

Local Railway Items from Ottawa Papers 1934

Monday 08/01/1934 Ottawa Citizen Hull Electric Deschenes

Aylmer motorman is badly injured

Thomas Birtch Escapes Electrocutation But Doctor is Forced to Amputate Hand

Thomas Birtch, Aylmer resident lost one hand and is suffering from shock and exposure as the result of burns sustained on Saturday morning when he was attempting to fix the motor on the Hull Electric Railway Company's street car of which he is operator.

He was discovered near the Deschenes car barn lying in a snow bank by fellow employes who were going to work on another car when Mr. Birtch failed to arrive for them.

It is thought that soon after he had taken the car out of the barn something went wrong with the motor and Mr. Birtch had climbed out to repair the trouble. The electric shock he sustained evidently hurled him into a nearby snowbank unconscious and terribly burned.

When his fellow employes discovered him they administered first aid and called an ambulance and had him taken to the Civic Hospital where he was attended to by Dr. C.H. Brown, who found it necessary to amputate one hand.

An investigation is being conducted by the Hull Electric Railway Company.

Wednesday 25/04/1934 Ottawa Citizen Kingston (CN) Cornwall

Narrow escape for engine crew

Blowout of boiler bolt sends steam hissing into cab.

Cornwall April 24. When a bolt blew out of the boiler of the huge locomotive pulling the fast Maple Leaf Canadian National Railway passenger train here today members of the engine crew miraculously escaped serious injury or probable death, The cab of the engine was filled with live steam and the men were forced to make their escape by standing on an outside platform of the locomotive. The engine ran wild for a short distance, but the engineer succeeded in reaching the throttle through the cab window and the train coasted into the yards of this city.

No definite reason for the cause of the blowout has been arrived at and it will be a difficult matter to determine. According to railwaymen here, the accident is a very rare one and is considered to be quite dangerous. Fortunately the bolt which blew out on the locomotive of the Maple Leaf was near the floor of the cab.

At a point about a mile east of this city, members of the engine crew heard a dull pop and steam hissed out of the bolt hole, backed by a pressure of 275 pounds. Except for being drenched by water and blackened by smoke, Engineer Paul Lalonde and the fireman were uninjured. J. Hamilton, a spare fireman, was slightly burned on the legs.

The train was delayed for about an hour after its arrival here at 11 o'clock this morning and then was taken to Iroquois by the engine of a way freight.

There it was met by a passenger locomotive from Brockville.

The Aylmer Five Hundred

Back in the Seventies When the Quebec, Montreal And Occidental Railway Company Completed The Pontiac Line, Which Is Now Owned by The Canadian Pacific Railway Co., the Citizens of Aylmer Were Tendered a Free Trip to Montreal. Some Years Later the Late J. K. Foran Penned the Following Lines:

LEAGUE on league, league on league, league on league, onward! On the excursion train rode the Five Hundred!
"Forward the Aylmer band." shouted the marshal grand, On the excursion train rode the Five Hundred!

"Forward the Aylmer train." Was there a man behind?
Not that the stoker knew; off like the whirlwind;
No one to weep or cry, no one to breathe a sigh.
Neighbors with neighbors vie, on the excursion train -
Rode the Five Hundred.

Lawyers and doctors were, blending with ladies fair,
Clergy and workmen there, all were together,
In for a day of fun, in for a railway run.
Nations were lost in one, all of "one feather";
Joy, with a happy grace, shone o'er each merry face,
While a tearing pace onward they thunder'd;
Dashing o'er bridge and lane, fences and fields of grain,
Passed the excursion train - onward Five Hundred.

Houses to the right of them, houses to the left of them,
Houses before them whirling and turning;
Never a moment's fail, over the iron rail,
Rounding the hill and bend, friends asked of other friend,
Expectantly burning, "When shall we see Mile End?"
Onward Five Hundred.

Puff - went the engine loud, whiz -- went the steaming cloud,
"Hurrah!" cried the anxious crowd, "Here is the Mountain."
Stopped was the train at last, each one did ponder;
How he had come so fast, each one did wonder;
Now 'midst the cries and cheers, company sunder'd;
All to return again, all the Five Hundred.

Houses to the right of them, houses to the left of them,
Houses around them, Mount Royal city --
(And what a pity, of the Metropolis song cannot tell)
Yet, grand the day and well, the cheers after cheer and yell,
Told how the joy did swell, when all unite again --
For the returning train -- all the Five Hundred.

When can their glory fade? Oh the grand show they made,
Everyone wonder'd! Thanks to the railway then.
Scott and the railway men, naught in our humble ken
Equalled the ladies fair; nor was a man to spare.
Led by the worthy mayor, GORDON had charge and care,
MOSES himself was there. Oh, but the sight was rare!
Aylmer's Five Hundred!

Thursday **17/05/1934** **Ottawa Citizen** **New York Central** **Cornwall**

Inquest at Cornwall

Coroner C.J. Hamilton will open an inquest at the court house here at two o'clock Friday afternoon, into the death of Adelard Tessier, New York Central Railway section worker, who was drowned in the St. Lawrence river on December 1 last. Tessier, while riding to work on a section motor car, was thrown into the river when the car was derailed on the south channel bridge. His body was found near the south shore of Cornwall Island 3 1-2 miles below the bridge, last Thursday.

Friday **25/05/1934** **Ottawa Citizen** **Carleton Place** **Westboro**

Returns verdict of accidental death.

While returning a verdict of accidental death, a coroner's jury inquiring Wednesday into the death of John Draper, 33 years, of 1 Hillson avenue, Westboro, employe of the Independent Coal Company, who was killed in the company's yards in Westboro, Monday morning, added a ?er to its verdict condemning the movement of railway coal cars by hand on the incline of the coal chute. The inquest, held in the Westboro town hall under Dr.J.E. Craig, coroner, attracted many residents of the community. J.A. Ritchie, K.C., Crown attorney, was present and did most of the examining of witnesses. The jury found that "death was due to injuries received when he (John Draper) was run over by a coal car which was not under control when being moved by hand. We condemn the practice in use in the yard of moving cars on the incline of the chute."

Friday **25/05/1934** **Ottawa Citizen** **Hull Electric** **Ottawa**

During the night the refreshment stand at the Ottawa terminal of the Hull Electric Company line was entered by someone who removed a window screen and forced open the window. Cigaretts and tobacco valued at \$50 were stolen. The theft was reported to the police by S.R. Gibson who operates the

Monday *09/07/1934* *Ottawa Citizen* *Chalk River* *Carleton Place*

Alexander Fulton of Pakenham was almost instantly killed at the William Street crossing of the C.P.R. here yesterday at 11.30 as the Pembroke local was leaving town on its way west. The train was in charge of Engineer Matthews and Mark Baker of Ottawa. Mr. Fulton was driving into town in a coupe accompanied by his nephew, Stewart Fulton of Cedar Hill, when his car was struck on the crossing and badly wrecked. The crossing is a dangerous one, the view being obstructed on the north side by dwellings. Stewart Fulton escaped uninjured.

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Thursday *26/07/1934* *Ottawa Citizen* *Ottawa Electric*

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Early this morning linemen of the Ottawa Hydro Company and the Ottawa Electric Company and the Ottawa Electric Railway were still working at top speed in an attempt to repair major breaks in their lines caused by the falling of the roof of the Marine Signals Building

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11/10/1934 *Athens Reporter* *Westport* *Lyn*
B&W Station at Lyn Closed