

Guestwick Goods Train Collision November 1908

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mouth's imprisonment. The cross-summons was dismissed.

RAILWAY SMASH IN NORFOLK.

On Saturday evening an alarming collision between two goods trains occurred on the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway just outside Guestwick Station, which is about eighteen miles from Norwich. During a dense fog a goods train bound for Norwich was drawn up outside Guestwick Station, on the Melton Constable side. The line is a single one, and whilst the train was stationary an express goods train from Norwich dashed into it with tremendous violence. Notwithstanding the terrific force of the impact, both engines, although damaged, kept to the rails, and the drivers and firemen escaped with a few bruises. About twenty trucks in all were more or less damaged, some being overturned and smashed to pieces, whilst the permanent way for fully 50 yards was covered with wreckage from the trucks and fragments of merchandise and other goods. At one spot eight trucks were piled one on top of the other, and reached a height of 25 to 30 feet. When the smash occurred the guard was thrown out of his box on to the platform of the station and he was also fortunate in escaping serious injury. Breakdown gangs were soon on the spot to clear the permanent way. Trucks had been overturned here, others thrown down the embankment, others again torn from their carriages, whilst wheels, and other parts of the vehicles were scattered about the place. Both trains were heavily laden, and the contents of the trucks were seriously damaged and strewn about. One of the overturned trucks contained parts of a church organ which had been consigned by Messrs. Norman & Beard, of Norwich, and these were smashed to atoms, whilst a large quantity of boots and shoes from another Norwich firm suffered greatly. So great had the destruction been that the gangs were at work well into Sunday afternoon and it was late before they were able to leave off work. The permanent way suffered very little, and as there is no Sunday traffic between Melton Constable and Norwich and the last passenger train for the day had passed, no inconvenience was caused to the public, and the line was working as usual on Monday morning. When the collision occurred the noise, which has been likened to a terrific peal of thunder, was heard as far away as Reepham, some four miles distant.

THE MEAT WARRANTY QUESTION.

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