

A DEWSBURY TRAIN DISASTER.

A disastrous railway accident took place near Wigan last Tuesday evening, resulting in the death of two persons and injury to many others. Owing to the return from Blackpool of large numbers of Dewsbury visitors, the London and North-Western Railway Company decided to run a relief train prior to the customary train due out of the Central Station at four o'clock. The special left at five minutes to four, and consisted of nine coaches and two guard's vans.

All proceeded well until Amberswood East Junction was reached, but the train had no sooner passed through the set of points than the engine commenced to jump, and, oscillating violently, left the lines. The train ran along for some fifty or sixty yards, tearing up the permanent way as it went, and finally the engine fell down a steep embankment. The tender rolled to the bottom, dragging with it the front guard's van and three coaches. The guard's van was smashed into splinters, whilst three other carriages were also wrecked, the remaining coaches standing upright on the permanent way.

Fortunately, there were few passengers in the front portion of the train, but several persons were found beneath the debris, and were extricated with great difficulty. A large staff of medical men was hastily summoned from the surrounding districts, and the needs of the injured were attended to. The body of the driver of the engine, Frederick Johnson, of Huddersfield, was discovered close to the engine, he having apparently been scalded to death. The fireman, Alfred Porter, of Huddersfield, had a miraculous escape, though he had a finger cut off; whilst the guard in the front van—William Davies, of Hindley—was uninjured.

The following official list of killed and injured was issued yesterday:—Killed: Fred Johnson, driver, Huddersfield; Mrs. Oxley, of Dewsbury. Injured: Dixon Oxley, Eightlands-road, Dewsbury (husband), badly injured, and suffering from severe shock; Fred Oxley (8), badly injured; Arthur Oxley (13), Ethel Oxley (11), Clifford Oxley (3), all bruised and shaken; Joseph Smith, Batley, shoulder dislocated; James Jackson, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury, badly shaken; William Hemingway, injured right foot; Ben Kershaw, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury, injured knee; Mrs. Matilda Leek, Dewsbury, badly shaken; Carl Stead, Ravensthorpe, injured back; Mrs. Stead, same address, shaken; Joseph Pickles, Batley, bruised left leg; Mrs. Cross, Dewsbury, right leg injured; Mrs. Hannah Noel, Dewsbury, shaken; Mrs. Durrant, Batley Carr, Dewsbury, shaken; Fred Noel, shaken; Mrs. Coward, Dewsbury, right leg injured; John Rhodes, Batley, head injured; Mrs. Parkes, Dewsbury, shaken; Nancy Verity, Birstall, shaken; Mrs. Emma Wood, Dewsbury, right arm and face injured; John Oxley, Staincliffe, near Dewsbury, injured head; Mrs. Gale, Batley, shaken; Mr. Gale, same address, collar-bone and head injured.

Eye-witnesses of the accident stated that the engine was travelling down the steep gradient at a very rapid rate, and the engine either jumped the points or the line broke, thus throwing the engine from the track.

An examination shows that where the engine left the lines about two yards of line had been snapped off.