

NAPIER BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT

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The Napier Tramways Dept. operate 9 cars, about 3½ route miles. At the time of the upheaval, 10-47 A.M. on February 3rd. it was the slack period and only 4 cars were in traffic, 5 cars were in the sheds. The cars in traffic were neither damaged nor derailed, while the cars in the sheds were all derailed, and thrown across or partly down the pits.

The track in the sheds over the pits closed in some parts and spread in others from 2" to 3". In some places the concrete pit walls and supports were shattered.

The Car Sheds, a wood and corrugated iron structure is practically undamaged, but the concrete foundations are shattered at one end. A drilling machine in the workshops broke off at the foot, otherwise except that driving shafts were out of line, the remaining machinery was intact.

Stores were scattered about, and most of the windows and sliding doors were broken and dislodged. Fortunately no cars were in the area devastated by fire, and three cars that were in traffic had to remain in the streets for a fortnight until the debris was cleared enroute, so that they could be towed back to the sheds. Most of the track in the town seems fairly stable, a few rails are bent and need renewing, and I anticipate a fair amount of repacking and rebonding, but the damage does not appear to be very great.

Only one pole was broken on the 3½ miles of Tramway route, about thirty were destroyed by fire, and many were leaning badly and require to be reset. The overhead and feeder cables are all in the air, except for a distance of about 60 chains that was destroyed by fire.

The greater damage was at the Power Station and on the Electrical Reticulation. The Power Station building was badly shattered. Most of the Generating Plant was intact, but could not be used for some time until the walls were propped. A brick building housing a storage battery collapsed, and the battery was totally destroyed. The Reyrolle switchgear was not damaged.

Eight Distribution transformers, 100 to 200 K.V.A. were shaken off pole substations on to the ground. One 150 K.V.A. pole substation was completely destroyed by fire, and other transformers were damaged by excessive heat. All pole substation structures stood up, but in many cases the poles sunk from 1' to 2'. In one case the ground opened under the substation, and the transformer was tipped off, and the structure was held up by the cables, leaning at an angle of about 45°.