

cline there are branch lines to the various departments. There are over sixty-four retorts in working order, each is capable of holding about two tons of shale. The shale remains in the retorts for a week and the quantity of oil extracted averages from one hundred gallons upwards from every ton of shale. The weekly production of oil averages more than ten thousand gallons. In addition, in the mountain of shale the company possesses there is a seam of coal, about nine inches thick, extending in the same direction as the shale. The coal is of excellent quality and is used on all the company's works, and as much as can be spared meets with a ready sale. Considerable quantities going to Goulburn. Added to the great amount of oil daily despatched from the mine there is an average of one hundred to one hundred and fifty tons of shale leaving the mine every day, the bulk being for Sydney, while the best of it is forwarded to England. Its use being to increase the illuminating power of coal gas. The population of Joadja is about four hundred and fifty, and about three-fourths of that number are Scotch, who appear to have a special aptitude for the work. Another ship load of miners is now on the road from Scotland, bound for the mines. There are now more than one hundred men working at Joadja and in addition to these there are about fifty more engaged on the company's works. After a night's patient waiting in the cold air we returned to Mittagong on Saturday morning about 10 o'clock."

Another contemporary report of the early period at Joadja Creek also remarks on the bulk of the employees being Scotch and states that "The language is the broadest and sometimes the most incomprehensible, the dress, in some cases, the quaintest, and the habits peculiar". There was a number of Welsh mining families settled in the valley and these people had their choirs and glee clubs and exercised their well known musical talents to the fullest advantage.

THE CHRISTMAS EXODUS FROM THE JOADJA VALLEY

It is of interest to quote an old-time account of the behaviour of the Joadja mining fraternity during their annual Christmas spree, a tale which unfolds as follows.

"The annual output or exodus from Joadja on Christmas Eve was many truck loads of wild Scotch and Welshmen, with their wives and young-

sters — about a thousand of them were let loose. on the peaceful town of Mittagong until the second of January when they were rounded up and trucked, exported or transported back to the wilds of Joadja for another year. In the interval betwixt Xmas and New Year they had a merry time expending much mountain air in inflating bag-pipes, consuming haggis, and drinking Scotch whisky at 3/6 a bottle. Man juist ye think of that, and getting verra drunk and verra happy. On New Year's Eve the men wandered round in a body of 50 or 60, from pub to pub at midnight and called on the Landlords to open up and supply them with a few bottles, free, with which to celebrate in the Band-room placed at their disposal by the Mittagong Band. If the Landlord was wise he handed out a few bottles, and they sang "Freeze a jolly good fellow", and marched on to the next pub. Fred Draper, Tom Morris, and Pat Ruane had wisdom, but the other pro bono publicus, John Miller was an unwise cranky obstreperous landlord, and told the crowd to get to a warmer place. They sang a song for and at him; "You made your poor old Mother weep from night to early morn; you made your poor old Father curse the day that you were born. You'll be sorry that you served us so me lad, and may your children strike you as you struck your poor old Dad". They then walked round to his back fence, climbed into his yard, took his clothes line off the posts, passed it round his W.C. and they all pulled until it was lying on its side. Then the bakers and pastrycooks were levied on and taxed for cake; after which Hogminay — or first footin' was indulged in with the aid of Annie Laurie, Scots wha ha and a few others until daylight when Auld Lang Syne ordered them out." Social History at its best.

THE FIFTH NARROW-GAUGE LOCOMOTIVE AT JOADJA.

With increased traffic it became necessary to obtain a fifth locomotive, therefore an order was placed with Messrs Andrew Barclay and Company for the supply of an 0-6-0 saddle-tank engine, their work's number 253 of 1882. There is a note that the engine was obtained through the agency of Messrs. F. Parbury, of London. No record has been obtained as to the leading dimensions but judging by photographic evidence the fifth engine conformed, in outward appearance at least, to the same design as the third engine in the possession of the Australian Kerosene Company. According to the late James Potter, a one time resident of Joadja, this late acquisition was engaged, with the third