

THE CASE OF THE MISSING DRIVER.

The following accident report was issued in 1852.

MANCHESTER, SHEFFIELD, and LINCOLNSHIRE RAILWAY

SIR

Worcester May 4th, 1852.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, for the information of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council of Trade, the result of my inquiry into the circumstances attending an accident which occurred upon the Barton branch of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway on the 10th ultimo.

It appears that the train which met with the accident left New Holland for Barton at 4.35P.M., and ran the distance, 3 miles, at a speed somewhat higher than usual, and that on approaching the Barton terminus the driver neglected to take sufficient precautions to stop his train in time; the consequence was, that the engine ran over the turntable and the blocks at the end of it, and knocked down the wall of the booking office which stood in its front. The driver ran away immediately, and has not been heard of since, though the Company have offered a reward for his apprehension. The man had been observed to be in dejection of spirits the whole of the day.

I am of the opinion that this accident occurred from the recklessness of the driver, a circumstance against which it was impossible for the Company to guard.

I have, & C

R.M. LAFFAN, Capt. Royal Engineers.