

HEAD-ON COLLISION

C. P. R. Express Crashes Into a Freight at Mountain Station
Two Express Messengers Killed and Their
Bodies Burned Up.

TRAIN CREWS JUMP FOR THEIR LIVES.

A head-on collision occurred on the C. P. R. at Mountain station at six o'clock Friday morning. No. 6 express, east-bound, which left Smith's Falls at five o'clock that morning crashed into a freight west-bound on the same track. The express does not stop at Mountain Station and it is said was running at 50 miles an hour when the collision occurred about a hundred rods west of that station.

CREWS JUMPED TO SAVE THEIR LIVES.

The track is straight at this place and the crews were able to see the impending danger and all jumped to save their lives. In this they were fortunately successful. Engineer John Hartney of Montreal, the driver of the express, sustained the most painful injuries, but he escaped with the loss of three fingers. He was bruised and suffered slight injuries otherwise as did all the crew but the only serious thing is the loss of Mr. Hartney's fingers. A physician at Mountain attended him at once and he afterwards went on to Montreal for further treatment.

TWO ENGINES TELESOPED INTO EACH OTHER.

The two engines were telescoped into each other and were practically ruined. The express car, next the engine and the baggage car next to that, received the full force of the collision. The wreck took fire and in a few minutes both these cars were enveloped in flames. The baggage man, Lesperance, had just opened the door of his car for a minute when the crash came. He was thrown through the open door and to this he no doubt owes his life. He was scratched and scarred about the face from plowing through the snow but he was not badly hurt. The express messenger, Wm. Hitchens, and his assistant, Nicholson, were less fortunate. They essayed to get out of the car but the legs of one were caught by some of the wreckage and he could not free himself. The other succeeded in getting his head and shoulders through the window of the car but he was caught there and could get no further.

BAGGAGE CARS TOOK FIRE.

Immediately these two cars took fire and the two unhappy men, thus pinioned down, saw the flames surrounding them and rapidly coming nearer and nearer to them. They cried out in their extremity for assistance, and quickly the passengers and those of the crew who were able to do anything responded but they were unable to succor them.

PASSENGERS TAKE TURN CHOPPING AT THE CARS.

So great was the heat from the flames that it was impossible to do much but all that could be done was done to rescue the doomed men. Passengers took turns in chopping at the car to free the messenger who was partly out of the window and an effort was made to pull him out, but he was fast imprisoned and could not be released.

BOTH MEN BURNED TO DEATH.

With piteous appeals for help, and in sight of the horror stricken crowd, who were powerless to save, both men were burned to death.

The first class passenger coach was only slightly injured and no damage was done to the rest of the coaches. One freight car only was destroyed.

Conductor A. Burt was in charge of the express with John Hartney of Montreal as engineer, Hugh Richmond of Smith's Falls fireman and E. Williams of Toronto brakeman. The crew of the freight were all of Smith's Falls, J. Manion, engineer, Harry Scott, conductor, A. Rennick, fireman, Wm. O'Mara and E. Suffell, brakemen.

The wreck, it is said, was really caused by Engineer Manion making a mistake of an hour in looking at his watch. They were told at the last station at which they stopped that the express was 30 minutes late and they were to regulate their running by that. Engineer Manion when looking at his watch made a mistake of an hour and thought he would have plenty of time to make Kemptville. He therefore kept the main line and ran past Mountain. When the conductor and brakemen noticed that he was passing Mountain they stopped him intending to back up and run on to the siding. They just got the train stopped when the express came thundering down on them and the crash followed. In another minute they would have had the engine backing up out of danger. Engineer Manion is one of the most careful conscientious men on the road and is much depressed over the sad affair.

The C. P. R. did everything in its power to rescue the two unfortunate men, and also to make the passengers comfortable. The farmers, too, were very kind, especially Mr. G. J. Clark, who invited them all to his house to dine.

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