ADVANCE ILLAWARRA!

ADVANCE ILLAWARRA!—We have much pleasure in recording the perfect success of the trial of the new coals from the mine at Mount Keira—henceforth, we understand, to be called "The Osborne Wallsend Mines." The manager of the mine brought to the wharf, at Wollongong, on Thursday evening last, 3½ tons of their seven-foot-thick seam. These were immediately shipped in the steamer "Illawarra"—venerabile nomen. The fires were lighted with the coal at early dawn, and the steamer with abundance of steam and to spare, performed her voyage most satisfactorily and with her usual speed. The result cannot be surpassed. And we have now an export equal, if not better, to the best coal of the Hunter. The engineer, Mr. Young, who has the thanks of our community for his attention in the trial, reports most favourably. The coal will be next tried in the tubular boilers, but of their entire success there is not the shadow of doubt. The Victory is won! and Illawarra is in possession of an article of domestic use and export not second in importance to the richest gold-field in the country, or, indeed, in the world; for gold mining disturb the social relations of life—creates unhealthy speculation, and is uncertain and exhaustible. Our black diamonds will promote commerce and add to our social industry. The coal is fine in appearance—bright and splinty—burns bright and strong, and leaves no clinkers. The residuum appear to be in the same proportion as the best coal of the colony. In every respect there appears no drawback whatever. As the mine advances into the mountain the manager states the coal will improve at least five per cent over present quality. Taking the Osborne Wallsend Seam altogether, it appears one of the finest in the world.

"Illawarra Mercury," April 20, 1857.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

The Southern Highlands and Illawarra Chapter of the Australian Museums Association held a seminar in Wollongong on Sunday, 20th March, hosted by our Society.

Morning tea at the museum allowed delegates to inspect our displays before proceeding to Little Milton to see the Seymours' clock museum. The luncheon and meeting were held at the University of Wollongong in the common room of the Institute of Education, by which time it had turned into a very wet day.

Following a brief business meeting, the seminar was conducted by Mr. Richard Wesley, executive officer of the Museums Association, who used slides taken on a recent trip to Great Britain to illustrate a variety of methods of arranging museum displays. He also gave valuable advice on publications available for the guidance of those conducting small museums.

Representatives attended from Berrima, Kiama, Nowra and Wollongong. Kiama volunteered to host the next meeting on Sunday, 19th June, at which attention will focus on the administration of small museums.