

HEROISM WAS NOT VALUED BY ROAD

**Max Zalk, Who Helped Rescue
People From Wreck, Abused
and Neglected.**

Heroism on the part of passengers is apparently not appreciated by a railway company, according to the experience related by Max Zalk in a complaint filed by him with the clerk of the district court against the Great Northern Railway company, which he is suing for \$40,000 for injuries.

Zalk made a trip to Seattle, Wash., in April, 1907, leaving Duluth for Grand Forks, N. D. on April 14. That evening he left on the Oriental Limited of that company from Grand Forks, he states, and during the night the train was wrecked.

He was sound asleep in a berth when the crash came. The cause of the wreck, he avers, was the poor roadbed. He claims that as the train was speeding through the country at a high rate the rails parted. All the coaches except the observation car were hurled off the track and overturned.

In the wreck Zalk was thrown out of the berth to the other side of the car, receiving internal injuries as well as bruises about the head, body and limbs.

When the cars were overturned they were set afire from the engine, and Zalk found that he was fortunate in escaping with his life, although only garbed in his nightrobe.

He no more than reached safety when he heard cries for help from the injured in the tourist car, which had been thrown into a ditch about 10 feet deep. He and a number of other passengers then set to work rescuing passengers. The night was bitterly cold, he says, ice, snow and slush covering the ground to a great depth. The men, barefooted, clad only in nightrobes, faced their work bravely, he claims, and took the injured to the observation car. Many people were killed.

A wrecking crew arrived from the nearest station east and took away the observation car, in which all the passengers were huddled. Mr. Zalk claims that he and a number of the other men who were active in the rescue work were forced to stand on the platform of the observation car, where they nearly froze.

He was compelled to wait until the next west-bound train to continue his trip to Seattle, but the conductor on the wrecked train had taken his ticket and assured him he could continue his journey on the other train unmolested. On the strength of this assurance, he says, he boarded the next Oriental Limited, but went only as far as Rex, Mont., when he was put off by the conductor, who refused to let him pass.

At the station in Rex Mr. Zalk was not received kindly by the station agent. He claims that he asked the agent to allow him to sleep on the floor there, but this was refused, and he was compelled to stay in the cold night air upon the station platform.

As a result of the injuries he re-

ceived, the exposure to the cold in the rescue work, his expulsion from the train at Rex, and the refusal of shelter at that station, he claims his nervous system is broken down. He has contracted neurasthenia, he claims, and it is probable that the result of the injuries and exposure will remain for the rest of his life.

Mr. Zalk is a well known business man of Duluth. He is head of the Duluth Iron and Metal company. Alexander Marshall is attorney for Mr. Zalk.

No answer has been filed by the Great Northern Railway company.