

ACT TWO

Scene 4 : Wolverton men on strike

(ENTER MCCONNELL AND HIS WIFE CHARLOTTE WHO BRINGS
MCCONNELL HIS MEAL)

MCCONNELL: We were driving engines in place of the strikers. They put some sleepers on the line. They must learn to trust me. I have started a system by which the enginemen are promoted strictly on merit and skill, not on seniority as before. I'm paying the twenty best drivers, the special link - eight shillings a day. Under the old system, regardless of skill or lack of it, it would take a driver eight years to rise to eight shillings. The bad driver got there anyway just by seniority alone. They don't yet trust me to assess their skill with fairness...