

DYING ENGINEER SAID NEGLECT CAUSED WRECK

Davis Ignored Green Warning and Did Not Look for the Red.

Believed the Track Clear—Plainfield a City of Mourning—Many Funerals Will Be Held There To-day.

Special to The New York Times.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Jan. 29.—James E. Davis, engineer of the Philadelphia "flier" which caused the Graceland disaster on Tuesday evening, died early this morning, making the twenty-first fatality. He had made two statements—one to Chief of Police Kiely and the other to County Physician Westcott. The physician to-night said to a reporter for THE NEW YORK TIMES:

"According to Davis's story, he found in passing through Elizabeth that his train was two minutes behind time. Nearing Cranford station he noticed the signal light and saw it was white. On approaching Westfield he saw that the signal there was green. Believing that it would turn white, as he supposed the track was clear, he turned to fix an injector. A couple of minutes later he looked again and to his horror saw directly before him the lights on the rear of the Easton accommodation."

Davis's two brothers were with him in the hospital when he died, but his wife arrived from Philadelphia too late.

J. Everett Reighton of Park Avenue, this city, is in the most serious condition of any of the injured. Both his legs were lost in the wreck, but he did not realize that until this afternoon. When he found that if he lived he must be a cripple, he refused to take stimulants or other medicine, moaning: "I want to die, I want to die. Oh, my God! I don't want to get well with my legs gone." This frame of mind produced a reaction which has resulted most injuriously in his case.

The first shock and excitement having subsided, Plainfield has come to a full realization of its loss. Few houses are not in mourning for a relative or friend, for sixteen of the dead lived here, in North Plainfield, or in Dunellen, which is close by.

The plan to have a union memorial service has been abandoned, but there will be special services on Sunday in most of the churches, with especial reference to the tragedy of Tuesday evening. One funeral was held to-day. It was that of Alfred E. Smith. The services took place at the home of his sister, Mrs. William A. Wheeler, at 316 La Grande Avenue. The Rev. William Vincent Dawson, rector of St. Stephen's Church, at Netherwood, officiated.

Grave diggers were busy to-day in the cemeteries, and most of the funerals will be held to-morrow. The hours determined on in most cases have been from 2 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and as a result the mourning processions will be almost continuous. A proclamation has been issued by Mayor Jenkins of Plainfield, as follows:

In view of the awful calamity that has befallen this city, by reason of the accident on the Central Railroad on the 27th instant, and the universal sorrow and sympathy with the afflicted, I respectfully suggest to our citizens that on Friday (to-morrow) between the hours of 2 and 4 P. M., being the time appointed for the funeral services of several victims of the disaster, all places of business be closed as a further token of public respect to the memory of those who lost their lives, and of sympathy with their families and friends.

Mayor N. B. Smalley of North Plainfield issued this proclamation:

To the People of the Borough of North Plainfield: A disastrous wreck, resulting in the death of a score of our citizens, has brought affliction upon many families and sorrow to the general community. Bright lives were crushed out by the frightful occurrence, and the two municipalities have been keenly shocked by the sudden blow. It is proper that we show respect for the dead and the families left by them. Therefore, I designate to-morrow (Friday) afternoon, from 1 until 4 o'clock, as a time to be set apart for this purpose. I respectfully suggest that all places of business be closed, and that sessions in the public schools be suspended.

The schools of North Plainfield were closed to-day, and in this city the teachers early abandoned any idea of instructing their pupils. They confined themselves to allaying the excitement and nervousness consequent upon the disaster. To-morrow will be a half-holiday in all the schools, and it is expected that the proclamations of the Mayors will be so generally observed that practically no business will be transacted.

John K. Large, General Claims Agent for the Central Railroad of New Jersey, to-day began a task of settling with the injured. He arranged terms with several of those slightly hurt, and with many who had not suffered physically, but who had lost clothing or other valuables in the wreck. The more difficult task of dealing with those seriously injured will be delayed. It is understood that Mr. Large has communicated with all the local physicians and instructed them to send to him the bills for attendance upon persons injured in the wreck.

The assertion by Mrs. Davis that her husband had told her that steam obscured his vision while passing the warning signals may have some confirmation in a statement made by Stephen A. Krom and Robert Radford, both of this city, who assisted Thomas McCarthy, fireman of the "flier," from the wreck. While they were carrying him away the fireman, they say, moaned in delirium: "Oh, I told you I couldn't see; I told you I couldn't see." By railroad men here, however, it is regarded as unlikely that the railroad company would have sent a defective engine on this train. The Philadelphia flier runs on a close schedule, and an engine with leaking boilers would not be able to maintain the speed.

The general belief is that the unidentified body in the Morgue is that of David Miller of 214 West Sixty-fourth Street, New York City, who is supposed to have been on the train and from whom nothing has been heard. All the other men reported missing have been accounted for.

The Coroner's jury will hold its first session on Monday afternoon in the Common Council Chambers at 2 o'clock. Ex-Mayor Charles J. Fisk, foreman of the jury, told THE NEW YORK TIMES's correspondent this afternoon that all his fellow-members are anxious to perform the duty as a public trust.

The Grand Jury adjourned to-day until Feb. 9. It was not discharged, as Judge Vail desires it to take up the consideration of the wreck as soon as possible.

General Manager W. G. Besler of the Central Railroad of New Jersey denied yesterday that a train order was received for the express which wrecked the Easton local on Tuesday evening was received too late to be delivered to the express train. Mr. Besler said that the order was received in time, and a red signal was set out, as usual, to notify the engineer that there was an order for his train at that station. The order was for the flier to pass the Easton local at Dunellen, beyond where the accident occurred. A duplicate of this order had been received in time by the conductor of the express, and was in his possession when the express ran into the local.

"The red light at Cranford was two miles from the scene of the wreck," said Mr. Besler, "yet it was disregarded, as well as the red lantern swung by a crossing tender further on, and all the red lights and warning signals—seven of them. It's strange what the engineer of the express was doing along there."

Piening and Jenkins to Wrestle.

"Tom" Jenkins of Cleveland and John Piening of this city are matched to meet in a mixed-style wrestling bout at Madison Square Garden to-morrow night. They will wrestle Graeco-Roman and catch-as-catch-can style alternately, the choice of style for the first bout to be decided upon by the man winning the privilege on the toss of a coin. After a fall is gained by either the style will be changed, and if a third fall should be necessary to decide the winner the victor in the shorter of the two preceding bouts will have the choice for the third.

Both men have taken great care in training for this contest, and they are said to be in fine physical condition. Jenkins believes that he will win with two straight falls, but the local man has a host of followers who claim that he will get the better of the Cleveland wrestler. In addition to this match, "Nick" Elliott and Whistler, the "Strong Man," will try conclusions on the mat, and the "Cuban Wonder," who is Jenkins's wrestling partner, will endeavor to throw three men within thirty minutes.

Steamboat Purchased for Yacht Races.

The steamboat Diamond State, which arrived here yesterday from Philadelphia, has been purchased by August Belmont, to be used as a tender during the coming international yacht races.

Lion House to be Thrown Open.

The new lion house in the Bronx Zoological Park and its collections will be opened to the inspection of the members of the society and their guests next Monday. Regular admission tickets will be honored at the gate.

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