

C.P. R. TRAIN  
PLUNGES INTO  
THE FRASER  
CANYON,

LYTTON, B. C.

DECEMBER 7, 1901.

# TRAIN PLUNGES INTO A CANYON

**Canadian Pacific Freight Takes a Header  
Into a Chasm Created By a  
Rockslide**

**Engineer and Fireman Met Instant Death  
in the Gulf That Swallowed Up  
the Locomotive**

**Luckily the Train Broke in Two and the  
Conductor and Trainmen Were  
Uninjured**

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 6.—Three hundred and sixty feet sheer down into the foaming torrent that forces its way through the sharp-cut canyon of the Fraser, near the town of Lytton, was the awful plunge taken this morning by a Canadian Pacific westbound freight. The track had been buried by a sudden slide, and in the dark hour that precedes the dawn the train had headed straight into the chasm, where a safe track had been not many minutes before. Happily, though remarkably, the train was broken in its plunge, the latter portion remaining on the rails pinned by still falling debris, pinching the mid-section in a narrow cut, and thus conductor and brakemen saved their lives.

Engineer Randall and Fireman Pott-ruff, of course, met instant death, falling with their locomotive into the gulf that swallowed up the train. Both were married men, and had their homes at North Bend, whence came the first news of the fatality.

#### Official Account

The official statement issued this noon, by the railway authorities, stated that the ill-fated train, which was an extra freight in charge of Conductor Harris, struck the rock slide at 5:15 at quite the wildest part of the whole mountain section, where the train crawls, fly-like, along the side of frowning precipitous cliffs, at whose feet the Tawney river ebbs its way through solid masses of forbidding rocks. The canyon begins some miles above, just passing Drynock. As the railway leaves the Thompson river, the gorge rapidly narrows and deepens, the walls of the cliffs on the opposite side forming a high escarpment through a break in which the peaks of the ranges are visible.

#### At the "Devil's Playground"

Just below Lytton, where the catastrophe occurred, the canyon widens

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and through a break in which the peaks of the ranges are visible.

#### At the "Devil's Playground"

Just below Lytton, where the catastrophe occurred, the canyon widens slightly to admit the Fraser's main tributary coming from the north between great mountain ranges, the place being locally known as the Devil's Playground. Here it was that the locomotive, hitting the mass of rock, shot into the chasm, carrying with it the five foremost cars. Thousands of tons of steel and heavy timber disappeared in a twinkling, and in an instant later were the toys of grinding rock and whirling waters. The brakeman had walked back to the caboose from the engine but ten minutes previous, and with the conductor was providentially protected by the still tumbling rock nipping the train in mid-section.

The regular freight had passed one spot less than two hours before, while the section patrol had been over and found all safe within an hour previous. The weather was clear and frosty, and to this is charged the slide which caused the disaster. When the air is cool in these localities the rock cracks, and the track being the only obstruction for any part of the mountain separating itself from the parent body, it must receive the deposit.

#### Victims' Bodies Recovered

Wrecking gangs are now at work, and it is expected that traffic may be resumed within twelve hours.

Both victims of the accident have homes at North Bend, the division point. Randall all but met death a year or so ago at Spatsum, and was brought back to life chiefly through the careful attention of his wife. Pottruff formerly resided in this city, and had been but three weeks wedded. Both bodies have been recovered, horribly mutilated.

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## FELL INTO A TRAP

How a Gallant Toronto Man Fell a Vic-  
tim to Boer Wiles

Toronto, Dec. 7.—Particulars respect-  
ing the manner in which Sergt.-Major  
Duncan J. McGregor met his death on  
Jan. 27 last at Eastefabrukken have  
been received by his father, who re-  
sides at 99 Gladstone avenue. Sergt.-  
Major McGregor went to South Africa  
with C battery, R.C.A., and when that  
corps returned to Canada joined the  
Canadian Scouts. Major Gat Howard,  
the commander, gave him charge of a  
colt gun detachment with the rank of a  
sergeant-major. The deceased soldier  
was formerly a pupil at Gladstone ave-  
nue school, and a handsome oil paint-  
ing of the gallant soldier adorns the  
school. The detachment to which the  
sergeant-major was attached at the  
time he was killed was engaged with  
Gen. Alderson's column at a point sev-  
enteen miles east of Pretoria, on the

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