THE IRON HORSE COMES TO WOLLONGONG:

The Mount Keira Railway.—Last week may be considered a new era in the history of coal mining in the Illawarra district, inasmuch as the proprietor of the Mount Keira Mine has completed the arrangements which have now been in progress for some months, and has started two new locomotives for the purpose of hauling coal from the mine to the harbour. There were no special demonstrations in honor of an occasion which may very justly be expected to exercise a most beneficial influence on the future welfare and progress of the district. Such enterprise on the part of Captain Osborne will doubtless meet with its own reward, in the shape of a rapidly increasing trade, but at the same time every individual in the district, will receive an indirect benefit from the completion of the works. The fact of steam power being required proves the trade is growing apace, and it is not too much to predict that in a very short time a very prosperous future will dawn on all the interests connected with coal mining in the district. The first direct benefit will be that a large increase will take place in the out-put of coal, and a corresponding amount of money put in circulation. It will beneficially affect the shipping trade of the port, and be the means of compelling the Government to recognise the claims of our district, which have heretofore been most lamentably neglected.

—(Wollongong Argus, 27 November, 1879)