

Future Developments.

It is hoped that the field south of Chasm Creek, in which direction developments are being extended, will prove more extensive in hard coal than the field on the north. It is, however, too much to expect the coal to continue uniformly hard; it will therefore be necessary to keep exploration-work well ahead.

In connection with the developments now being considered, which is practically opening a new mine (as will be seen by reference to the plan), a new ventilating-fan has to be installed, and a fan of a new type, known as the "Sirocco," has been selected, and will soon be on the ground and erected.

For the utilisation of the small coal, the briquette plant referred to in last year's report is in course of erection at Westport, a site having been chosen at the port in preference to the mine. The starting of this plant should have a beneficial effect on the working of the colliery, and improve the commercial aspect of the concern.

It has been the aim of the management to keep down cost of production, but in consequence of the frequent interruptions to work and smallness of the output, the costs have been higher than if given a regular and greater output.

In concluding my report on the collieries, permit me to say that the officers have discharged their duties most satisfactorily, and in the discharge of my duties I have received valuable assistance from the Consulting Engineer.

The Under-Secretary, Mines Department, Wellington.

I have, &c.,
JAMES BISHOP, Manager.