal lease must stand over pending a report upon it as was arranged with you.

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No.1288/88 Telegram H. J. H. Elliott, Wellington 14 Nov 1888 to Commissioner of Crown Lands Nelson  
It was not so much a Geological report as a report as to the best areas in which to grant leases that the miners wanted. It is thought that Mr Gordon could furnish such a report when he next visits the coast on his return from Melbourne.

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Sheet of figures showing output and royalties for the year 1888 for the Brunner Mine and Coal Pit Heath

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No.221/89 Telegram George Joachim, Dunedin 23 Feb 1889 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. I received your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> inst., please forward our part of Coal Pit Heath lease executed.

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No.244/89 Telegram George Joachim, Dunedin 01 Mar 1889 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. Telegram received re law costs, you do not say if Coal Pit Heath lease is forwarded.

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No.276/89 George Joachim, The Westport Coal Company Limited, Dunedin 07 Mar 1889 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson – re remittance of court costs in relation to Wallsend and Coal Pit Heath leases.

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Prospectus of the Mokihinui Coal Company, Limited – Registered in New Zealand under “The Companies Act, 1882” – New Issue: January 1889. Capital £50,000 in 50,000 shares of £1 each. Directors: Frank Allen, J.P., General Manager Colonial Insurance Co., Wellington; Eugene O’Connor, MHR, Westport; Thomas Roskruge, Christchurch; Jacob Joseph, Wellington; Charles Seagar, Wellington; Thomas G. McCarthy, J.P., Wellington. Secretary: William Wright. Registered office: Palmeston Street, Westport. Bankers: Bank of New Zealand. Agents: Messrs Johnston & Co., Wellington.

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No.383/90 Westport-Wallsend Coal Company (Limited), Nelson 12 Apr 1890 to Alfred Greenfield, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Nelson. (E. P. Simpson’s Coal Lease, Ngakawau)

Dear Sir, On behalf of the “Westport Wallsend Coal Company (Limited)” I beg to make application for the purchase, or lease of, Section, numbered 2, Ngakawau, or whatever portion thereof the Board may agree to. The Company would prefer an absolute purchase, to a lease, as it is the most convenient site for Managers House, Offices, Storehouses, Coke Ovens &c and as the expenditure on the buildings named, would be considerable, they would much prefer laying out this money on a freehold. You would oblige by bringing the matter before the Board at its next meeting.

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Index of Correspondents – [a few stray pages lost from an unidentified source]

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