

## A WASHOUT ON THE C. P. R.

### FIVE RESIDENTS OF TORONTO DROWNED IN THE HOLE.

The Bridge Inspector, Engineer,  
Fireman and two Section Men the  
Victims.

Toronto, June 18.—An accident happened on the Canadian Pacific Railway between Claremont and Myrtle last night, by which five residents of Toronto lost their lives. A washout was reported here on the road, and a light engine was sent out to repair the damage. There were on board, John Wanless, jr., bridge inspector, of Parkdale; James Alton, engineer; F. Oliver, fireman, and Sectionmen Lott and Moriarty. The engine, while running at a moderate rate of speed, came unexpectedly on a washout, and without a moment's warning the engine with its five victims plunged into the break caused by the flood. They were all drowned. The evening and night trains to and from the east, last night, did not get through, but the regular train left Toronto at 8.40 this morning, and will transfer its passengers at the gap and receive and bring back those from the other side. The body of Mr. Wanless was found at 6 o'clock this morning. He leaves three young children.

Claremont  
Myrtle

John  
Wanless  
James Alton

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John Wanless, jr., of Parkdale, inspector of bridges and buildings along the Ontario division.

James Atton, of West Toronto Junction, engine driver.

George Oliver, of West Toronto Junction, fireman.

Jerry Moriarity, of Green River, section foreman.

Hiram Lott, of Green River, sectionman.

David Highswander, of Green River, extra employe, repairing washouts.

The culvert, of the safety of which Mr. Wanless had his suspicions, is about two miles west of Claremont. To reach this suspected culvert from Locust Hill the engine had to cross a massive stone culvert, which had an arch of about 25 feet, giving plenty of room, one would think, for storm water to run through. That this solid piece of stonework was unsafe was far from the mind of the bridge inspector. He was anxious as to the safety of the culvert beyond. But, at the same time, it was right here that Mr. Wanless and his fellow-employes went down to their death. As soon as the weighty locomotive reached the middle of the arch the west abutment went to pieces, throwing the engine into the swollen stream beneath. Five of the crew lost their lives, while one of their number, Highswander, who was hanging to the end of the tender, jumped and escaped with a broken leg.

Yesterday morning the body of Mr. Wanless was recovered. The body was badly bruised and scalded, while both legs were broken. The remains were taken home to his bereaved wife and four children in the afternoon.

At half-past two o'clock yesterday afternoon, after dragging the stream for a distance, the body of Engineer Atton was found a half a mile below the scene

of the accident. The poor fellow's watch had stopped at 11:26 p. m., which shows clearly the time the culvert gave way. He had evidently jumped when the crash came, but the surging waters beneath soon had him as a victim. He was drowned and not killed when the engine went down. His remains were also taken in the evening to his home at West Toronto Junction. Mr. Atton leaves a wife and seven children. Fireman Oliver also leaves a wife and two children, while the others had no families.

Owing to the high water, it was impossible to make any attempt yesterday to lift the engine out of the bed of the stream. At 10 o'clock yesterday it was completely under water, but the torrent subsided about six feet in the evening. The engine is upside down, having turned completely over after falling off the culvert. As the bodies of Oliver, Moriarty and Lott cannot be found, it is the opinion of the company's officials that they are under the locomotive. Wrecking apparatus, such as steam derricks, etc., are at the scene of the disaster, and an attempt will be made this morning to lift the engine out of the stream.

Mr. James Atton, the engineer, was a former resident of this town; Mr. John Wanless formerly resided at Uxaleston and much sympathy is expressed for the bereaved families.

John Wanless

JUNE 19, 1890