

Condition of Track

James Goble, the ganger in charge of the section of track between a mile on the Middlemarch side of Ngapuna and a mile on the Kokonga side of Hyde township, said that the length was inspected daily by some of the members of his gang, while he himself carried out a weekly examination. On this section there was a double curve on the Middlemarch side of bridge 50, the first curve being of 11½ chains and the other of 10 chains. Witness examined both of these curves on his weekly inspection on May 27 and found them normal. He travelled over them on the morning of June 4, and an inspection again showed them to be normal. There was nothing wrong with the track near the curves, or he would have noticed it. There was a "kick-out" on the 10-chain curve after the derailment, but it was not there before the derailment. This portion of the track had been down only about four years, and was on a fairly good foundation. Witness knew that after the derailment a small gap was found between the rails south of bridge 50, but it was not there in the morning, or he would have seen it.

Cecil George Ward and John Augustine Smolenski, surfacemen in the previous witness's gang, gave corroborative evidence regarding the satisfactory condition of the track before the derailment.

Carl Junge (Middlemarch), inspector of permanent way, said that the rails on both sides of the scene of the derailment were in perfect condition on June 4. Witness examined the track two or three days after the accident, but could not find anything that might have caused a derailment. There was a small "kick-out," or bend, on the rail about two chains from the derailment, but it was not there when witness examined the section on May 31. The "kick-out" could have been caused by an engine travelling at a normal speed. To witness's knowledge, the section of the track had never given any trouble.



A TALE OF RUBBLE The Track

Note Your Evidence

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the reader to take notes on the evidence presented in the text.