

Another Wreck.

CONDUCTOR JNO. THOMPSON INJURED.—The way freight from Toronto broke loose two miles west of Peterboro on Tuesday evening about 6.30 o'clock, and a through freight which was following close behind, pitched into the rear of the train, smashing the van and two box cars to pieces, and severely injuring Conductor Jno. Thompson, about the head and legs. The wrecked cars were burnt on the spot. Mr. Thompson was brought to Havelock, and sent to his home in Toronto on the early train. His many friends in town wish him a speedy recovery,

Peterboro

DECEMBER 8, 1898

SMASH ON THE C.P.R.

A Special Freight Breaks in Two and a Collision Follows.

1898

Peterboro, Dec. 8.—There was a bad wreck on the C. P. R. last evening about six miles west of the town and two miles from Cavanville. Fortunately no lives were lost, although Conductor John Thompson and Detective Greer had miraculous escapes from death. Three cars, two loaded with oats and one with general merchandise, and a van were wrecked and destroyed by fire, which broke out immediately after the smash.

The accident occurred about 6:55. A special freight of 23 cars, in charge of Conductor John Thompson, of Toronto, with Driver Finlay and Brakemen George Parker and Frank Piller, was coming east and was making the heavy grade about two miles and a half this side of Cavanville, when three cars and the van parted from the rest of the train.

In the van were Conductor Thompson, Brakeman Parker and Detective Greer. After bringing the cars to a standstill, Brakeman Parker went back on the line to flag a through freight, No. 52, a beef train, which they knew was following them closely. He flagged No. 52, which pulled up close behind the stranded end of the special. Brakeman Parker was then proceeding eastward to flag from that direction, when the second accident that caused the trouble occurred.

Finding that the tail end of his train had broken away, Driver Finlay was backing down to pick it up again. When twelve more cars parted company with the train and went down the grade, smashing into the three cars and the van, which had first broken away. The twelve cars were all loaded, three of them being flat cars of lumber, and they gathered considerable

able speed on the down grade, and the shock when the two parts of the train came together was severe.

When the crash came Conductor Thompson and Detective Greer were in the cupola of the van. The latter immediately jumped for the snow bank and escaped injury. Thompson stuck to the brakes, hoping to keep the cars off the engine of No. 52, which was standing behind. But the shock was terrific, for the car next the van telescoped, smashing the van to kindling wood. Thompson was pinned down in the wreck and the wonder is he was not instantly killed.

The fire in the stove in the van started a blaze, which spread with great rapidity. This fire threatened to cause Thompson a horrible death, but he succeeded in freeing his limbs of the timbers that held him prisoner and escaped. The front of the engine on No. 52 was damaged, the headlight being smashed and the front pretty well battered. However, it could do its work, and it hitched on to the burning cars and pulled them away from the rest of the train. The three cars and the van were totally destroyed, and when a reporter arrived on the scene with an auxiliary gang from here, nothing remained of the cars and van but the trucks, ironwork and a heap of oats, with which two of the cars were loaded. The ruins showed how the car next the van had telescoped, as the trucks of the two were lying side by side, as though they belonged to one car.

The front end of the train proceeded to Peterboro, bringing Conductor Thompson here. Dr. Bell was summoned and attended to his injuries. He had several nasty cuts, and he may possibly have received internal injuries. He went to bed at the Oxford and was taken home. Traffic was delayed for hours.

Detective Greer lost his overcoat and his satchel with its papers. They were in the van and were destroyed by fire.

HAMILTON SPECTATOR *Peterboro*
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