

DISASTROUS TROLLEY ACCIDENT RECALLED

Closing of Pelham-Lowell Line Brings to Mind Mishap of 20 Years Ago.

The closing of the Pelham car line, which developed Tuesday, brings to mind the serious accident which occurred on it just about 20 years ago next month when in a head-on collision between two trolleys going at a terrific speed, four people were instantly killed and 40 seriously injured.

It was one of the most disastrous street railway accidents that ever occurred in this section of the country, for the force of the impact ripped the tops completely off both cars and forced one on top of the other for a distance of about 10 feet. One of the motormen jumped after applying the brakes to his car and was saved, but the other remained at his post and was killed instantly.

The terrible accident occurred on Sunday, Sept. 6, 1903, at 11.20 a. m., at a time when Sunday excursionists were on their way to and from Canobie Lake Park. It was the day before Labor day and the terrible news fell with an awful crash upon the Lowell people who planned social events for that

The accident happened about a quarter of a mile outside of Pelham on the Nashua tracks. It was on private land owned by Selectman L. J. Mansfield of Pelham, where the tracks leave the main highway and delve into the country in a sharp downward curve. There was a mistake in signals on the part of both motormen and they plunged onward down the curve at a terrific rate of speed, only a few car lengths separating their cars when they saw one another. There were 54 people on the car coming from the direction of Nashua while 16 on the car going up country.

Immediately following the crash there was a rush of ambulances and farm wagons to the scene, to carry away the dying and wounded. Supc. Thomas Sayers of the Boston and Northern railroad rigged up temporary ambulances out of the open cars in this city and sent them to the scene, but the ambulances had taken care of all the wounded and had them brought to the hospitals in Lowell. The majority of those injured were taken to the Lowell General hospital and the remainder to the Lowell Corporation hospital and St. John's hospital.

No local railroad accident within the past score of years has equalled that which took place on the Nashua line at that time and local railway men hope there will never be a repetition of it.