

The seconds and trimmings were left at the mines. A stack at the Glen Mine is estimated to contain about sixteen thousand tons; later a tramway was relaid for its removal. Other large stacks at the various tunnel mouths have been destroyed by bush fires. Retorting operations were not established in connection with these deposits, hence their full value has not been realised. It was early noted that three seams of the mineral occurred at different horizons at Megalong. Campbell Mitchell in his 1870 section showed them.

It is probable that little of the deposit under Ruined Castle Point remains unworked.

It will be noted on the Geological Map of Katoomba that denudation has left but a narrow strip of the shale seam at Ruined Castle, which does not extend beyond the extreme point of Isolated Mountain (Mount Solitary), where it gradually passes entirely into ordinary coal. Altogether there were about thirty-six tunnels from near the Orphan Rock, Ruined Castle, and Mount Solitary.

#### KATOOMBA COAL MINE.

The new company was duly registered May 29, 1925, with a lease of 160 acres.

In the old drive they found the ceilings were clean, dry and level, and the wooden pillars as round as the day they were put in.

An incline 1,200 feet long, and a drop of 800 feet, giving an average grade of 44 degrees down the cliff side, was completed by the old company without a single accident. This is used at present for haulage.

The scenery is equal if not better than the Grand Canyon of Colorado.

The first coal was taken from Katoomba Coal Mine to Sydney by bullock team in the seventies and exhibited at Sydney Show by Mr. North, who obtained a certificate of merit.

In the mining days, in the Kanimbla Valley, familiarly known as Megalong Valley, there existed a small township comprising a saw-mill, store, hotel, weatherboard cottages and miners' huts. It is difficult to-day, gazing from the cliff-top into the dense undergrowth, to visualise the scene as it was then. Families also resided at the foot of the Ruined Castle.

In the early days of the coal mine shale was worth £10 per ton, and coal only 6/- per ton; this is the reason the Norths took the shale and left the coal.

Near the present Kiosk at Katoomba Falls were three streets of cottages and an hotel. The hotel was conducted by Mr. Harry Edwards; it retained its license for years, and is now known as the Falls House Boarding establishment.

The Ruined Castle Shale proved to be one of the richest deposits in the world, giving 60 to 100 gallons of oil per ton of shale.

#### AERIAL RAILWAY.

In 1885 the Flying Fox from the head of the Ruined Castle, was constructed by engineers from abroad. The colossal nature of this work can be imagined when one views the giant cables that are to-day hanging in a rusted state from the cliff edge and the trees in the valley. This Aerial Railway cost thousands of pounds to construct, and ranked as one of the greatest engineering feats in Australia; unfortunately it collapsed. Subsequently a track was made through very rough country by way of the Narrow Neck, and the daylight tunnel through Narrow Neck into Megalong Valley.

You will notice by the above reports that the Jamieson Valley was accessible by two routes; per double line of Cable Tramway from Essenden to Jamieson Valley, then into the Megalong Valley connected by the daylight tunnel through the Narrow Neck. This junctioned with the Narrow Neck—Ruined Castle—Mount Solitary horse-drawn tramway. The time will surely come when Megalong Road will be extended as far as the Narrow Neck Coal Tunnel, Megalong Valley, then on to Mount Solitary.

#### STRATIGRAPHICAL COMPOSITION OF THE CLIFFS NEAR ORPHAN ROCK, KATOOMBA.

The following section of the coal measures, where they are clearly exposed in a drainage channel above No. 1 coal tunnel, was measured by J. E. Carne, F.G.S., during a Geological Survey of the locality:—

Top of Hawkesbury sandstone series, 810 feet above coal seam; splinty coal (top seam), 2 feet 6 inches; clay shale, 35 feet; coal with bands, 12 feet; coaly shale, 2 feet; clay shale and sandstone, 45 feet; coal, 1 foot; clay shale, 10 feet; bituminous coal, 1 foot; clay shale and sandstone, 60 feet 6 inches; bituminous coal, 3½ inches; kerosene shale (Morts seam), 10 inches; clay shale, 2 inches; bituminous coal with bands, 4 inches; sandstone and clay shale, 8 feet; bituminous coal —; clay shale, 2 feet; semi-bituminous coal (top), 8 inches; kerosene shale, 4 feet; sandstone, 2 feet; coal, 1 foot 6 inches; clay shale, 3 feet; Marangaroo conglomerate, 8 feet; bituminous coal (Lithgow coal seam horizon), 3 inches; clay shale and shaly sandstone, 3 feet; conglomerate, 6 feet; sandstone and clay shale.