

FIVE ITALIANS KILLED

Jumped from a Flat Car in Front of Locomotive.

SEIZED BY A PANIC OF FEAR

One of Six Lying in Alexandria Hospital
Bruised and Injured—Workmen Take
Alarm from Whistling of Work Train
Engine—Cannot Be Identified Until
Timekeeper's Book Is Searched.

WASHINGTON POST BUREAU,
621 King Street, Alexandria, Va.

Four Italian laborers were killed outright, one died from his injuries while being conveyed to the hospital, and another is at the hospital suffering from a broken leg and other injuries, as the result of a peculiar accident on the railway construction work near this city. The six men were shoveling dirt from a flat car standing on the north-bound track, which at present is used for both north and south bound trains, when a work train approached on the south-bound track.

As a warning to those on the gravel train, the engineer of the work train sounded his whistle several times in quick succession, which apparently startled the Italians, and one of them made a flying leap to the opposite track. The others followed, and in an instant they were thrown in every direction by the engine of the work train. The accident occurred about 5:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon in a cut at a point about half way between Seminary Station and the crossing of the Southern and Washington-Southern Railway tracks, about four miles west of this city.

Brought to Alexandria.

The dead and the injured were at once placed aboard the work train, and a quick run made to the new union station at the head of King street, where a call was sent in for the ambulance. One man, whose right arm was cut off and whose head was terribly crushed, but who was still alive, was placed in the ambulance and hurried to the hospital, but he died just as he reached that institution. The other injured man was then conveyed to the hospital, where his injuries are not considered dangerous.

As the accident occurred in Fairfax County, there was some question whether it would be proper to remove the bodies of the dead men from that jurisdiction before they had been viewed by a magistrate. It was stated that the Fairfax County magistrate, living nearest to the scene of the occurrence, was about fifteen miles distant, and Justice of the Peace Padgett, of this city, who was at the station when the bodies were brought in, was appealed to by the trainmen. He said no complications would be apt to follow, and the remains were then removed to the establishment of an undertaker.

The men were employed by D. F. Keenan, who has the contract for laying the tracks on the new grading between St. Asaph Junction and Quantico, and whose office is at Franconia, several miles west of this city. One of the dead men was known to the foremen as "Christmas," but all of them are known principally by numbers, which would convey nothing without the assistance of the timekeeper for the contractor, who could not be located last night.

Magistrate Triplett, of Fairfax County, will be notified early this morning, and he will decide whether an inquest will be necessary. Members of the crew of the train on which the foreigners were employed said last night that when they heard the whistle of the engine on the opposite track and saw the Italians jumping, they thought for an instant that a collision was imminent and came near following the laborers.

News of the tragedy was soon spread about the city, and the usual crowds of curious people gathered about the undertaking shops to watch the bodies carried in.