

GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS STRUCK A FREIGHT ENGINEER O'GRADY WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED

Breaking of Drawhead Causes an Accident Near Pottersburg.

FREIGHT CREW'S NARROW ESCAPE

Were Attempting to Fix the Coupling When the Express Hove in Sight and Collided.

While entering the gravel pit just east of Pottersburg, G. T. R. express No. 11, from the east, crashed into the rear end of a freight train, this morning.

The only person injured was Engineer O'Grady, of Sarnia, of the express, who had a cut about five inches long over his eye.

The passengers escaped without an injury.

Traffic was delayed for an hour.

Freight Going West.

The freight train, in charge of Conductor Bell, of London, was going west and was making good time. Just as the gravel pit was reached the drawhead of one of the cars pulled out, and the train was stopped to repair the damage.

Express Running Fast.

The express train was coming behind at a rapid rate, and as it entered the gravel pit O'Grady did not see the freight until within a couple of car lengths of the freight.

The express crashed into the freight.

Telegraphed Calamity.

The engine passed completely through the caboose, which was shattered into kindling-wood.

The next car buckled and was thrown across the south track.

The other cars were smashed considerably, but none of them left the track.

The smokestack, cowcatcher and cab of the engine were smashed badly.

Engineer Injured.

Engineer O'Grady was struck by a splinter, and cut badly over the eye.

The wound bled profusely, but he remained in charge of the engine.

Fireman Escaped.

The fireman was uninjured, although a number of pieces of iron and splinters smashed very close to him.

A Close Call.

The conductor and rear brakeman of the freight were ahead attempting to fix the drawbar when the crash took place, and so escaped injury.

Both might have been seriously hurt, but saw the approaching train and were able to get out of the danger zone.

Passengers Escaped.

The passengers were not injured at all.

"There did not seem to be any more than if a coupling had been made," said one gentleman, "and we did not know what had happened until the train stopped."

"We rushed out and saw the wreck, very thankful that it was no worse. Nobody was injured."

Engineer's Story.

Engineer O'Grady stated that his train was running along at a lively rate, and everything was in first-class shape.

He did not know the freight was so close, and did not see it until within a couple of car lengths.

He then applied the emergency brake and the train's speed was slackened considerably before the crash came.

Had the freight been another car length away the express would have stopped before the crash.

The London auxiliary was soon on the scene and had the track cleared within an hour.

The Crews.

The freight train was in charge of Conductor Bell and Brakeman Wood, both of London.

The engine crew of the express train was composed of Engineer O'Grady, of Sarnia, and Fireman Riley, of this city.

Storm Blamed.

The snowstorm prevailing at the time of the accident is blamed for the crash.

The scene of the accident is the cut at the gravel pit east of Pottersburg. The light at best is none too good in this place, and when the snow was blowing over the cut, it made it almost impossible to see any distance.

Assistant Superintendent Nixon was on the scene of the wreck very soon.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

\$10,000 A YEAR FOR MR. BECK MAY GET IMPORTANT OFFICE

Interesting Story from Toronto to the Effect That Member for London Is Booked for the Chairmanship of the Permanent Power Commission.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, March 16.—It was stated here today by a gentleman in close touch with Hon. Adam Beck, and with the Niagara power movement, that Hon. Mr. Beck has his eye on a position which will be within his grasp within a short time.

It is that of chairman of a permanent Niagara power commission, to be named by the Whitney Government, and the position will carry with it a salary of \$10,000 a year.

The same gentleman also stated that a certain gentleman who has taken a great interest in the Western Ontario Niagara Power Union would also be placed on the commission, but it is not known exactly who this gentleman is; but there are some who think that President Fryer is the man referred to.

It is a gentleman in the Queen's Hotel recently, Mr. Beck remarked he would die politically with his boots on, and that he would not seek another constituency than London, despite Mr. Gray's threats.

If, however, Mr. Beck is appointed to the Niagara power commission, he would not be in Mr. Gray's power, and would not need to worry about the votes of the electors.

Mr. Beck was named on the commission, it would take him out of an embarrassing position, for it is a well-known fact that no matter what office he seeks in London, he will be opposed by Mr. Wm. Gray, another prominent Conservative, who had the knife out for Mr. Beck. It is acknowledged also that if such a commission is appointed to Mr. Beck would be entitled to the chairmanship.

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OVERDRAFT OF \$4,204.32 1908 ESTIMATE \$180,000

Board of Education to the Bad on Last Year's Account—Will Want \$30,000 More for 1908 than 1907, When \$150,000 Was Secured.

The board of education figures for the year have been given out, and, contrary to expectations, the board has an overdraft of \$4,204.32.

The overdraft is all in the public school accounts, the Collegiate showing a surplus of \$298.32.

The board will probably ask for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$180,000 this year, which is an increase of about \$30,000 over 1907.

The current overdraft in the public school account amounts to \$1,244.86. The rest of the overdraft is from the St. George's school, which cost the board \$3,257.79 more than the bylaw called for.

The sum of \$15,000 was set aside for that school, but over \$3,000 more was spent on the building than the estimated cost.

The other figures do not show much change from last year.

The Salaries' Increase.

The increase in salaries voted to the teachers practically wipes out the greater revenue which would result from the increase in assessment for the year, if the same rate on the dollar is struck this year as last. The increase.

With the overdraft the increase in estimates from the board of education will amount to practically \$30,000.

This means that the taxes from the increased assessment will go altogether for increases in salaries to school teachers and firemen, and the council will not get one cent from this increase.

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FRONT ST. PEOPLE HAD CLOSE CALL WATER ALMOST ENTERED HOUSES



MR. WALTER W. EVANS, Who Has Been Appointed to an Important Position in the Canadian West.

HITCHCOCK ACQUITTED ON ONE CHARGE

New York, March 16.—Raymond Hitchcock today was acquitted by direction of Justice Blanchard in the supreme court on one of the indictments against him as a result of charges brought by several young girls.

The acquittal was on the indictment growing out of the charges made by Ellen Von Hagen. There are several other indictments on similar charges still pending. The Von Hagen girl today refuted the charges.

Jammed at Bridge.

At Clark's bridge the ice jammed Continued on Page Nine.

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