

and it is estimated that Canterbury lost 500 people in this way. In the first few years everything that could be produced, in the way of produce or any other articles that could be transferred there were sent.

It is recorded that two drays were hauled up over the Bridle Path from the Heathcote Valley - no easy matter - and shipped to Melbourne. Drays were bringing fabulous prices there.

After a few years of quietness the next great rush was to Gabriel's Gully in the early 60's. These diggings were almost the richest alluvial diggings discovered in the world, and immense wealth was gathered from the claims and in the easiest fashion too.

Great stories could be told in the usual way of one man making a fortune and another man within a few feet of him getting nothing. All the old boatmen from Lyttelton cleared out and everyone that could get aboard a schooner or cutter, or those who could travel round by road (and many did - some by way of the Mackenzie Country) went off.

While this was most unsettling, a great deal of good resulted as there was a demand for everything that we could produce - cattle and sheep went down in thousands, and everything that we had to offer found a wonderful market, and in time many of those who left us came back again - some richer, some poorer.