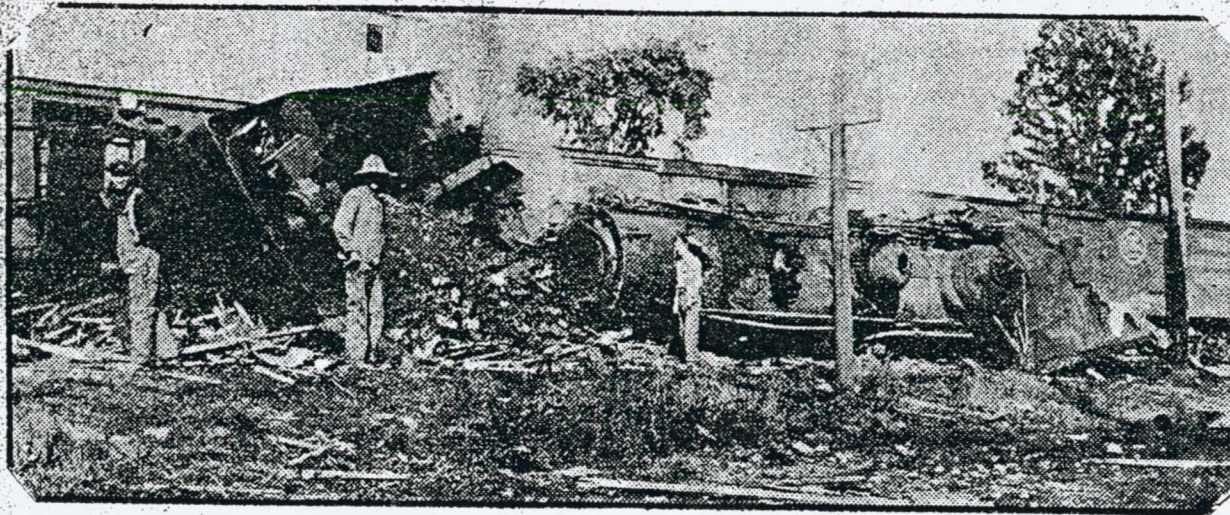


One of the Scenes After the Railroad Wreck Last Friday.



Courtesy of Grand Rapids Herald

Vermontville Experiences its First Serious Rail- way Wreck.

Trains Come Together With Tremendous
Force Though Fortunately No
Lives Were Lost.

With a crash that could be plainly heard in the business portion of the village, fully a mile away, two Michigan Central freight trains came together in a rear-end collision near the

depot shortly after one o'clock Friday afternoon, resulting in the worst railroad wreck that Vermontville has ever seen. The village was immediately thrown into a fever of intense excitement and almost the entire population hurried to the scene of the accident.

Fortunately, no lives were lost, though the engineer and fireman of the incoming freight were severely injured and had narrow escapes from death. Had a passenger train been standing at the depot in place of the freight the loss of life would have been appalling as the local freight was completely telescoped and five cars reduced to a broken mass of twisted iron and splintered wood.

The exact cause of the accident is at present unknown though officials of the road are investigating the circumstances in an effort to place the blame.

The regular local freight, which is due here daily at 10:45, was several hours late and did not reach here until 1:12. This train makes all stops along the line and preparations had just been completed for its departure, when an extra freight, No. 8221, in charge of Engineer Arthur Miller of Jackson, rounded the curve about a quarter of a mile distance. Through a misunderstanding or absent-mindedness on the part of someone the semaphore arm in the local yards was down, thus indicating a clear track

and giving the extra freight the right of way. When the approach of this latter train was noticed an effort was made to run out with the local but it was impossible to do so owing to the terrific rate of speed at which the extra train was going. The engineer made a frantic effort to stop his train but seeing that a collision was inevitable he and the fireman jumped for their lives. Engineer Miller narrowly escaped instant death, landing between the rails and receiving frightful injuries about the head and face. He was picked up by bystanders and carried to a way-car, where Dr. McLaughlin was hurriedly summoned. The doctor dressed his injuries and he returned to his home in Jackson on the evening train, being later removed to a hospital. Fireman Russell received a slight shaking up, and beyond a scratch or two on his forehead was not injured to any great extent.

The two trains came together with a tremendous crash and in less time than it takes to tell it engine and cars were hurled into the air and reduced to a useless pile of twisted iron and kindling wood. The way car and several box cars of the local freight were completely telescoped, while one car containing wheat was literally torn to pieces and its contents scattered to several rods along the tracks. The coal cars attached to No. 111 were almost in two while the tender

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