

company's locomotives were stored, pending disposal, at their Mittagong depot, and that these engines were purchased by Messrs Cameron and Sutherland. It such was the case it would possibly concern the second and third locomotives and denote that these engines were sold through the agency of the latter firm to their respective buyers. It has been alleged that engines from Joadja were seen working at a quarry near Picton, but this statement has not been confirmed. However, it is definitely known that two locomotive saddle-tanks, of small dimensions, were dumped at the Mittagong Council's rubbish tip, located at the northern end of Mittagong Street, Welby. Here they formed an ideal shelter for numerous snakes which thrived on the rats frequenting the tip. Within recent years the tip has been closed and tons of soil bull-dozed over the once so smelly area, covering the old saddle-tanks in the process. Fortunately the main dimensions of the two tanks were measured before they disappeared from human ken.

LATTER DAY HAPPENINGS IN THE JOADJA VALLEY

After the closure of the oil and shale-winning activities at Joadja the place lay dormant and almost forgotten for several years. Newspapers disclosed that the Shale Petrol Company commenced operations in the valley, mining shale and using several of the former Joadja company's retorts and other equipment during 1920. The new company achieved some degree of success in their venture and even contemplated relaying the railway to Mittagong. No further news of the project appeared and it would be most interesting to know the facts relative to the circumstances which forced this concern out of business.

Apart from the orchardists and market gardeners the valley was utilised as a grazing property for cattle by several different families who, in succession, improved the pastures and made additional dams for water supply purposes. At Easter 1925 Mr Jack Gray noted that the haulage incline was still in use by the local orchardists, who sent three open wagons, loaded with large size Jonathan and Delicious apples, to the bankhead and beyond to a packing shed where the fruit was graded and cased ready to be sent away by motor lorry.



The remains of a still and still bench during a recent visit to Joadja.

R. Guthrie.