

## DISTRICT RESOURCES.

### MINT OF MONEY ON OUR COAST.

In regard to the opening up of Waratah Bay as a pleasure and health resort the Foster and Iora Progress Associations, in advocating a main road from Foster to the Bay, stated as evidence of its value the advantage to farmers in enabling them to secure lime for the fields. It is well known lime is the most essential need in the future of this district of such a heavy rainfall, which generates acidity in the soil, thereby destroying the grasses and allowing injurious weeds to take possession of the land, causing diseases in stock of stringhalt, cripples and red water and various other ailments. Therefore it is necessary to the whole of the farmers that lime should be available at the lowest possible cost. Lime, though not a manure, liberates the elements of plant food, causing clovers and leguminous plants to grow and so brings back to fertility. It is necessary for the whole farming community to take concerted action to acquire a cheap supply.

The most practical way would be to advocate a railway from the present line, say from Buffalo to the lime kilns. The freight would then be nominal, as the distance would be short. At present it has to be shipped to Melbourne, carted to rail, and with freight is out of all reason in expense, making it prohibitive.

As an aid to railway receipts industry is now being started at Walkerville in mutton fish canning and salting, for which an unlimited foreign market exists. The shells are used in the manufacture of pearl button substitutes, as the real mother of pearl is extremely scarce.

It has been known for years past that a large oyster bed must exist in the bay, as most excellent samples of large size often wash ashore. The bay is full of various kinds of fish, and a railway line would add another fishing ground, and so give a fresh fish supply. The coast around the Promontory

could give a fresh fish supply. The coast around the Promontory and adjoining islands has not been extensively operated on for crayfish, which are numerous enough for a factory on its own. The present company is stated to be expending £2000 on a plant, having secured a large area of the coast.

As a pleasure and health resort, Waratah Bay is the finest in Australia, and is so much esteemed by the public that the accommodation is vastly overrun, but with rail facilities this would soon be catered for. As an export out for farmers' produce to all eastern ports it would mean a saving in freight and time, and also place producers 200 miles nearer than Ballarat and equal to Tasmania.

Then, as a last consideration, the line should be constructed for military purposes. An enemy

could come in safely with a large fleet, and land there without any opposition.

Taking into consideration these matters, there is no question of the necessity of the rail connection, which should be brought under the notice of our Parliamentary representatives by our public associations.