



*Remains of miners cottages at Joadja 22-3-69.*

*A. Grunbach.*

by a grate, or a stove, installed in an "outside" brick chimney. Each cottage jugged on to the street alignment and no attempt was made to provide any form of adornment of space for flower gardening activities. The rentals charged by the company were designedly kept low and amounted from one shilling to two shillings per week according to the class of house occupied. In addition to the brick built company houses there were a large number of "bush-shanties" scattered around the lower hill-slopes where living conditions were really primitive although free of rental charges. At the eastern end of what may be regarded as the main street, following along the northern bank of Joadja Creek, was a wonderfully haphazard construction of rusty corrugated sheets which provided shelter for the activities of the village blacksmith and his immediate associates. Strangely enough the company management were appreciative of the beauty of trees and planted the residential streets with avenues of oaks, elms, silver-poplars, and sycamores, all deciduous, thus providing dense shade in the hot summer months and, being leafless,

permitted the sun to send its warming rays on to the otherwise bleak scene in the depths of winter, and it can be cold in the Joadja Valley.

The company established and operated general stores, a butcher shop and a bake-house to serve the everyday needs of the community, whilst large orchards, protected by pine-tree plantations against the gully winds sweeping in from the west, provided an abundance of fruit, including apples, pears, and cherries. There were mixed farms which supplied milk, butter, poultry, and eggs, thus making the inhabitants of the village almost self-sufficient in their food-stuff requirements. There was a post-office and a Presbyterian Church building which also was in use by other demoninations, both Protestant and Catholic, for their services. By the simple expedient of removing the pews from the church building the place found occasional use as a meeting place, a roller-skating rink, or dance room. At the western end of the valley was an ornate stone school-house built, according to report, by an Italian mason. School children, after gaining an elementary knowledge of the "Three