

ALC/R6

20<sup>th</sup> August 1976

Dear Margaret,

I enclose photocopies from "The Locomotive" which you asked for. I should be glad if you would let me have them back when you have finished with them.

I went to the British Library newspaper Library at Colindale and scanned the "Railway services gazette" from 1872 to 1875 and the Railway Review from 1831 – 1883. There was nothing specifically relating to Wolverton. There was quite a lot on the L.N.W.R. strike of 1872 but all centred on Camden, Willesden or Manchester. The only mention of North Bucks is donation of £3..14s to the strike fund by Bletchley branch of railway servants. There was a notice saying they met at Bletchley Park Hotel on the first Monday of the month.

The most interesting things were the letter but almost all are signed with pseudonyms and it is not possible to tell which area they came from. There is one from an L.N.W.R. porter which starts off 'as it is my Sunday off will you grant me a corner of your valuable paper for a few remarks on the long hours and short pay of a railway porter.....' He then goes on to show how his hours over twenty five and a half days come to 253¼ hours and his pay to £2..12..6 which means he is only getting 2/- a day 'while an Irish Labourer I know if he made this time would get £3..17..10d.

Another letter from a railwayman's wife starts 'we worse off than paupers they get 2/6 each a week where with to clothe a child and pay the school money besides. Now we have seven children and my husband only gets £1..1s a week on which I have to feed and clothe them and pay schooling besides. 1/7 goes on clubs, rent and coal come to 6/- a week, bread is 8/- a week and then there is 4/10d for tea, sugar, clothes, shoes, candles, cheese, butter and a bit of meat. Surely if railway directors knew of the sad state of things they would treat the men better.'

By contrast Lord Wolverton (George Glyn's will is given in 1873. The personality sworn under one million. £...a year to his wife, to his eight children legacies amounting to £..., £... to a nephew £ annuity to his housekeeper the residue to the present Lord Wolverton.

I have also discovered that here was another local newspaper called Cottage Newspaper and Stony Stratford and Wolverton Station Advertiser which published in Stony Stratford from 1859 and continued as the North Bucks Advertiser. The only file is at the B.M I will try to see if I get a chance.

Yours Sincerely

David (Apps)