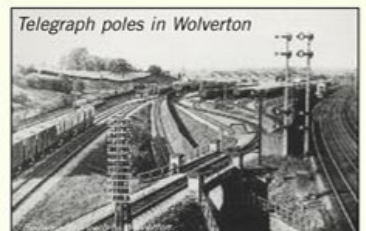
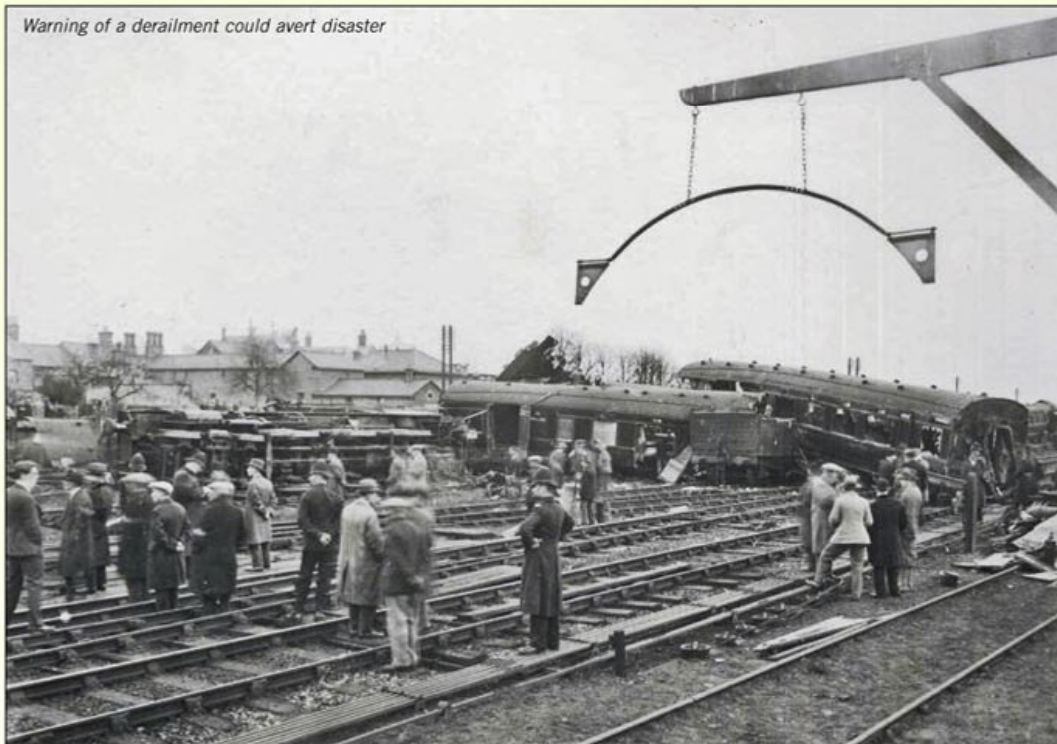


Xchange MK

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The Telegraph and the Railway



The introduction of trains brought fast overland travel for the first time and demands of a kind never known before:

- A way of communicating ahead of a train's arrival – at stations, at signals and in case of accidents.
- A National standard time in 1847 – to allow for accurate train timetables – (also known to begin with as Railway time).

This led to the development of the **electrical telegraph** and was also the first use found for **electricity**.

The first electrical telegraph was demonstrated by Cooke and Wheatstone in 1837 for a short part of the London – Birmingham Railway (The line that

runs through Milton Keynes and led to Wolverton as the world's first town built for the railway). The Euston to Camden demonstration proved that the system worked but it was left to the Great Western railway to install the first system.

For a while there was relatively little use of the telegraph by the public or business; it remained primarily a service for the railway and telegraph wires spread along the railway lines with telegraph offices at the stations.

Ways of sending messages more quickly and cheaply and the realisation of the benefits this brought for business gradually led to the expansion of the network and public take-over in 1868.