

THE SADDLERS AND HARNESS MAKERS LOCK-OUT

TO THE EDITOR OF THE IRISH TIMES

10 Peter street, Sept., 1872

SIR,- In reply to Mr Lennan's statements, which appeared in your paper on Saturday, we beg to say that we have laid a plain statement before the public, which appeared in your issue of Friday. The lock-out was not of our seeking. We have already stated that the average wages paid to our members was £1 5s 6d per week. We farther beg to say that the wages paid to two foremen – 35s a week – is not included in this average, for the simple reason that Mr Lennan has not nor does not dispute their wages. (See his advertisement.) It is true that he paid one saddle hand 40s a week, but it is not true that he has ever paid any of our members 38s a week. Taking Mr Lennan on his own showing, it proves the moderation of our demand, allowing him to classify each man according to his own estimate. As to the question from an address presented to Mr Lennan by his men in 1869, we beg to say that it was on the occasion of his taking his son into partnership, which has not improved our position, from the fact that an extensive system of importation has since been carried on in the establishment which has so often left our men sitting idle at their benches. It is almost unnecessary to refer to the harness which was supplied to the Irish Ambulance, 1870, which was purchased in Birmingham and supplied as Dublin manufacture, until the whole affair was exposed by the United Trades' Association, and all this whilst the men were not fully employed. The same may be said of a system which has been carried on in connection with flash paragraphs which from time to time appear in the public journals of this city, announcing work supplied to German nobles which was also manufactured in Birmingham and Walsall. The system of keeping men idle caused our society to come to the resolution that the only radical remedy was the time system, which provides that so long as men are on the ground they shall be paid. In conclusion, we have only to repeat that if Mr Lennan is convinced of the righteousness of his case he will accept the proposition which we have already made, to submit the whole case to the arbitration of an impartial tribunal mutually constituted.

STEPHEN WHELAN, President,

HENRY LYNCH, Secretary,

P.S. – In reference to the statement that it is not a question of wages, we are prepared to prove that the time system as regards cost of production has been to the advantage of the house. As regards the statement that we have some man in London, Mr Lennan knows to his sorrow that we have outmanoeuvred him, the only man being what is called in London a "Brombton man,"

-[ADVT.]