



there she goes

The rail motor approaching the Exchange Sidings near Newnes Junction, 1931. Both photos from the same position, photographer swinging as the motor went past.

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railway was also one of the most ambitious undertaken by private enterprise in this State if not in the whole of Australasia. There were, and are, of course, many relatively large private industrial railways in the Commonwealth but the Wolgan Valley line was outstanding, having regard to length and difficulty of terrain, for the servicing of a single industrial undertaking.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WOLGAN VALLEY RAILWAY.

The Wolgan Valley Railway terminated in a dead-end runaway siding adjacent to the Great Western Railway of the New South Wales Government system, to which it had access by a staff-locked connection in the Dargans — Clarence electric staff section. The junction faced towards Down trains from Sydney at 86m. 70c., and was placed at an elevation of 3611 feet above sea level. A passenger platform of small dimensions was located on the Government line, in the

angle formed by the junction, and officially named Newnes Junction from the 17th November 1906.

After passing through the boundary gate and a deep cutting, the exchange sidings were reached at a distance of twenty chains. These sidings consisted of two loops and had catch-points at their junction end. A chain or so further on was an engine siding, with ash-pit and shed to house one engine, and a coal stage and water tank, accessible from both siding and main line. The water was obtained by pumping from a small dam in a nearby swamp. Further on was the triangle for turning the locomotives and the station limits ended at an "Up Home" signal, made by Messrs Mackenzie and Holland, situated at a little over half-a-mile from Newnes Junction.

After leaving the exchange sidings the line began the ascent of a ridge, the summit (3960 feet) being reached at 6m. 56c. On the way a short spur siding, facing to Down trains, known as 3-MILE SIDING, was located at 2¼m. This siding was not provided in the original construction