CLIPPINGS FROM THE "KIAMA INDEPENDENT"

(Collected by our Hon. Research Officer, Mr. W. A. Bayley.)

21/6/1864 — "BULLI JETTY COLLAPSES"

The Bulli Coal Mining Company's Jetty, which was constructed of piles, and extended about 700 feet out into the sea, had on Saturday to combat about as fearful a storm as has been known for many years. It was apparent that on the day named, there was every probability of the large construction succumbing to the raging billows. When such fears were entertained every exertion was made to remove the wagons, which numbered somewhere about forty, from off the jetty. When they were all run off but two, crash went thirteen spans, making about 130 feet, taking with it the two solitary wagons, and other things necessary for the loading of coal. It was evident more must go unless the sea abated, on account of the first fall shaking what was standing so fearfully. Such fears were realised, for on Sunday morning it was to be seen that old Neptune had been playing his pranks, dashing it down in pieces, heedless of its strength, until destroying about 300 feet of it, and would, no doubt, have taken more, only the standing portion is in shallow water. The destruction did not rest here, for the continued heavy rain had saturated the ground to such a degree, that the earth over No. 2 tunnel gave way, closing up the mouth of the pit, when the back water found its way into the mine, and did serious damage. Such are the damages the company's works have sustained, which will take two or three months before they are in working operations as before. I believe the estimated loss is about £1000.

A large ship was seen on Sunday morning away to the north of Bulli, close into land, canvas set, with her head to the south. She was seen but for a short time, when the rain and mist obscured her from sight. Great anxiety was evinced as to her safety. She was seen again
on Monday, when it was supposed she was anchored, and her main mast gone. She laid in that position until Tuesday, when the Hunter, steamer, in passing, noticed her and came to her relief. I believe she not being able to take the ship in tow, was obliged to leave her, taking the crew on to Sydney. She returned in company with the Kembla, when the two steamers succeeded in bringing her to Sydney. She was the Prince Consort from Brisbane to Newcastle.

The weather looks very unsettled with successions of showers, and no sign of a change at the present. Fine weather is much wanted to dry up our ways, which are in a fearful state.

Bulli, June 16th, 1864.