

INQUIRY

Euston station was fittingly the scene of the inquiry into the Harrow and Wealdstone railway disaster. It was not a court to determine legal responsibility, but a technical inquiry into the cause of the accident. Colonel Wilson, Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways, decided that the evidence should be heard in public, and for two days, signalmen, guards, dining car attendants, firemen and railway officials were given a hearing. With true British freedom of speech, all was said, nothing was withheld.

Some of these men were lucky to escape with their lives. These unusual pictures, exclusive to Paths and filmed by William McConville, must be the first to be taken of such a court, and were made under normal lighting conditions.

Col. Wilson took the commendable course of saying outright (without waiting for the inevitable delay of writing his report) that for reasons not known the driver of the Perth express must have disregarded the signals. To obviate human error in the future, British railways have decided to take still further precautions and to provide automatic train control to prevent such a fatality ever happening again.