

The
VIRTUAL MUSEUM
of the
LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE RAILWAY

Operational Documents & Pamphlets

1874

Letter from Staff Representatives to the Board of Directors
regarding Working Conditions.

(1 Page).

TO THE HONOURABLE
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company.

GENTLEMEN,

A Meeting of your Memorialists was held on SUNDAY, the 1st March, 1874, for the purpose of drawing up this Memorial and appointing Delegates to lay this Memorial before your Honourable Board. Owing to the increased cost of the very many necessaries of life and house rents, it was considered advisable that your Memorialists should once more respectfully approach your Board, and submit the opinions of the Meeting and of your Memorialists as embodied in the following Resolutions:—

- 1st.—That Ten hours be the limit of the ordinary working day.
- 2nd.—That six working days of ten hour each constitute one week, and that after the expiration of the ordinary working day of ten hours, the Company should pay overtime at the same rate.
- 3rd.—That an increase on the ordinary daily Wage be requested, as per the following scale:—

1st year on appointment as Guard	22s. 6d.
2nd and 3rd. " "	25s.
4th and 5th. " "	27s. 6d.
6th and 7th. " "	30s.
and after Seven years "	32s. 6d.
- 4th.—That Sunday duties be paid for at the rate of ten hours per day, and overtime at the same rate.

Such Resolutions were adopted unanimously, and as many of the Men present were deputed as representatives of the Passenger Guards employed by the Company in the Districts from whence they came; your Memorialists are justified in considering that the above Resolutions are the expression of the opinions of all the Passenger Guards employed by you.

We beg to submit to you that terms of even greater leniency are assented to in most other trades and employments involving manual labour, and we need scarcely remind you that in many other departments of your service, with far less responsible and dangerous situations, nine or even a less number of hours constitute the regular days labour.

Although your Memorialists are aware and seriously regret, the vast increase in the cost of fuel and other materials required in the working of your service, and that it is more necessary now than ever that every effort should be made to reduce the expenditure within all reasonable limits, nevertheless, your Memorialists remind you that the increase of cost has extended to us in all matters connected with the maintenance of a household, and that the severity of pressure is most keenly felt by your Memorialists, whose Wages are comparatively small, and by our wives and families who are dependent on us for support.

Your Memorialists beg respectfully to remind you that their Wages, for about ten years have been on a scale almost similar to that which now exists. Your Memorialists therefore confidently feel that they are not unduly pressing their claims upon the notice of your Board.

Many of your Memorialists have spent years in the various and arduous duties of your Company, and it must be in the knowledge of your Board that during the last two years the danger and risk attendant upon the duties of Passenger Guards have been greatly increased, owing to the enormous development of Goods and Passenger traffic and re-arrangement of signals.

We would also respectfully remind you that the Patent Breaks attached to our trains entail upon us the responsibility and additional labour of pulling up the trains at the various Stations, a duty not imposed upon Guards on any other Railway; also, that the attention claimed by Passengers, Passengers' Luggage, Parcels, and Fish, with the *multitudinous Mail Bags* constantly placed under our care and attention with a constant and diligent observance of all signals, together place us in a most serious position of responsibility and of arduous exertions.

It is a source of satisfaction to say that a determination was expressed by this Meeting to still continue in faithful and honest service of your Board.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly present to you this statement of their just requests, and confidently hope from past experience, that you will see fit to grant to your Memorialists the concessions they require.

In thanking you for past favours, we beg to hand you the names of our representatives:—

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| WM. ASHWORTH, Wakefield. | } | Yorkshire District. |
| GEO. TERRY, Leeds. | | |
| THOS. LAYFIELD, Accrington. | } | East Lancashire District. |
| S. H. PARKINSON, Preston. | | |
| WM. HOLMES, Southport. | } | Liverpool and District. |
| WM. BIRTWISTLE Ormskirk. | | |
| WM. ETHERINGTON, Rochdale. | } | Manchester and District. |
| THOS. BAILDON, Manchester. | | |