

Cobalt Train Badly Wrecked.

Serious Smashup on G. T. R. North of Bradford.

ENGINEER, FIREMAN AND EXPRESS MESSENGER BADLY INJURED.

There was a serious smash up on the Grand Trunk Railway a few miles north of Bradford yesterday morning, the result of which is that the Cobalt train is almost a complete wreck. The accident happened at a point known as the MacBeath curve, about five and a half miles north of this village, and about two miles east of Gilford. The southbound Cobalt train due here at 5.37 a. m., was running late, and on reaching the above mentioned point the engine left the track taking with it the baggage car and five passenger coaches. The engine first left the track but from what cause, a spreading rail or otherwise, is not known. For a distance of nearly one hundred yards the track is torn completely up and the rails and ties are scattered about in all directions. The engine is over on its side, while the baggage car in some way broke loose and took off into the field uprooting a good sized tree and breaking down two others. Four other passenger coaches lay on their side, badly damaged, and only the parlor car remains on the track. Several of the passenger coaches are fit for kindling wood only.

The engineer, Arthur Meeking, and the fireman, Nelson Garrett, both of Alandale, jumped from their perilous positions, and the injuries they sustained are very serious. Garrett was badly scalded. Both were taken to the Barrie Hospital for treatment. The Express-Messenger, Louis Marshall, of Toronto, is also in a precarious condition from head wounds, broken ribs and internal injuries. He was taken to Toronto. The passengers, fortunately, all escaped, but they were, more or less badly shaken up.

The wrecking crew was soon on hand, and by night the wreckage had been cleared away, and the road sufficiently repaired to allow of traffic being resumed.

The morning trains exchanged passengers and baggage, but the mid-day trains both ways were cancelled.

The wreck was viewed by a number of our citizens, including several with kodaks, who carried away with them scenes of the smashup. The loss to the Grand Trunk will run up into the thousands.

Conductor McDonald, of Toronto, was in charge, and he is unable to assign any reason for the accident but it might have been caused by something under the tender.

Dr. L. H. Campbell, of this village, was one of the first on the scene to aid the injured. Fireman Garrett's injuries he is afraid will prove fatal.

Supt. Tiffin, of this Division, was early on the spot looking after the Company's interests.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Roberts, nearby farmers, acted the part of good Samaritans by throwing open their home to a number of hungry people.

The Witness observed other things, but want of space forbids mention of them this week.