

Local Railway Items from Ottawa Papers - 1945

Thursday 08/03/1945 Ottawa Citizen Winchester Smiths Falls

Smiths Falls man in critical condition.

Suffering multiple injuries which include a fractured leg, arm, jaw, crushed face and a probable fracture of a skull, condition of C.P.R, Constable Ernest Parker of Smiths Falls was described today as being critical by Civic hospital authorities. He is being attended by his physician, Dr. George Armstrong. He was admitted to hospital yesterday afternoon following an accident at the CPR station at Smiths Falls.

According to witnesses, Constable Parker was crushed between a heavy crate containing a live bull and the station wall when the crate slipped while being unloaded from a train. The crate was said to have toppled after being shifted, catching the man as he attempted to move out of the way.

02/04/1945 Ottawa Citizen New York Central Ottawa, Mann Avenue

The NYC loss was estimated at \$10,000 and the fire chief was of the opinion it started "around" the boiler room. The ticket office, freight office and public waiting room were destroyed. Initially it was feared that the two watchmen, Alma Delaire and his son Sylvio were trapped and Constable Robert Smith and Ticket Agent Paul St. Pierre entered the building to try and find them (and safely got out). It was determined after that they were at home (wonder if they lost their jobs for not being there - might have saved the station if they had). There was some water damage to the freight sheds and contents on the south side of the offices. The article stated that Boarding Cars would be used temporarily to replace the structure. Mr. St. Pierre was quoted as saying that plans for a new office were proceeding immediately (Bruce Ballantyne)

Tuesday 03/04/1945 Ottawa Citizen Hull Electric

A fast moving Hull Electric Railway tram car carried 50 charwomen and its motorman safely over 35-foot section of unsupported track 100 feet above the swollen waters of the Ottawa river at 5.30 this morning after a wash-out during the night carried away a portion of a 40-foot-high retaining wall and sent it rolling into the river below.

First local car over the line, the tram was a special used for transporting members of the government char service to their work in offices in Ottawa. About an hour and a half earlier, a heavy CPR train, eastbound from Vancouver, passed over the section and railwaymen believe its tremendous weight may have caused the wall, weakened by water seepage and frost, to give way.

Motorman H. Holt of the Hull line said that midway across the weakened track his car tilted to a dangerous degree over the edge of the cliff, which drops 40 feet to a slope which angles about 60 feet to the water's edge.

Thought car derailed.

Fortunately for the motorman and his passengers the unsupported steel rails held firmly and the car passed safely to solid ground. There have been two derailments in the area in recent weeks and at first the motorman believed that this was what caused his car to lurch dangerously. It was not until he had brought the tram to a stop and walked back to investigate that he saw the yawning gap over which the car had passed and the proximity of the cliff's edge over which the tram might have rolled had it tilted any further.

The washout did not affect the CPR transcontinental main line tracks which adjoin the Hull Electric's road. The network of rails are embedded in a rocky ledge skirting the base of Major's Hill Park. Freight and passenger locomotives of the CPR were able to proceed on regular scheduled runs at slow speed over the weakened section of track.

The break occurred about half way between the Hull electric terminal at the Chateau Laurier and the Alexandria bridge.

Motorman Holt brought his passengers safely into the terminal and then notified his company and the CPR, owners of the right of way.

Start Temporary Wall

Section Foreman Joseph Belisle, 208 Redempteur street, Hull, responded with a crew of CPR workmen who began the work of clearing away the tons of rocky debris and the construction of a temporary wooden retaining wall. A crane was sent from Smiths Falls this afternoon to assist in the work.

The Hull Electric Company put a shuttle service into operation on its east track during the morning to maintain a makeshift service until the west track can be put into operation again.

Normal service over the area is not expected to be resumed until tomorrow, however, when the temporary retaining wall should be in place and the gap filled with crushed stone.

The retaining wall bordering the right of way was erected some 45 years ago of heavy cut stone, some as large as two feet square. Some of these lurched and thundered down the cliffside to the edge of the river far below, tearing trees from their path and leaving deep gouges in the soft soil of the 60 foot slope.

A detailed inspection of the scene revealed that a small underground stream flowing from the high ground of Major's Hill Park some 40 feet above the level of the tracks, had over a period of years undermined the retaining wall. This, together with the almost constant vibration of Hull Electric trams and the heavier CPR trains passing over the right of way, weakened the structure sufficiently to cause it to give way.

The wall is about one-half mile long and will be thoroughly inspected for further signs of stress, officials said.

Saturday 07/04/1945 Ottawa Citizen Montreal and Ottawa

Roger Brown, a truck driver of 275 Rohester street, was killed instantly when his truck was hit by a CPR Montreal to Ottawa train at the Crrville crossing near Hurdman's Bridge.

Wednesday 18/04/1945 Ottawa Citizen Maniwaki

Maniwaki train summer schedule same as last year.

The Board of Transport Commissioners, in an oral judgment delivered by Chief Commissioner J.A. Cross, today ordered that the assenger train sefrvice in effect during the summermonths of 1944 be ut into effect this year on the Canadian Pacific Railway line between Maniwaki and Ottawa, for the same period and on the same or "practically the same" schedueas was in effect in 1944.

The judgment said that although persons living in the Maniwaki district were inconvenienced when the summer train schedule was in effect, the situation prevailing in Ottawa, largely because of war conditions, made it necessary that a summer service be provided.

More.

Party returning from rodeo hit.

District persons perish at rail crossing when automobile struck by freight train.

Six Ottawa district residents, four men and two women, were killed this morning at Chesterville railway crossing when the car in which they were returning to their homes from the rodeo at the Auditorium was struck by an eastbound freight train.

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Mr. Beckstead was driver of the car in which all were killed. Police believe that Mr. Beckstead was under the impression that the "wig-wag" railway warning sign which was in motion at the time of the accident was for a westbound freight train stopped at the Chesterville station to take on water and he did not see the eastbound freight.

On impact the two girls and Mr. Irving were thrown clear of the automobile, which was dragged a quarter of a mile along the track carrying the bodies of Mr. Beckstead, Harold Ouder Kirk, and the yet unidentified man.

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<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=ziQzAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=BtwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2116,1061071&dq=railway++railroad++train++cpr++cpr&hl=en>

<http://news.google.ca/newspapers?id=ziQzAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=BtwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=2737,1278318&dq=railway++railroad++train++cpr++cpr&hl=en>

--the railway threw open their yards to the Legion reception committee for the serving of refreshments and hot coffee to repatriated liberated British prisoners-of-war homeward bound from Japanese prison camps.

As a result more than 800 prisoners-of-war were greeted by the mayor Stanley Lewis and the Legion and Legionettes. The welcome was well received as two 15-car trains arrived at Union station yards, one at 12.25 and the other at 1.15 at noon.

Troops cheer Mayor.

At the arrival of the first train the Mayor speaking from a railway cabooses greeted the repatriates in the name of the city and Legion--

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