

YEAR - 1892

FROM: ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR OXFORDSHIRE &
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURER

WHEATLEY - 76 COTTAGES AT 2\$. 6d. per week.

950 Inhabitants - Large number with one bedroom Many with two bedrooms

Much room for reform. Rates included.

The soil varies but consists for the most, part of clay and gravel. There is a very little chalk, some sand and greensand and soft- stone rock.

The cultivation being about equally divided between arable pasture and dairy farming.

Pauperism is very widespread 1 - 18 of the population is in receipt of outdoor relief - much larger among labourers.

1892
 ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR
 OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
 AGRICULTURAL LABOURER.

WAGES AND EARNINGS

29- Average rate of wages:-

Ordinary labourer, 12s. a week
 Carters, 14s. and house rent free.
 Shepherds do do

One day, 2s. 6d.

The ordinary labourer is employed one-third of his time in piecework.

Daily wage.
 Piece work.

Day-men, 12s or 13s., summer; 11s or 12s., winter. In the majority of places it is 12s and 1 3s; but at Great Hazeley, Great Milton, Chalgrove and Worminghall the weekly wage is 11 s all the year round. Last year it was 10s. and it rose 1s. owing to a strike.

Weekly wage.
 Day-men.

Cattle-men, 14s. or 15s., summer; 1 3s or 14s., winter.

Cattle-men.

It is difficult to give any satisfactory reason for the difference in wage in villages quite close to each other.

Time of payment

30. These wages are paid weekly, on Friday or Saturday. I think most prefer Friday, as it gives them Saturday for shopping.

Prices of piece-work.

31 . Prices of piece-work: -

From Ascott Farm, 1891, supplied by Mr Thomas Franklin:-

Harvest:-

Cutting and tying wheat, 13s. per acre.

Do Barley, 12s. per acre.

Do. Oats, 13s. per acre.

Do. Beans, 12s. per acre.

Tying com after machine, 5s.6d. per acre.

* Carting and stacking com (tied), 3s. 6d. per acre.

* Do do (loose), 6s. per acre.

Hoeing:-

Com, 4s. to 5s. per acre.

Roots, once, 5s. per acre; twice, 9s. per acre; three times,

1 2s. 6d. pe r acre•

Pick thatching, 10d to 1s. per square.

Carting and spreading dung, 3d per load of two horses.

Pulling, carting and stacking roots, 8s. per acre.

Covering roots, 1-4-d. per yard run.

Pulling and covering swedes, 10s. per acre.

Dressing com, per load of five quarters, 9d.

Weeding com, 1s. per acre.

Trussing hay, per ton, for farm use, 2s.

Carting and stacking hay, about 3s. 6d. per acre.

Cutting hay, 6d. per acre, in addition to daily pay?

Haymaking 6d. a day, in addition to daily pay.

Hedging and ditching, per chain, 2s.6d. to 6s., according to class or work.

Wood splitting, per stack of four yards, 2s. 9d.

Lopping willows, per tree, 3d.

Mounding rails, per 100, 5s.

Mortice posts, per dozen, 1s.

Pin stakes, per dozen 6d.

Trimming ricks and caves, per rick 2s.

Making faggots, per 100 4s.

Shearing sheep, per score, 4s. to 5s.

/Cont'd

AGRICULTURAL LABOURER WAGES 1892

Man, Wife and five children aged 12, 10, 8, 4 and 1-1 years. Tenant of two bedroom thatched cottage, with sitting room, scullery, outhouse, pigstye, large garden and allotments.

Man's earning: 1 3 shillings a week

One Boy working: 3 shillings a week
 Total earnings: 16 shillings. Payment on 3d. day or Saturday

Expenditure

Rent	Rates	2. 0
Coal, Light Etc.		1 . 6
Bread, Flour		6. 4
Meat		3. 0
Tea, Butter, Sugar,	Soar.	4. 6
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		17. 4

The Labourer will work his garden and allotment, from which he will sell his produce, potatoes beans other vegetables, etc. Harvest work also helps pay off his debts.

Hours of work = Summer 7 a m to 5 p m
 Winter 7.30 a. m to 4.30 p m
 Harvest till 10 p m

Main meal will be bread and home cured bacon once a day, other meals bread butter and lard with few vegetables or a cup of tea, meat on Sunday.

Water supply is from wells or collected in pits or ponds.

Drainage the system adopted is partly underground pipes partly culverts and partly open channels, also closets are on the pail system of vault type.

Recreation cricket was played but not on Sundays.

Spare time was spent on allotments.

FOOD PRICES FOR 1892

FLOUR	0. 6
TEA 1 lb	0. 8
SUGAR 3 lb	0. 6
BUTTER 6 lbs. at 5d.	2. 6
SOAP 1 ln.	0. 3
CAUDLES i lb.	0.3
SALT & PEPPER ETC.	0. 3
COAL 1 cwt.	0. 9
WOOD	0. 6
TOBACCO 2 ozs.	0. 6

From various sources: -

Stack trimming, each stack, 1s.

Hoeing, 3s. 6d. to 5s. an acre, or 2s. to 2s.6d. a piece, about 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day.

Dung carting and spreading, 2s.6d. a day.

Pulling beans, 10s. per acre.

Lifting potatoes, 3d. to 4d. a sack, according to crop.

Hedging and fencing, 2s. to 2s.5d. a pole.

Tying com and stacking com or beans, 5s.6d. to 7s. an acre. Threshing,. 4s. a day.

Mowing, 4s, an acre.

Haymaking, 18s. a week.

Harvest cart and leading, 18s. to 24s. a week; 10s. to 14s. an acre.

(The following information is supplied by Mr. Edward Hammersley, of Watlington, Oxon);-

In this neighbourhood a man earns at piece-work about 2s. 6d. a day, very seldom less, and in the summer time (June) a great deal more.

* Horses, boys and waggons found for these two items.

THIS AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

The average weekly earnings of a good_ steady labourer who sticks to one farm would be about 16s. a week, reaching up, in some cases, to 18s. and even £1 .

A man by himself will earn 35s. a week at harvest work, and more in proportion, according to size of his family to help him. (Mr. Hammersley) give no beer, but beer money at the rate of 1-yp. per pint. They get this every two hours when harvesting.

Threshing.-Kone done now by flail. Engine-driver and feeder get 3s.6d. a day; other hands, 2s. 6d.

Winnowing, by day-work. The *average* price of harvest is 13s. per acre for all corn.

Hedging and ditching, for 1s. to 3s. per chain, and a burthen of firewood daily.

Hedge clipping, 15d. per chain.

Storing mangold is generally done by day work.

Mangold and all root-hoeing, 4-d. per chain per drill.

Mowing, 6d. per acre extra to carter beyond day pay.

Carrying com, 3s.6d. per acre. This does not include boys to drive, nor horses nor carts.

Thatching ricks, hay or corn, 1s. a square, employer finding wood, twine, &c.

Chaff-cutting.- The engine driver and feeder, 3s. a day; other hands, 2s.6d. a day.

Filling dung cart, 3d. a load. This does not include horses, carts, nor boys to drive. Average number of loads a day, 55, for three fillers.

Dung-spreading, 1s. to 2s. an acre.

Loading and spreading dung, 12 loads to acre, 3s.6d. per acre.

Hay and straw trussing, 4s. a ton.