

Opinion of Parks: He gave the impetus to the development of Wolverton town.  
The park was added at his instigation for instance.  
This is the impression he has of Park's contribution.

In relation to the Works:

The effect of World War I : The war was the turning point.  
It was the cause of change. The new management brought in when the LNWR was incorporated into the LMS, only did what was necessary after the post war situation of the railways was realized.

What does he make of the two apparently conflicting statements 'Parks raised the Wolverton Works to the heights of industrial efficiency' and 'the opinion of the new LMS management of the works in 1923 Wolverton Works is fifty years behind the times' ?

This probably reflects the two eras in which xxx Parks worked at the works and the new management worked at the works.

e.g. innovations Even today, new methods of working introduced Suggested in the as modern or 'new' have been put forward 20's have only been in the minute books of years ago. introduced today In fact some of the working methods, over crowding of machinery for instance were better then, than they are today.

What then was the influence of the World War I on the railways:  
The railways were run down during the war. The government controlled them and they saw them only as a communication network that had to be kept working with the minimum of maintenance and reequipping. All of the machinery in the works had to be used for war work - munitions and construction of rolling stock to meet war work needs-ambulance carriages.

Does he know the book about working in Swindon works?

Yes.

Was Wolverton Works like that?

Very probably but you must also remember that Wolverton was years ahead of its time in safety measures.

You will also find in Wolverton a tendency to play down the contribution made by Wolverton.

Also in comparing Wolverton (and Crewe) to Swindon it must be remembered that these were new towns. And as such introduced many improvements that did not come until much later if at all to railway centres in established town- such as W. Swindon.

## RAY BELLCHAMBERS - FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TRY:

### War work and post World War I changes in the works :

See selection of photos of works held at Stacey Hill. 1905 - 1930

General strike, changes in the works , opinion of world Interview mediated by Ray with three old blokes (70's not 80's or 90's)

Ray will arrange and phone me week beginning 21st. Sept.

(my note: Chris Harvey has copies of Gov. reports on war work carried out at Wolverton works.)

### Information on DERBY works

Ray is very interested in this Works and has booklet on it which he helped compile.

### PARKS ERA

Feels that in all his researches this is the era that is least well covered. He is doubtful about interviews as he can't think of any fellows that old to interview.

### About the unions

Interview NUR man now retired.

Cyril Hopkins.

### LNWR minute books

Will try to get access for us.

Give us information on developments that were put forward and set aside. Also information on areas we know nothing about. May help us understand what happened when the LMS management took over Wolverton Works.

### Make contact with LNWR society

Also the painter of railway engines as used in the York museum is David Shepperd. He lives in Melton and Anne (Newton) has met him.

### Books

Times Centenary Supplement on Railways

Centenary Booklet on Derby - Ray copy.

### Ray Bellchambers

Scenes he remembers. Not recorded on tape.

### GENERAL Strike

1. The Blacklegs came out of the works and the strikers chased them down the field. The men ran across the stream to get home. The strikers did not follow them beyond the stream.

2. One time, 200 strikers followed a small group of blacklegs out of the works. The blacklegs were surrounded by policemen.

For some reason the police and the blacklegs stopped in the road. It was right outside his house.

The superintendent - Mason - was there with them. A scuffle broke out. Mason's hat was knocked off. Was he knocked to the ground?

### Ray Bellchambers

Scenes he remembers. Not recorded on tape.

### STACEY HILL COLLECTION OF PHOTOS. WORLD WAR 1 CARRIAGES FOR WOUNDED

The photo shows the apartment for the nurse.

It's like a sitting room. Upholstered. Carpeted, with a proper mattress bed.

Next to it is the treatment room. There is a bare table. Wood boarded floor.

The nurses and the soldiers were a different class.