

August 6, 1908

RAILROAD TRAGEDY

Roadmaster L. C. Kleckner was instantly killed, and C. A. Olson, section foreman had the life nearly crushed out of him last Sunday afternoon. The two men with their crews were engaged in picking up a wreck of three flat cars at the west end of the Groton yards. The wrecker was being used and a car was being blocked up and pulled in place by slow stages. The two men and a third were attending to the blocking between the wrecked car and the wrecking train. Suddenly the wrecked car lunged toward them. The roadmaster was caught in the head and chest, without time to say a word. The foreman was terribly squeezed across the abdomen, while the third ducked under the standing car and escaped.

The roadmaster's home was at Andover, where he had lived since last spring. The body was taken Monday night back to the old home in Iowa for interment. Mr. Kleckner was a comparatively young man, and during his short service on this line had become quite popular with his subordinates.

Mr. Olson who succeeded John Sande as foreman is a young married man. His escape from instant death was almost miraculous.

The widow of the dead roadmaster with a little daughter of about four years came from Andover Monday night, to accompany the remains to Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Applin, Mrs. Sanderson and Mr. and Mrs. Bigelow and son of Andover, accompanied the afflicted woman to Groton.

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