



CORONERS INQUESTS



Walter Lucas and George Farr

Two men killed on the railway

Two of the Great Western servants have been killed through their own neglect of the Company's printed instructions. It is the rule (No 230) that when a train is passing, workmen on the line shall stand clear of both lines of rail. On Friday morning at eight o'clock, three men were at work as packers midway between Trowbridge and Melksham, at a sharp curve near Holt Pile-bridge. The 6.30 goods train from Swindon to Chippenham was an hour and a half behind time – why, it is not stated. The men saw it coming, and stepped on to the up line to let it pass. At the same time, the eight o'clock passenger train from Weymouth was approaching from Trowbridge. The wind blowing in an opposite direction prevented them from hearing it, and the goods train rounding the curve prevented them from seeing it till it was nearly upon them, when one man, John Mortimer, happened to turn his head and he cried out, "Look up!" and sprang into the six foot way between the two passing trains, barely saving his life. The other men, Walter Lucas, 25, and George Farr, 45 (the foreman of the packers) could not get out of the way, and were both killed on the spot, the body of the latter being frightfully mangled. At the inquest, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death." Inspectors C. Noble and W. Morrison were present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Company. Farr leaves a widow and family; Lucas was a single man.

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