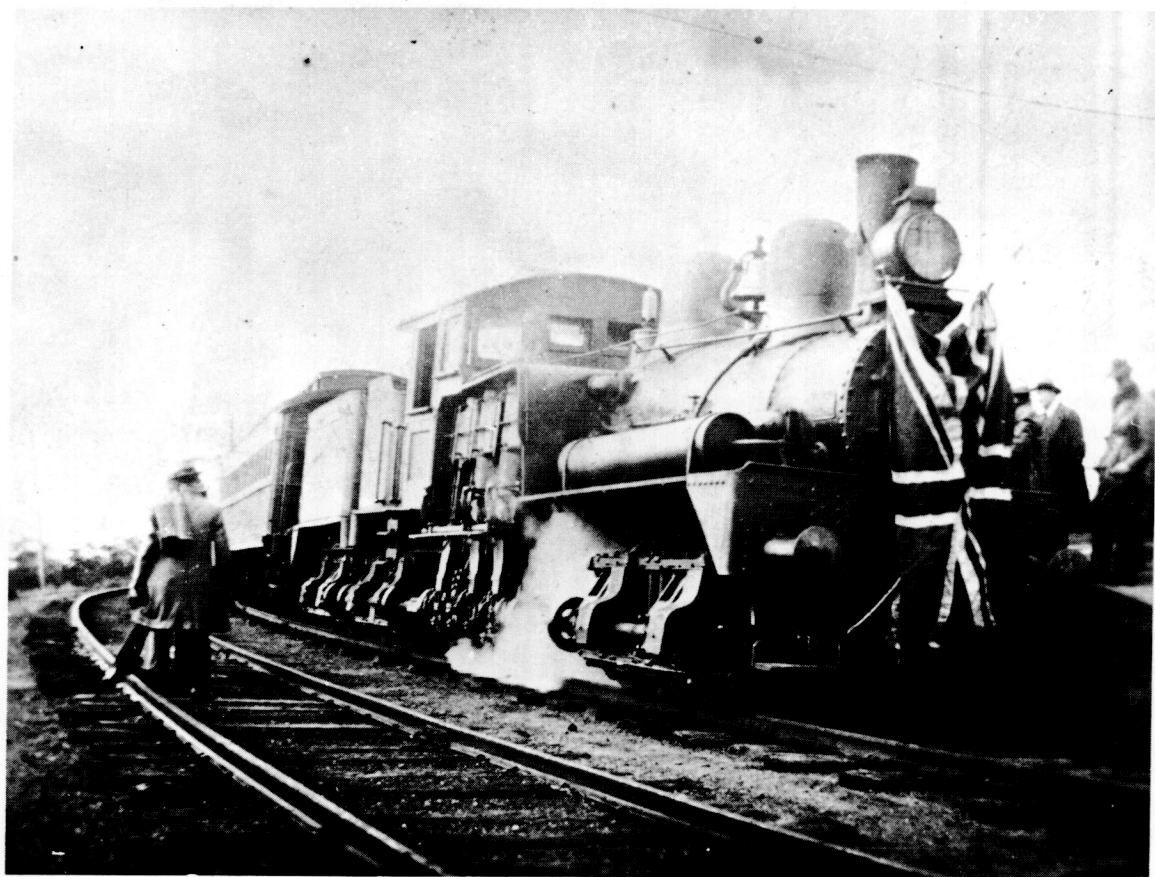


that there was no money in hand to pay wages and the men promptly ceased work.

On August 12th, 1931 it was announced in the press that the Newnes oil-works was to re-open under the auspices of the "SHALE OIL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, LIMITED". The Federal Government gave a grant of £93,000 for the repatriation of unemployed miners, some £30,000 being allotted to Newnes. The new company was successful in obtaining an option for twelve months on machinery at Newnes valued at nearly two million pounds, together with the right to purchase this equipment. Two Shay locomotives were re-conditioned and the rail-motor was again placed in service, the fares for passengers being rated at five shillings each way. A consignment of 150 tons of shale, to the order of Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, Limited, was hauled from Newnes by one of the re-conditioned Shay locomotives, the mineral being destined for England for testing purposes. Unfortunately a derailment, caused by a rusted bogie

on one of the wagons occurred, causing the bulk of this important consignment to miss the ship. The shale in the derailed vehicle was transferred into four-wheeled trucks and taken to Newnes Junction. It was shipped by the "CLAN MCINTYRE" to England. By November 1931 some 3000 gallons of crude oil were being daily retorted at Newnes, and in February 1932 an oil-importing company loaned three 5000 gallon capacity bogie oil-tank wagons to transfer the oil to Sydney. At the same time it was mentioned that Cripp's Mine at Newnes was sending quantities of shale to the retorts. Mr. Cripps was a local orchardist and many years later, so it has been said, was Mine Host at the Newnes Hotel. It is evident that the "SHALE OIL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, LIMITED" ceased activities, after such a promising start, about March, 1932.

Tenders were called by the Federal Government on April 2nd, 1932, for companies to take over operations at Newnes, such companies having to



*Shay locomotive No. 3 which worked the official train from Newnes Junction on 28-6-1932 for the ceremony of handing over the operations at Newnes to Tregenowan & Chambers.*

*R. Merchant colln.*