

Two years after Gabriel's Gully, a great rush to the West Coast set in. The same conditions prevailed and here again Canterbury scored immensely. A very large trade was done with Hokitika and Greymouth by sailer, and there can be no doubt that gold discoveries, although a disturbing element at the time, led to a very fine result in the end.

The great difficulty with the early settlers was the transport difficulty between Lyttelton and Christchurch. Lyttelton remained the headquarters of the merchants for some considerable time after Christchurch was settled. The only means of transport was over the Bridle Path where a certain amount was packed, but a great deal was sent by sailing boat up the Heathcote and River Avon.

It is related that the vessels were often delayed for weeks by adverse winds and commodities were particularly scarce in the city of Christchurch. Lots of tales are told of the difficulties that some of the earlier settlers underwent.

Only yesterday a man told me that he had heard his mother relate (and I remember his mother was one of the most beautiful women in the place) that she rode to Lyttelton on horseback and returned with a bag of flour on the front of her saddle, and the late George Gould was said to have carried a bag of sugar all the way from Lyttelton to Christchurch.

A little later on two steamers - the old "Mullough" and the "Planet" - were introduced. They traded