

One Killed, One Hurt As Trains Collide

Brakeman Fred J. Coombe
Is Jammed Between
Cabooses — Engine
Crashes Rear of Stand-
ing C.N.R. Freight
Train at Mimico

FRED J. COOMBE, age 64, of 431A Ossington Avenue, was instantly killed and Fred Wright, 58 Redwood Avenue, seriously injured in a freight train collision at the easter approach to the Mimico yards of the C.N.R. yesterday.

Condition Satisfactory.

Wright, after being given first-aid by Dr. Warren Snyder, was taken by Baycroft's ambulance to the Western Hospital, suffering from face lacerations, a broken ankle and other minor injuries. His condition last night was reported as satisfactory.

The crash occurred at 12:10 a.m. when an extra engine with a caboose, with the tender running first, in charge of Conductor Fred Wright crashed into the rear of a freight train in charge of Conductor D. Searles. The former was operating from Allandale to Mimico, while the other freight was at a standstill waiting admission to the yards.

Mr. Coombe, employed as a transfer brakeman in the standing train, was in the caboose with Wright, and as he saw the collision unavoidable, leaped out and Coombe followed him, only to be jammed between the two cabooses and mangled. The two cars were wrecked and overturned and an oil stove in one ignited the wreckage. The crew of a passing engine lost no time in shooting water on the flames, which were extinguished.



Two of Coombe's sons are also employed as brakemen by the railway. Gordon Coombe, 2 Sixth Street, New Toronto, the eldest, had just reported for duty at the yards when the tragedy took place. Until an investigation is completed the exact cause of the accident cannot be definitely ascertained. It is, however, believed that the rear lights of the standing train were showing, as was the signal light, twenty car lengths from the scene of the crash.

Divisional Superintendent W. J. Yearsley was on hand, and Coroner Dr. H. R. Conn, Mimico, who was summoned, stated that an inquest would be held. The entire telegraph system between Mimico and Oakville was temporarily out of order following the accident.

Official Statement.
W. A. Kingsland, Vice-President and General Manager, Central Region, Canadian National Railways, issued the following statement last night.

"At 12:10 Sunday morning, June 2, extra engine 3338, operating from Allandale to Mimico, in charge of Conductor F. Wright and Engineer E. Painter, running tender first and showing one caboose, collided with rear of transfer freight train, in charge of Conductor D. Searles and Engineer D. Campbell. This train consisted of thirty-seven empty and ten loaded cars, with caboose.

"The accident occurred immediately east of Mimico Station, on the westward freight track. The cabooses of both trains were badly damaged.

Transfer Brakeman F. J. Coombe, 431A Ossington Avenue, Toronto, was instantly killed, and Conductor Wright, 58 Redwood Avenue, was removed to the Western Hospital suffering from a broken ankle and minor injuries. No other member of the two train crews was injured.

"The cause of the accident is now under investigation."