

MOTORMAN KNOCKED FROM SPEEDING CAR.

Interurban Freight Runs for Miles Without Guiding Hand –
Stopped Within Ten Feet of Loaded Passenger Car.

(Columbus Dispatch, October 8, 1903)

One of the most fortunate accidents in its final outcome ever reported in interurban history, occurred at Summerford on the C. L. & S. electric road, at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

Motorman Sam Irwin had charge of one of the regular freight and express cars which was piled full of freight consigned to various points along the line. The car was bowling along at a good rate of speed when motorman Irwin thought he detected a hot box in one of the wheels. He leaned out of the car to examine the wheel and was struck by one of the telegraph and telephone poles which are in close proximity to the track at this point. He received a terrific blow and was knocked out of the vestibule and to the side of the track

WITHOUT A MOTORMAN

The conductor and helper were in the rear and did not see the accident and accordingly knew nothing or anything unusual having happened until the car reached Summerford. The conductor then gave the signal to stop but there was no response from the motorman. The same rate of speed was kept up and the car ran through the town. A second signal to stop was disregarded and the helper jerked the trolley pole from the wire. The brakes were applied from the rear and the car was brought to a stop.

IRWIN MISSING

The conductor and a helper went around to the front platform as the freight was piled so high, they could not see the motorman's cab and were surprised to find that Mr. Irwin was not on the car. They ran back to the scene of the accident and found him lying unconscious by the side of the track. Restoratives were applied and after a short time he came around all right. The blow had dazed him, however, and he did not recover from the effects for several hours although his injuries were not serious.

MANY LIVES IN DANGER

When the air was applied from the rear the car was brought to a stop about 10 feet from a passenger coach filled with people. A terrible accident was narrowly averted. The car ran several miles without the motorman's hand to direct and regulate its speed.

NEW EXPRESS CARS

Within the course of a few days four express cars will arrive from the factory for use on the Appleyard lines between Columbus and Dayton.

The service will be greatly improved and a new express schedule will result. Freight and express matter will be handled with expedition and the present difficulty in getting shipments through will be obviated.

The electric locomotives are due to leave the factory in about two weeks. The express cars are 60 feet in length and are especially designed for handling heavy shipments of all kinds.