

DAILY TRANSCRIPT

Friday, June 22, 1900

A Serious Wreck on the C.P.R.

Train goes through a bridge at Grand Falls and several are injured.

Caribou, Me, June 22 - The through train on the C.P.R. from Edmundston to Aroostook junction consisting of ten cars, broke through the Grand Falls over the St. John River Thursday morning and the entire train fell a distance of 7 feet into the river. The engineer and fireman went to the bottom of the river with the engine but succeeded in clinging to the wreckage until they were picked up. Conductor Henderson was hurt internally and a commercial traveler named Smith was seriously injured. General passenger agent James McKenna had a shoulder broken and was internally injured. J. O'Neill, the engineer of the train, was seriously injured and a number of passengers were slightly hurt.

Saturday, June 23, 1900

Six passengers at death's door

The story of the C.P.R. wreck at Grand Falls. - The bridge span gave way

Harry Henderson, auditor of the Dominion Express Company who was in the wreck at Grand Falls Thursday arrived at Saint John last night with his arm in a sling. He tells a graphic story of the wreck, giving the first details that it has been possible to obtain.

The span, he said, gave way under the engine and seven freight cars dropped twenty-five feet into the water, which was twenty feet deep. The freight cars piled up on the engine in such a manner that the first-class passenger car stood on the pile of box cars with one end just at the surface of the water, and the other remained upon the bridge.

The car was almost perpendicular and six passengers and seats were piled at the lower end in a terrible tangle. H. I. Smith, of Saint John, his head and shoulders driven through the wooden panel of the door. The water partly submerged his head. Had there been four inches more he would have been drowned and had the car descended two feet further the passengers would all have been drowned.

The confusion in the car was awful. It was forty minutes before the seats could be reversed and the first passenger taken out. The six passengers were: J. O'Neil, representing the an English

lumber firm; H. I. Smith, of Saint John; Dr. A. C. Kirkpatrick, of Woodstock; Miss Kierstead, of Machias, Maine; who was returning from school; James McKenna, traveling passenger agent of the C.P.R., and Harry Henderson, of the Dominion Express company.

The lady was the only one who escaped practically uninjured. McKenna is the only one who is now in dangerous condition.