

JUNCTION CUT  
INQUEST.

# JUNCTION CUT.

## The Long Inquest Brought to a Close

### VERDICT OF THE JURY.

#### Breaking of the Wheel the Cause of the Wreck.

#### SPEED OF THE TRAIN TOO GREAT.

#### Further Opinions Given by Mr. Robinson—Coroner Woolverton's Charge.

HAMILTON, June 10.—After a patient and searching investigation, extending over six weeks, the jury on the Junction Cut disaster gathered together for the last time this afternoon. Before proceeding with his charge Coroner Woolverton stated that Mr. W. A. Robinson, one of the experts, had handed him a document containing a supplemental and extended review of the reasons on which he had based his previous report, which he was afraid was not fully explanatory to the jury. The coroner then proceeded to read Mr. Robinson's statement, which gave at great length his reasons for arriving at the conclusion that the truck wheel of the engine jumped the track at the north switch rail.

The coroner, in opening his charge to the jury, referred to the many sessions held and the close examinations conducted, which enabled them to have the subject well in hand. A great deal of theoretical evidence had been given to explain the cause of the accident, but this in a great measure should be dismissed and only practical evidence given should be accepted as means to arriving at a verdict. The evidence showed that the majority of the victims had been killed outright. He was of the opinion that the rapidity of the igniting of the train could only be brought about by the inflammable oil lamps. Reference was made to the lack of appliances and water to check the fire, to the make-up and running of the train. He had received about 40 letters from passengers on the train, and in regard to the speed of the train there was much difference of opinion among them. One passenger wrote that the speed of the train was from 15 to 20 miles an hour; nine said from 20 to 25; seven from 30 to 35; two thought 40; two from 45 to 50 and one 50 miles an hour. According to these statements 20 were of the

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their duties, and...  
ing the jurors for their unwearied patience  
in pursuing the important investigation,  
and left them to their deliberations.  
After a careful sifting and examination of  
the evidence, extending over nearly seven  
hours, the jury arrived at the following ver-  
dict :—  
The jury are of the opinion that F. Gurney,  
R. J. Ederer and others who were passengers  
on No. 52 east-bound express on Sunday, April  
23 last, were killed by the accident which  
occurred to that train at the Junction  
cut, near Hamilton, caused by the break-  
ing of the flange on the left lead-  
ing wheel of the engine truck, which  
break allowed the wheels to leave the track at  
the switch; and the jury are also of the opinion  
that the speed at which train was running  
had much to do with the cause and extent  
of the disaster which followed. The jury  
are also of the opinion that greater efforts  
could have been put forth to have pre-  
vented the almost entire cremation of  
the unfortunate people who were buried  
within wreck. The jury would recommend  
from all the practical evidence adduced that  
the curve with a switch on a down grade a  
greater rate of speed than twenty miles an  
hour is not consistent with safety, and further,  
that a speed of fifteen miles per hour  
would be much safer and more  
desirable in the interests of the travelling pub-  
lic at such point, and would likewise recom-  
mend that the Government take such  
action as may be necessary to insure  
a full and complete inspection by a  
competent person in all cases where there  
has been loss of life through accident, before  
anything whatever has been removed or  
touched, further than what may be necessary  
to rescue bodies and property from the wreck.  
Had this been followed the jury could have  
come to a verdict with much more ease and  
certainty.  
Besides votes of thanks to the Coroner  
and Mr. John Hoodless, Foreman of the  
jury, a resolution was carried by the jury  
to the effect that the attention of the Gov-  
ernment be called to the time, skill and  
attention given to the investigation by  
Coroner Woolverton, and asking that his  
services be recognised and rewarded in  
some special way.

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