



Fatal Accident on the Railway

This Village was thrown into a state of great and painful excitement on Thursday night when it became known that some packers had met with an accident on the line and that one of them had lost his life. The facts of the case may be briefly stated. A number of men had been working at and near Wishford station. Work was suspended at the usual hour, and the ganger had the trawley that was used occasionally when the line was clear locked up, as was his duty, George West, Richard Simpson, George Smith, and Oliver Smith, who had all been employed on the line, in fact were regular packers, had some harvest work to do near Wylde, so they managed to procure a key and unlock this trawley, which they placed on the line and went away at a spanking pace. After they had done their work they proceeded to Kick the trawley to Wishford, and when a very short distance from the Wylde side of Wishford they were overtaken by a special cattle train proceeding to Salisbury at the rate of 25 miles an hour. The train dashed into the trawley and smashed it all to pieces, killing George West, and severely injuring the other three, who were as speedily possible conveyed to Salisbury Infirmary, where they, of course, received the best surgical treatment. Simpson and George Smith have each had limb amputated, and Oliver has received, it is feared, injury to his spine, while they are all three otherwise much bruised and shaken. It seems almost a miracle that they were not all killed. The accident took place at about 10 minutes to 9 o'clock, when it was nearly dark. That the men on the trawley did not hear the train approaching them to accounted for by the noise that their trawley made, and by their attention being taken up with the propelling of the trawley. They were also ignorant of the fact that any train was timed to pass at that time, or of course, they would not have been foolish enough to run the risk, and that the driver of the cattle train did not perceive any obstruction on the line is attributed to the fact that it was nearly dark, and a little curve in the line must have obstructed the view till the train was nearly up to the trawley. If the engine driver had perceived the obstruction he would have sounded his whistle, and the unfortunate men might have had time to stumble off the trawley. No part of the train was damaged, not was the shock sufficient to injure the driver and others in charge of it. It should be stated that though these packers did not know that a special train had been put on, the Company's servants had all received due notice of it, and had, of course, kept the line clear. An inquest was held at Wishford on Friday, on the body of George West, who was 46 years of age. Chief Inspector Liddiard, of Bristol, and Inspector Morrison, of Trowbridge, were in attendance on behalf of the Great Western Railway and rendered every assistance in their power for the thorough elucidation of the truth. The facts above stated were proved in evidence, and as it was clear that the men were trespassers on the line at the time, the jury had no difficulty arriving at a verdict, which was that of Accidental Death

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