

WILD RUNAWAY RACE OF BIG MOGUL ENGINE

Thundered Recklessly Through Toronto Yards at Mid-day

CHASED SWITCH ENGINE

Both Locomotives Finally Turned Into "Dead Ends"—Big Mogul Tossed on One Side—Miraculous Escape of Life.

An amazing incident amazing in its immunity of loss of life—took place yesterday at one o'clock when a big Grand Trunk mogul engine, No. 342, took a frolicsome fit, and without any warning—to the powers that be—developed the wanderlust, started a lengthy sprint from its home in the roundhouse at the foot of John street, and finished hors de combat at the Bay street crossing. It rushed past the Union Station at 60 miles an hour.

How the engine could career through the busy yards west of the Union Station, thence through the sidings south of the depot and on towards Bay street without hitting even a portion of the hundreds of passenger and freight cars which lie dormant in these districts, is a mystery. Some declare that the yard employees saw the impending disaster and turned the engine on to the clear tracks. However that may be, kind Providence allotted the big engine to a clear stretch of rail.

North Bay Train's Escape.

Had the accident occurred at the same time on any other day another story must have been told, inasmuch as the rails over which the runaway passed were Track No. 6, the one upon which the North Bay train goes out.

For days, and in fact for weeks, past the North Bay train has stood on Track No. 6 before leaving the Union Station shortly after one o'clock. It so happened, for some reason which nobody appears to know, that the northbound train pulled into the depot on Track No. 6. If such had not been the case it would be very easy to imagine the consequences. The North Bay train is usually a heavy one, carrying eight or nine cars.

In addition the station was far from being unpeopled at that time. There were five trains coming and going, which meant that hundreds of people were alongside the track.

Yard Engine's Race.

Whoever did the switching evidently did not notice a small yard engine peacefully pursuing its allotted duty of distributing cars hither and thither. It happened to run right on to the track apportioned to the runaway. With a shriek of the siren, which seemed almost human, it quickly developed full speed ahead in the same direction as the speedy mogul speeding after it just a few hundred feet behind. As soon as the pursued engine had got going nicely, its crew jumped for safety, and thus no fatality occurred. Another statement made by an eye witness is to the effect that the smaller engine was bumped by the latter.

Just west of Bay street the big engine was seen to wobble westward.

August 21
1913
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