

SAINT-JOHN GLOBE

June 21, 1900

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TRAIN DERAILED AND RAN INTO BRIDGE

At Grand Falls—Three persons seriously and Others Slightly Injured

There was a very serious accident on the C.P.R. at Grand Falls this morning at 11:40 o'clock.

Very few particulars have yet been received even by the railroad people.

Superintendent Timmerman told the Globe that the only information in his possession was that engine No. 508 was derailed just at the bridge and crashed through it, taking seven freight cars into the water. The passenger cars followed, but piled up on top of the wreck, and thus escaped being submerged.

The train crew escaped injury, but some of the passengers, of whom there were only a few, suffered.

Three were more or less seriously injured. Mr. McKenna, traveling passenger agent of the C.P.R., is reported as the most serious. His shoulder was broken or dislocated.

Another of the injured was Mr. Hiram I. Smith, traveler for Messrs. T. McAvity & Sons, but the nature of his injury is not known.

Other passengers were shaken up and more or less injured, but the three named suffered most.

All are receiving medical attendance.

Mr. Timmerman left this afternoon for the scene of the accident.

The derailment and breaking of the bridge destroyed the telegraphic service, and so but little news came through.

The cause of the accident is not known.

June 22, 1900

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The Accident at Grand Falls
NO EXPLANATION OF DISASTER YET GIVEN
Injured Men are Reported to be Improving

No news has been received here showing what caused the accident Thursday at Grand Falls, but the few details at hand show the disaster was the most serious the C.P.R. has had in years, and the wonder is that there were not more casualties.

The bridge that was wrecked is about a mile above the falls, and the water is said to be about fifteen feet deep. The train was an accommodation coming from Edmundston, and consisted of nine cars—seven freight, a smoker and a saloon car. The report is that the second span of the bridge from the west side gave way and the engine, tender and seven freight cars fell into the water, while the smoker piled on top of the wreck, and the saloon car remained on the bridge.

The engineer and fireman are said to have escaped from the cab at the bottom of the stream and so got safely to shore.

A tramp who was stealing a ride had a narrow escape from being carried over the falls.

Mr. Timmerman, who went up by a special train Thursday evening, took along Mrs. Smith, wife Messrs. T. McAvity & Sons' traveler, and Mr. J. Harry Driscoll, a friend of Mr. O'Neill, the injured Englishman. Mr. J. Boyd McMann went up from Messrs. McAvity's and to-day notified the firm that MR. Smith was somewhat better. No bones were broken, but he was badly crushed. He is expected to recover.

A telegram to the Globe this afternoon from Grand Falls said: "The injured are improving nicely. Smith's chest and back were jammed and he was badly bruised. He is considered out of danger.

"Mr. McKenna's lung was ruptured, and his arm and his fingers broken. He is greatly improved, but is still serious.

"Mr. O'Neill's ankle and arm were sprained, and he was badly bruised and shaken up, but is recovering rapidly.

"The wrecking crew are working at the bridge."

Mr. O'Neill is a member of the lumber firm of Gillibrand, Heywood & Co., Cardiff, Wales, and has been buying lumber in this country. He is about fifty years of age.

Mr. Smith was making his first trip with Messrs. T. McAvity & Sons. He was at one time employed with Messrs. C. Flood & Sons, and latterly with the S. Haywood Co.

Miss Ada Burns, a graduate nurse, went to Grand Falls this morning, and it is understood two more nurses have been telegraphed for to attend those who are injured."

Travellers report that the Grand Falls bridge has long been considered weak and that great care has been taken in crossing it to prevent accidents.

June 26, 1900
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The Grand Falls Injured

Mr. J. Boyd McMann, who was at Grand Falls for Messrs. T. McAvity & Sons to look after their traveler, Mr. Hiram I. Smith, returned home Monday evening. Mr. McMann says all the injured are doing well and are in a fair way to recover. He speaks very warmly in praise of the C.P.R. for their care and treatment of the injured. Mr. Timmerman, he says, has personally superintended the arrangements for the care of the men and has met their every wish and carried out every suggestion of friends that was in any way calculated to ease or comfort the injured. Four doctors and a corps of trained nurses are in attendance, and all possible is being done.